



South Dakota
High Demand
&
High Wage
Career

**Career Cluster: Law, Public Safety,
Corrections & 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:

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.

Conventional (Organizers) — Detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

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.

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

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.

- Oral Comprehension
- Problem Sensitivity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Expression
- Speech Clarity

Basic Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Social Perceptiveness
- Speaking
- Active Learning

Education & Training

Some postsecondary education in law enforcement or similar 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.

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2022 Employment	2032 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,971	2,032	61	3.1%	158	\$55,390	\$58,900

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/>

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx.

Printed on recycled paper. 

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

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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