

Peoria Police Athletic/Activities League

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Peoria Police Athletic/Activities League

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Executive Director

Jennifer Engelbrecht

Mission

To promote the prevention of juvenile crime and violence by building relationships among Peoria's youth, law enforcement and the community through positive engagement.

Vision

To provide guidance and leadership that ensures the safety of our youth, improves their lives, reduces crime, promotes character development, improves educational outcomes, and better serves the community by building strong and trusting relationships between law enforcement and Peoria's youth.

How to Help

Peoria PAL is always looking for volunteer coaches (subject to background check) to partner with our law enforcement volunteers for various educational, civic and athletic activities. Equipment and financial donations are always needed and greatly appreciated. The Peoria PAL program is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation serving Peoria's youth ages 8 to 18.

If you are interested in volunteering, coaching or making a donation, please contact Jennifer Engelbrecht at peoriapoliceathleticleague@gmail.com or visit our website at peoriapal.com.



The Police Athletic League (PAL) is a national program with over 300 branches in communities across the United States. All PAL programs work to connect police officers with at-risk youth and providing them with the opportunity and tools to participate in various activities and athletics with the hope of building relationships and keeping kids on the right path.

The Police Athletic League program is based on the premise that young people — if they are reached early enough — can cultivate strong positive attitudes towards/with law enforcement in their journey through life. The PAL program experience brings youth to expound upon the role of law enforcement and the reinforcement of the responsible values and attitudes instilled in them at home and in their schools. PAL programs engage children in a variety of activities that help them connect the dots between their actions today and their future.

Many PAL programs have reported significant impacts on their communities. The Philadelphia PAL program reports a 39% decline in juvenile arrests in the areas surrounding their PAL facility and a 10% decrease in juvenile arrests city wide. Kansas City PAL has reported a similar impact. Fifteen year old DD Cruz, described her experience with the Kansas City PAL program as helping her “become who I am, they made me realize that I can be somebody!” DD went on to say, “there’s a lot of people in my community that don’t make it out of here, and I just see that I have support and I have people who believe in me... and it just makes me really happy.”

We are very proud to bring this national program to Peoria. Peoria PAL is dedicated to investing in athletic, educational and recreational opportunities for Peoria's youth by:

- **Creating programming that is fun, safe and free.** Peoria PAL will be a safe haven for area youth, and we will never charge for participation in our programs.
- **Encouraging character development through civic/service opportunities** that benefit the communities and neighborhoods right here in Peoria.
- **Providing the opportunity to build trusting relationships with law enforcement officers** who are invested in their education, health, safety and future.
- **Building a community where the youth are taught, shown and inspired by our programs and mentors** to be active and involved citizens today—so they can build a better community for tomorrow.

Peoria PAL aspires to be one of the premier youth-serving organizations in the city. Our goal is to reduce juvenile crime, promote character development, and improve educational outcomes. Studies have shown that if a young person engages and interacts with a law enforcement officer, whether on the ball field, in the gym or classroom, that youth will likely come to respect the laws that police officers enforce. This relationship is beneficial to the youth, law enforcement officers, the neighborhood, and the business community. For more information, contact Jennifer Engelbrecht at (309) 573-3923.

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