Police and Sheriff’s Patrol Officers

**What They Do**
Maintain order and protect life and property by enforcing local, tribal, state or federal laws and ordinances. Perform a combination of the following duties: patrol a specific area; direct traffic; issue traffic summonses; investigate accidents; apprehend and arrest suspects, or serve legal processes of courts.

**Is This For You?**

Work **Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland’s Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

- **Enterprising (Persuaders)** — Like to influence, persuade or lead people and manage others. They enjoy working on a team toward goals, competition and business-like activities.

- **Realistic (Doers)** — Prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands.

Work **Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Achievement** — Results oriented, allow use of strongest abilities and provide feeling of accomplishment.

- **Relationships** — Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly, non-competitive environment.

- **Support** — Offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

**Abilities** reflect a person’s aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career.

- Problem Sensitivity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Near Vision
Basic Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Speaking
- Monitoring

Education & Training

Some postsecondary education in law enforcement or a related field is recommended. While in many cases, a high school diploma is sufficient, police officers and sheriffs must also complete specific training in law enforcement. Training includes classroom instruction in state and local laws, civil rights, and police ethics. Recruits also receive training and supervised experience in such areas as traffic control, firearm use, self-defense, first aid and emergency response.

Some employers, such as the South Dakota Highway Patrol, have additional prerequisites, including physical requirements.

Recommended Levels* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Math</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace Documents</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Literacy</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Using the median skill level.

Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of police and sheriff patrol officers are:

- Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals
- State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals
- Federal Government
- Educational Services

South Dakota Employment & Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Workers</th>
<th>2028 Workers</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Average Annual Demand for Workers</th>
<th>Annual Median Wage</th>
<th>Annual Average Wage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td>1,933</td>
<td>2,020</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>$47,930</td>
<td>$49,692</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center
www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop
www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online
www.onetonline.org

mySkills myFuture
https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/

Provided By

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation
605.626.2314

Visit dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

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