



# Bristol Police Department

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**KEVIN M. LYNCH**  
Chief of Police

## Bristol Police Youth Leadership Academy

### 2026 Town Council Request for Funding

The Bristol Police Department hosts a Children's Leadership Camp—collectively known as the *Bristol Police Youth Leadership Academy*—each August. These camps engage youth in constructive team building and empowerment activities, build leadership skills, and foster positive relationships between young people and the Police Department.

While similar programs exist regionally and nationally, our Academy is unique in its strong emphasis on developing peer leadership abilities. The program empowers youth to make positive decisions, resist negative peer influence, and serve as role models within their schools and communities. A significant component of the curriculum focuses on -substance abuse awareness, including the risks, prevalence, and dangers of opioids. The program teaches youth how to identify -substance related- risks, recognize concerning behaviors in peers, and positively influence others to avoid experimentation and use.

Each camp day focuses on a different theme—leadership, integrity, respect, honesty, teamwork, communication, and courage—taught through interactive games, activities, and skill building- challenges. The curriculum also incorporates lessons on law enforcement, antibullying education, and -substance abuse- prevention. Campers complete the Academy having built friendships, learned valuable skills, and developed teamwork, confidence, and pride.

The camp is designed for youth ages 8 to 14, a particularly vulnerable age range that bridges the transition between elementary and middle school. Through experiential learning and embedded curriculum, camp staff reinforce critical lessons in an engaging, memorable way. One example is the culminating ropes course challenge, where campers must work collaboratively to overcome -high-level obstacles that test courage, trust, and leadership. These experiences have meaningful, lasting impact and translate into -post camp- success.

Over the past several years, the Academy has received consistently positive feedback from both campers and parents. Many former participants return as counselors, demonstrating the program's long-term- influence and effectiveness.

Operating the Academy involves several costs, including food and beverages, sanitation supplies, activity and outing fees, and staffing expenses.

In summary, the Bristol Police Youth Leadership Academy is a weeklong summer camp designed for youth ages 8–14, focusing on leadership development, teamwork, and positive decision-making and is very costly, especially the out-of-Town trip to the annual ropes challenge course that also requires outside transportation. The program integrates curriculum on substance abuse- prevention—especially opioid awareness—along with lessons in communication, integrity, antibullying, and -peer leadership skills. Each day features themed activities culminating in a -high ropes- challenge that reinforces confidence, collaboration, and resilience. Notably, the Academy continues to receive strong community support and produces lasting positive impact, with many graduates returning as counselors.

**To help offset annual operating expenses, the Bristol Police Department is humbly requesting at least \$1,500.00 in funding for the 2026 program.** We are confident that this camp can once again be a success and provide a meaningful experience for the town's youth.





Respectfully,

Chief Kevin Lynch – Chief of Police  
Captain Steven St. Pierre – Executive Coordinator  
Sergeant Kyle Batista – Camp OIC/Liaison