

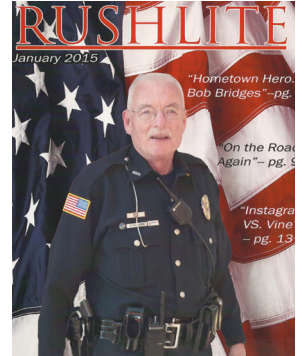


D.A.R.E.



D.A.R.E. Officer Bob Bridges

Rushville City Police Department



“ Children are thirsting for knowledge and are in need of someone in authority to look up to and give them guidance. ”

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Bridges: As a police chief, I saw the need for the police to have an active role in the schools. I researched several programs and spoke with several police officials about various programs. I discovered the DARE program curriculum was the best available throughout the country. I presented my findings to our school superintendent and she agreed. She asked what officer would instruct the program and I told her that I wanted to take the training and teach the curriculum. She said that was what she had hoped for. The superintendent later became the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Indiana.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Bridges: No, I was not.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Bridges: 26 years.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Bridges: 9 years.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Bridges: Elementary.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Bridges: 200-220 per year.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Bridges: That children in elementary are thirsting for knowledge and are in need of someone in authority to look up to and give them guidance inside and outside of the classroom. The DARE officer fills that gap.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Bridges: To provide instructional techniques the students can practice to make good informed decisions. Why? A police officer/DARE teacher in a classroom setting has the opportunity to give instructional tools to make good decisions. Most students, because the instructor is a uniformed police officer the student accepts the instruction and uses the techniques and tools to the students benefit to resist smoking, alcohol and deal with bullying.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Bridges: I believe my favorite part of the program is when, during the culmination/graduation ceremony, parents of the students approach you and ask if you remember them from being in your class and how the DARE curriculum and you made an impact on them when they were in class. My situation may be different, since I took a leave of absence for a few years, but it still makes you feel that the DARE program does make a difference on students' lives.