

In the Sheriff's Posse, Horses Rule

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office Mounted Posse is a volunteer equestrian group supervised by agency personnel. These riders assist law enforcement officers when the use of horses is advantageous, plus provide valuable services to the community.

Posse members typically have been called on to help search for missing persons as well as evidence, provide traffic control and parking assistance at specific events, assist with crowd control and patrol where horses are particularly useful. Members also represent the Sheriff's Office in local holiday parades and at the annual Florida Law Enforcement Games' Olympic-style sporting events.



Membership in the posse is open to all riders of good character over the age of 18, who own or have access to a horse and trailer suitable for transporting the animal. They must reside in Citrus County or an adjoining county, and be approved Sheriff's Office volunteers.

Selection of successful applicants is based on an evaluation of both the rider and horse, using the following criteria:

- Riding ability of applicant
- Condition, ability and character of horse
- Oral review with the posse's executive board
- Saddle and equipment inspection
- Verification of a current negative Coggins test, and
- Proof of vehicle liability insurance.

Posse members are required to attend the group's monthly meeting and training. To remain in good standing, they are expected to participate in at least three of the five most recent posse functions.

Interested riders can find an application to become a Sheriff's Office volunteer on this Web site. Just click on "Community Affairs," followed by "Volunteer Application." For more information, please call Sergeant Elena Vitt, assistant posse coordinator, at 352-341-7430.