



D.A.R.E.

D.A.R.E. Officer Korey Henderson

Tipton County Sheriff's 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 Henderson: I recognized that many children, even my own, were receiving misinformation concerning drugs and the effects they have on young people. I also believe that helping to build a child's self-esteem will help them make the right choices for when they became adults.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Henderson: No.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Henderson: I have been in law enforcement for 15 years.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Henderson: I have been a D.A.R.E. Officer for 12 years.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Henderson: I currently teach the Elementary curriculum.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Henderson: I teach at two different elementary schools for a total of 50 children.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Henderson: There is such enjoyment when you are teaching something in the D.A.R.E. program and you can see when a child really gets it. When you see that light bulb come on and they become engaged. I also find enjoyment when a person, who has graduated from High School and is in college, comes up to me and tells me that I was their D.A.R.E. Officer in 5th grade. For them to remember me, it let's me know that I must have made some impact on their life.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Henderson: Peer pressure is the most important aspect that I teach from the curriculum. The reason is that it doesn't matter what school or if it was 1970, 2013 or 2020, there will always be some form of peer pressure that a young person will have to deal with. Being accepted is important to all of us and is part of human nature, but for me to be able to inform a child that it's ok to feel this way to a limit and provide them with the tools to protect themselves is important. This is a topic which they will always have to deal with throughout their lives.

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

D.A.R.E. Officer Henderson: My favorite part of the program is being able to be integrated into the school so I am available to answer questions which they may have correctly. I am able to dispute myths about drugs, jail and who the police really are. So many times I am able to change the view a child may have about the police which they have learned from parents or friends (who have been arrested or ticketed). This is a way for me to change the opinion of a child from one in which the police are feared into one in which the police are a friend who can help. This opinion of the police can carry from childhood to adulthood.



Pictured above: DUC has been going into D.A.R.E. classes with Korey for nine years.