



D.A.R.E.



D.A.R.E. Officer Jill Lees

Plainfield Police Department

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(Above) D.A.R.E. Officer Jill Lees with her son, Eric, at his D.A.R.E. Graduation.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Lees: I really enjoy interacting with kids and it was something that I felt would come natural to me. If I didn't choose a career in law enforcement, I would have been a teacher. I also wanted to help kids resist the pressures they face, be drug-free, and grow into a positive influence in their community as an adult. Finally, I have always enjoyed the DARE program and what it has to offer.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Lees: I was not a D.A.R.E. student (too old) but I was a D.A.R.E. Mentor back in high school in Hammond with D.A.R.E. Officer Linda Lawson!

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Lees: 19 years.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Lees: 17 years.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Lees: Core.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Lees: Now, I only teach about 20-25. I teach at St. Susanna Catholic School.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Lees: The interaction with the kids and the connection you get with the school you serve.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Lees: I find that the stress management and the specific drug information are essential. Peer pressure and the ways to deal with peer pressure situations are also vital to make sure that students know that they have an option as to what to do in those occurrences.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Lees: The D.A.R.E. box!! That is a fun way for the kids to get to know who you really are as an officer and to make sure that I cover the material that the students want to know.