



# DeKalb County Police Athletic League Plus

*"Providing a safe haven for kids to go and grow."*



## **DeKalb County PAL Plus Unit Career Development Program**

The DeKalb County Police Athletic League Plus (a 501c3 program) created and initiated the Career Development Program in January 2021. The program was originally developed by Detective Khary Ricketts, in partnership with Georgia Piedmont College. The Career Development Program (also referred to as CDP) is a four-month program that prepares youths ages 15 to 19 for employment and a future career through a series of workshops. There are three sessions per year; Session One starts in mid-January and ends in mid-April, Session Two starts in mid-May and ends in mid-August and Session Three starts in early September and ends in mid-December. We advertise this program via Departmental social media pages. Most of the participants are found through our business and community partners, school counselors and juvenile probation officers as referrals.

Goals for this program include providing, interview skills, fiscal management, hygiene, business management and mentorship for youth in DeKalb County. Giving kids an opportunity to hear from local business owners (some of whom hold doctorate degrees), college professors, veteran police officers and the DeKalb DA's office equips them with diverse skills and diverts them from the temptation to engage in criminal activity. The workshops are held each week during the session dates, and participants are in a classroom setting at **Georgia Piedmont Technical College**. This location gives the kids a real feel for advanced education in the trades and tours of specialty shops, including the auto repair shop and welding shop on campus, shows the participants what it would be like to work in those fields.

The workshops cover conflict resolution, coping with trauma, gangs and drugs, interview skills, workplace etiquette, entrepreneurship training and several other topics related to mentoring teens. In 2021, 25 participants graduated from the program. In addition, because of their participation in CDP, 15 Participants were employed part time by DeKalb County businesses, and two participants enrolled in college. Additionally, one graduate received a scholarship from a local business.

Several participants who didn't graduate from high school are given all assistance needed, including required forms and schooling, to obtain their GEDs. In addition, several participants have become dual enrollees because of the CDP, attending both high school and college courses. Pushing kids to higher educational achievement is another primary goal of the CDP.

Participants receive a variety of materials, including information about local and national colleges and universities, worksheets with examples of fiscal responsibility and budgeting, tips on how to manage social media and other important documents. The program will include field trips for youth participants. Program participants receive drinks, snacks and a full dinner during each workshop, there is a program graduation banquet and ceremony at the end of the CDP program session. There are currently (13) youth participants enrolled in CDP Session Two. There is no cost to program participants.

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770-724-7436. Fax 770-724-7560 . [www.dekalbcountypalplus.org](http://www.dekalbcountypalplus.org)





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## CDP Program Budget

### CDP Session #2 - 05/11/22 to 08/17/22

Program Costs: \$1,200 (drinks, snacks, dinners, graduation banquet, certificates)

Field Trip Costs: \$800 (baseball game, swimming, bowling, roller skating, museum tickets)

Total Cost - \$2,000

### CDP Session #3 – 09/07/22 to 12/14/22

Program Costs: \$1,200 (drinks, snacks, dinners, graduation banquet, certificates)

Field Trip Costs: \$800 (baseball game tickets, swimming, bowling, roller skating, museum tickets)

Total Cost - \$2,000

**CDP Sessions #2 & #3 Grand Total - \$4,000**

**Sgt. H. Jenkins #2221**

**Unit Commander**

**DeKalb County Police Department**

**DeKalb County Police Athletic League, Plus**

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