

# More South Dakota Hot Careers

Beyond the  
Top **30**



## High Demand & High Wage Career

**Career Cluster: Law, Public Safety,  
Corrections and Security**

# Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers

*Standard Occupational Code 33-3051*

## 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.

**Independence** — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

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

- Problem Sensitivity
- Oral Expression
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Comprehension
- Deductive Reasoning
- Near Vision

## Basic Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Speaking
- Social Perceptiveness

## 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

Applied Math	3
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

\*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

## South Dakota Employment & Wages

2020 Workers	2030 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,940	2,038	98	5.1%	161	\$50,663	\$52,582

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

### mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

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