



D.A.R.E.



D.A.R.E. Officer Alicia Ahnert Fishers Police Department

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D.A.R.E. Indiana: Why did you decide to become a D.A.R.E. Officer?

D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert: My dad was my D.A.R.E. officer when I was in school. I love carrying on the tradition. In college, I majored in education for a few years before switching to criminal justice. When a D.A.R.E. spot opened it was like a calling for me. I love being able to teach and be an officer. It's the best of both worlds for me!

D.A.R.E. Indiana: Were you a D.A.R.E. student?

D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert: Yes.

D.A.R.E. Indiana: How many years have you been a law enforcement officer?

D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert: 7 ½ years.

D.A.R.E. Indiana: How many years have you been a D.A.R.E. Officer?

D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert: 5 years.

D.A.R.E. Indiana: Which D.A.R.E. curriculums do you teach?

D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert: Jr. High and Elementary (5th grade).

D.A.R.E. Indiana: How many students do you teach each year?

D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert: Over 2,000 students.

D.A.R.E. Indiana: What is the most rewarding thing about being a D.A.R.E. Officer?

D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert: I really enjoy when kids confide in me. I love when they get to the point that they realize they can trust me. I also love seeing the kids grow up. As a SRO [School Resource Officer], I get to see kids in junior high and high school that I have taught in 5th grade. It's awesome when they remember me and tell me what they learned in D.A.R.E.

D.A.R.E. Indiana: What are the most important aspects of the curriculum? Why?

D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert: The bullying lesson is my favorite. We have a lot of cyber-bullying that goes on in our district and it's great to teach them at a young age just what bullying is.

D.A.R.E. Indiana: What is your favorite part of the D.A.R.E. program?

D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert: I love being able to help. So many times on road patrol we had to be reactive. I like being in the schools and teaching D.A.R.E. because I feel that we are being proactive.



Above: D.A.R.E. Officer Ahnert with her D.A.R.E. essay winners.