What is The Citizens' Academy?

A program designed for residents of Miami-Dade County.

How long is the program?

Thirteen (13) weeks.

How often does the class meet?

Once a week, from 7pm - 9pm.

What is the purpose of the Academy?

To provide relevant information and materials that will enable citizens to understand how the departments that make up our local government serve our communities, and understand the processes involved.

When are the classes offered?

Three (3) times a year at various locations throughout the county.

What are the benefits of attending?

Increased understanding of the organizational culture and operations of the various county departments that impact the quality of life in Miami-Dade County.

How do I register for the Citizens' Academy?

Fill out the application on the back of this brochure.

Some Recent Citizens' Academy Graduates comment...

"Classes are very informative and enjoyable. I learned a lot. The support and professionalism of the Dade County employees who presented classes and were present should be commended. You truly are a team. Thanks for this great idea – I hope it will continue."

"Quite informative. Presenters very approachable and knowledgeable."

"Add more weeks to the semester."

County Departments

That You'll Become More Familiar with Include...

Public Works: Maintains County roads and traffic control (signals and signs), mosquito control, causeway operations and maintenance, and physical environment.

Building: Issues permits for buildings, plumbing, electrical, fences, roofing, gas and mechanical work; enforces regulations governing buildings and unsafe structures, handicap accessibility standards, ADA requirements, and handicap parking regulations.

Planning and Zoning: provides research and analysis related to the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan and technical support to Community Councils; issues Certificates of Use and Occupancy, zoning information, processes applications for zoning changes, processes applications for subdivision of lands, accesses and collects impact fees.

Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM): Regulates and manages issues dealing with air and water quality, pollution control, resource protection programs, and clean-up contaminated sites.

Park & Recreation: Maintains and provides programs for parks, recreation facilities, and greenway areas; provides park & recreation services, attractions, and cultural events.

Solid Waste Management: Operation of solid waste facilities, closure/care of landfills, collection of hazardous wastes, residential curbside garbage, trash and recycling collections. Enforces and cleans up illegal dumping wastes.

Consumer Services Department: Ambulance Regulation, Cable Communications Licensing, Consumer Protection, Cooperative extension Service Division, Passenger Transportation Regulatory Division.

Miami-Dade Police Department Community Oriented Police (COPS program): In addition to handling calls for service, officers in the COPS Program have personal community contacts to help solve community problems and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.

Office of Emergency Management: Disaster and Emergency Response including Hurricane preparedness & recovery, Special Needs, CERT program, major flooding/severe weather.

TEAM METRO: Responds to citizen concerns and community needs through proactive outreach; residential and commercial code enforcement – compliance, remediation, citations, and due process; direct sales of services such as Metro-rail passes, baby-stroller parking permits, passport applications.

Corrections & Rehabilitation: Provides bed & support space to accommodate inmate population and minimize overcrowding. Prepares inmates for a successful return to the community. Also operates a boot camp for youthful offenders

Additional Participating Departments:

- Miami-Dade Housing
- Miami-Dade Transit
- Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
- 11th Judicial Circuit
- Water and Sewer Department
- Community Action Agency
- Finance

Get To Know

Your County Government and Services