Flagler Sheriff’s PAL Awarded Funds to Continue McGruff Mentoring Group

The Flagler County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) Police Athletic League (PAL) has been selected to participate in National PAL’s 2020 Mentoring Program, which is funded through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The National PAL Mentoring Initiative implements youth mentoring programs that strengthen and expand mentoring services to youth in 3rd through 6th grades through the Flagler Sheriff’s PAL chapter.

Photos from past McGruff Mentoring Group events.

FCSO PAL has facilitated the McGruff Mentoring Group for 3 years and has partnered with Flagler Technical Institute's 21st Century Learning Center at Rymfire Elementary School to host the mentoring group weekly after-school to teach students important life skills and values. Some of the skills and values taught include leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, respect for oneself and others, and living a healthy lifestyle.
Photos from past McGruff Mentoring Group events.

Mentors and the students participate in positive mentoring activities through PAL, providing greater opportunities for individual/group mentoring and academic achievement. The performance measurements for this initiative include increasing the students’ view of law enforcement, understanding of the dangers of drug and gang involvement, and increasing their perception of social support. Sessions in the past year included staying safe at home and in the community, gun safety, personal health and awareness, internet safety, stealing and much more.

“The Flagler Sheriff’s Police Athletic League is a wonderful program and the amazing work they do to reach the children in our community cannot be emphasized enough,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “The McGruff mentoring group is entering its fourth year and has become an important aspect of these children’s lives. We pursue grants all the time to bring federal dollars back to Flagler County. We thank National PAL and the Department of Justice for granting us this award in order to keep this program going.”

The awarded funds will provide this program for 28 students year-round, which is a $25,200.00 value. These funds will be used for direct operating expenses associated with the PAL Mentoring program. The program is starting its fourth year.

For more information on FCSO PAL, visit www.flaglersheriffspal.org.

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