



South Dakota High Demand & High Wage Career

Career Cluster:
Public Service & Safety



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 Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Self-Confidence — A tendency to believe in one's work-related capabilities and ability to control one's work-related outcomes.

Adaptability — A tendency to be open to and comfortable with change, new experiences, or ideas at work.

Perseverance — A tendency to exhibit determination and resolve to perform or complete tasks in the face of difficult circumstances or obstacles at work.

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

Work Activities

- Performing for or Working Directly with the Public
- Getting Information
- Resolving Conflicts and Negotiating with Others

Education & Training

Some postsecondary education in law enforcement or similar field is recommended. While a high school diploma may be sufficient in some cases, 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.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit StartTodaySD.com or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

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

South Dakota Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
2,690	2,813	123	4.6%	211	\$60,740	\$64,320

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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