



The American Legion Department of Oregon LECC



The Oregon Program History

Jim Willis was a Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, American Legion Department of Oregon Commander and Alternate National Executive Committeeman. His love for veterans and our youth programs was endless. His extensive police background led his heart to start the Oregon Youth Law Enforcement Career Camp Program. Following his passing in 2021, the Department renamed the program in his honor at the 2022 Department American Legion Convention.

Immediately following high school, Jim Willis enlisted in the United States Air Force and served two enlistments as a Security Policeman. He was a Staff Sergeant at the time of his honorable discharge in 1968. Little did he know, his time as a Military Officer would shape the incredible career that followed. After two enlistments in the Air Force, Jim Willis joined the Douglas County Sheriff's Department; before moving to the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

He then became Commander of the Police Academy followed by various roles in the **Oregon State Police where he retired as a Major**. One of his greatest accomplishments was graduating from the 121st Session of the FBI National Academy and in 1984 he was elected President of the Oregon Chapter. In 1978, Major Willis was awarded the Oregon Police Medal of Valor and in 1993 was the recipient of the L. Dale Morris Award for dedicated service to Oregon Law Enforcement.

Qualifications

The program is available to all high school students aged 15 to 17 and are in good academic standing. They should be of good moral character and possess a desire to learn more about the law enforcement profession. Their high school should recommend students who meet these qualifications to American Legion Posts who are sponsoring the Youth Law Enforcement Career Program.

Program Goal

The Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp (JWLECC) is a residential 5-day 4-night program where youth experience all aspects of Law Enforcement, held on the grounds of the Camp Rilea Training Facility, Oregon. The program provides first-hand experiences and insight into the operations of law enforcement agencies. The program also affords these highly motivated young people an opportunity to consider law enforcement as a potential career choice.

Curriculum and Duration

The Oregon LECC is a high-caliber, intense summer camp held for students from across Oregon interested in a career in law enforcement. The camp focuses in a wide variety of law enforcement topics ranging from patrol and investigations, K-9 operations, forensic sciences, fish and wildlife enforcement, explosives, criminal law and prosecution, as well as long-term wellness and resiliency. The camp is held at the Oregon Dept of Military training facility campus and give students the hands-on version of what attending a basic police academy is really like. From 6 am wake-up and PT, a strict indoor and outdoor schedule of classes rain or shine, experiencing live, active scenarios with a team with new friends, and even retrieving the colors at night. This camp is unique, fun, and is very challenging for the students, but gives them many positive experiences they will not soon forget.

Application Process

This camp is open to students aged 15 to 17 with recommendations from a teacher or other adult and the local American Legion Post sponsor. A \$50 fee is required by the student, but the rest of the fee will be covered but the sponsoring Post. This camp provides a well-rounded exposure to the many opportunities in the field of Law Enforcement.

