

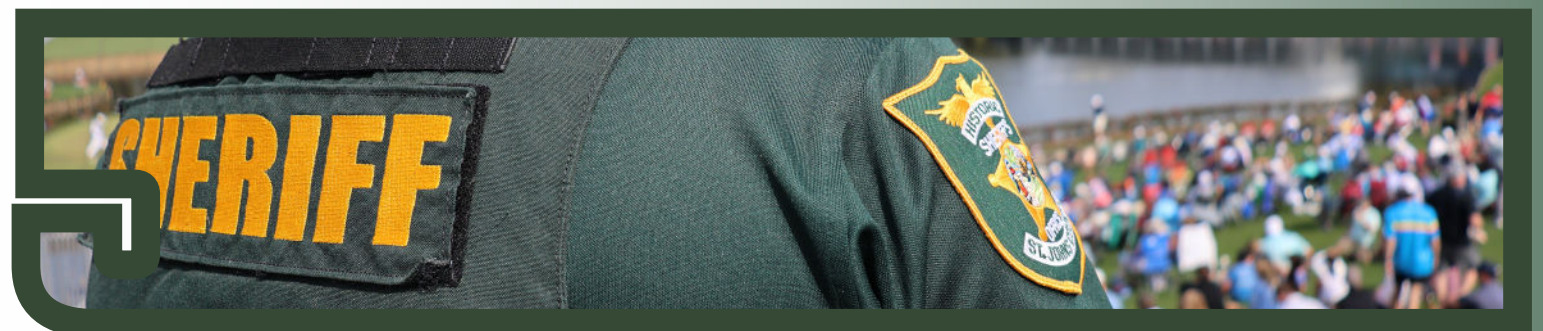
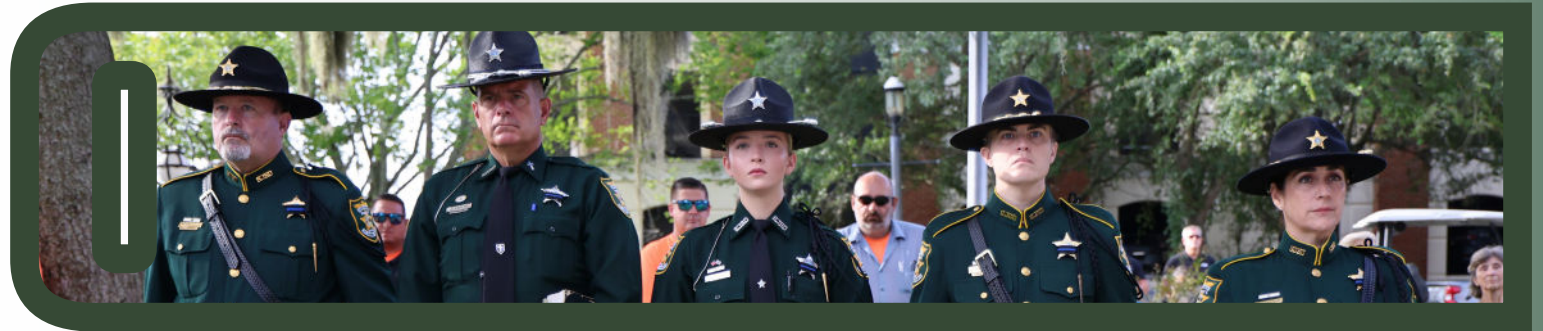


ST. JOHNS COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF

ANNUAL REPORT





ST. JOHNS COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF

2025

Year in Review

CALLS FOR SERVICE

289,838

- SJSO: 243,110 • SAPD: 31,940
- SABPD: 14,143 • OTHER: 645

364,961

ALL INCOMING & OUTGOING CALLS

1,050

FLIGHT HOURS

600

MENTAL HEALTH CALLS

7,107

ARRESTS

101,188

911 CALLS

414

AVERAGE DAILY INMATE POPULATION

5,689

TRAFFIC CRASHES

60

RESPONSE TO SWIMMERS/BOATERS IN DISTRESS

1,602

VIOLENT CRIMES

- Sex Crimes
- Homicide/Attempted Homicide
- Aggravated Battery/Assault
- Battery Domestic Violence
- Simple Battery/Assault
- Burglary & Robbery

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

Dear St. Johns County Citizens,

Taking office for my second term as Sheriff is truly humbling. You showed up to the polls with an overwhelming response, and I am deeply grateful for your support of both the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and me as your Sheriff. As you will see in this year's annual report, we continually strive to serve you at the highest possible level. We make budgetary decisions asking, "How will this benefit the people of St. Johns County?" and we seek to invest daily in this community through our programs and resources.

We recently started a 501(c)(3) called the St. Johns County Sheriff Foundation. This foundation focuses on bringing together charitable donors, community leaders and non-profit organizations in support of non-tax based philanthropic efforts for the benefit of St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Deputies, employees and their families. These funds are utilized to support our employees and bridge the gap when their needs exceed their means; like assistance in the event of an injury or illness to themselves or a family member creating a hardship. The Guardian Experience is one way we generate these funds. It is an exclusive, behind-the-scenes opportunity designed specifically for business owners and community leaders to engage with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office in a dynamic and informative setting. You may have attended CLEA or Leadership St. Johns or purchased a "Day with SJSO" through your favorite non-profit auction but you've never experienced the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office like you will in the Guardian Experience and all proceeds go to help our employees. Want to know more? Visit the St. Johns County Sheriff Foundation at StJohnsCSF.org.

E-Bike safety remains one of our top priorities and several of the homeowners' associations have hosted informational sessions with our agency. In addition, our Task Force members have acquired E-Motos to better police the improper and dangerous use of E-Bikes on our roadways. We want to encourage you to educate your children on proper traffic flow and the importance of following traffic rules while utilizing their E-Bikes. The goal is safety and we believe education is the key difference in keeping our citizens safe.

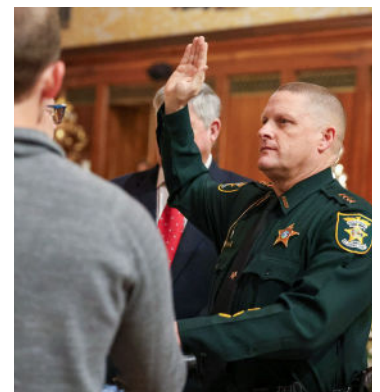
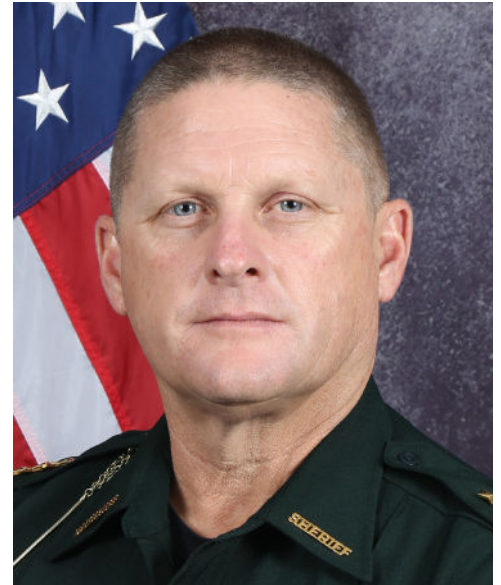
I continue to be incredibly humbled to have the opportunity to lead the finest law enforcement agency in the nation. I am specifically grateful for the extremely low crime rates we experienced in 2025. That said, we do not take this remarkably peaceful year for granted. As we look forward to 2026, our commitment to providing first-class customer service and keeping our citizens and visitors safe remain as top priorities as well as ensuring that our county is the best place to live, work, play, raise a family, and eventually retire.

Should you have any questions, please always feel free to reach out. You can contact the Office of the Sheriff by calling 904-810-6605 or by emailing me at sheriff@sjsso.org.

Sincerely,



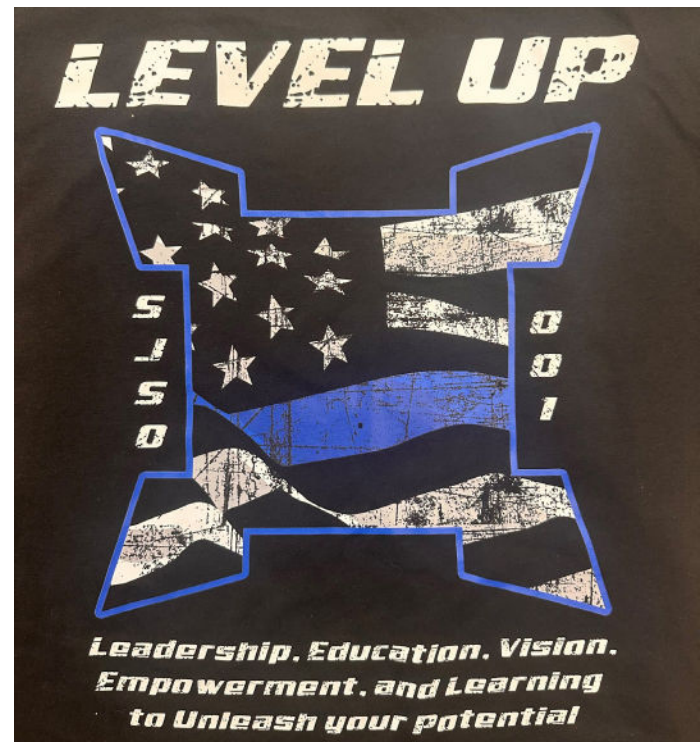
Robert A. Hardwick
Sheriff



LEVEL UP TEEN ACADEMY:

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERS

The program's success reflects the Sheriff's Office's continued commitment to education, community partnership, and investing in the leaders of tomorrow.



In 2025, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office proudly launched its inaugural LEVEL UP Summer Teen Academy—a dynamic, hands-on program designed to introduce high school students to the world of law enforcement. Rising juniors and seniors from across the county stepped into the shoes of public-safety professionals, experiencing firsthand the operations that keep our community safe.



Throughout the academy, students participated in interactive sessions focused on SWAT, Forensics, K9 operations, and other critical areas of modern policing. LEVEL UP—short for Leadership, Education, Vision, Empowerment, and Learning to Unleash your Potential—equips participants with foundational knowledge, leadership skills, and a clearer vision of future careers in criminal justice.

The program's success reflects the Sheriff's Office's continued commitment to education, community partnership, and investing in the leaders of tomorrow.

For more information, visit sjsso.org/level-up or contact internship@sjsso.org.



EMPOWERMENT IN ACTION:

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS (WAVE) - PROGRAM SKILLS HELP A YOUNG WOMAN FIGHT BACK

“I hope this can show other women and young females like myself that you can fight back, it doesn’t matter how small you are.”

-Emma Marine



In 2025, the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office continued its investment in community safety through education, prevention, and empowerment. One program which exemplifies this mission is Women Against Violent Encounters (W.A.V.E.)—an evidence-based self-defense and situational-awareness program designed to equip women and teens with the skills needed to recognize danger, respond confidently, and survive violent encounters.

This year, the life-saving impact of W.A.V.E. principles came into sharp focus through the courageous actions of 18-year-old Emma Marine, whose story quickly became a powerful example of resilience and readiness.

Emma began her day like any other, reporting for work at the Smoke Shop. She noticed a man enter the store twice, using the restroom and lingering as he looked around. Moments later, he moved behind the counter, grabbing items, throwing things, and stuffing merchandise into his pockets. When Emma questioned whether he intended to pay, the situation escalated abruptly.

She recalled freezing for a moment as the suspect became aggressive—pushing her aside, placing her in a chokehold, and dragging her toward a pickup truck outside. Deputies later learned the truck had been stolen from a Jacksonville dealership.

Despite the fear and chaos of the moment, Emma fought back with every ounce of strength she had.

“I just kept fighting back and screaming,” she said. “I wasn’t thinking straight at all. All I could do was fight back.”

Her determination paid off and her resistance prevented the suspect from forcing her into the vehicle, ultimately helping her survive and aiding law enforcement in rapidly locating and arresting him. St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office detectives charged the suspect, with kidnapping,



robbery, and grand theft auto. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) added charges for driving under the influence and fleeing law enforcement.

Emma’s courage—and her message in the aftermath—embodied the spirit of the W.A.V.E. program’s mission.

“I hope this can show other women and young females like myself that you can fight back, it doesn’t matter how small you are,” she said. “Never be quiet—always fight back no matter what. Kick, scream, all of it. It will do justice.”

When reflecting on the incident, she offered a grounded takeaway:

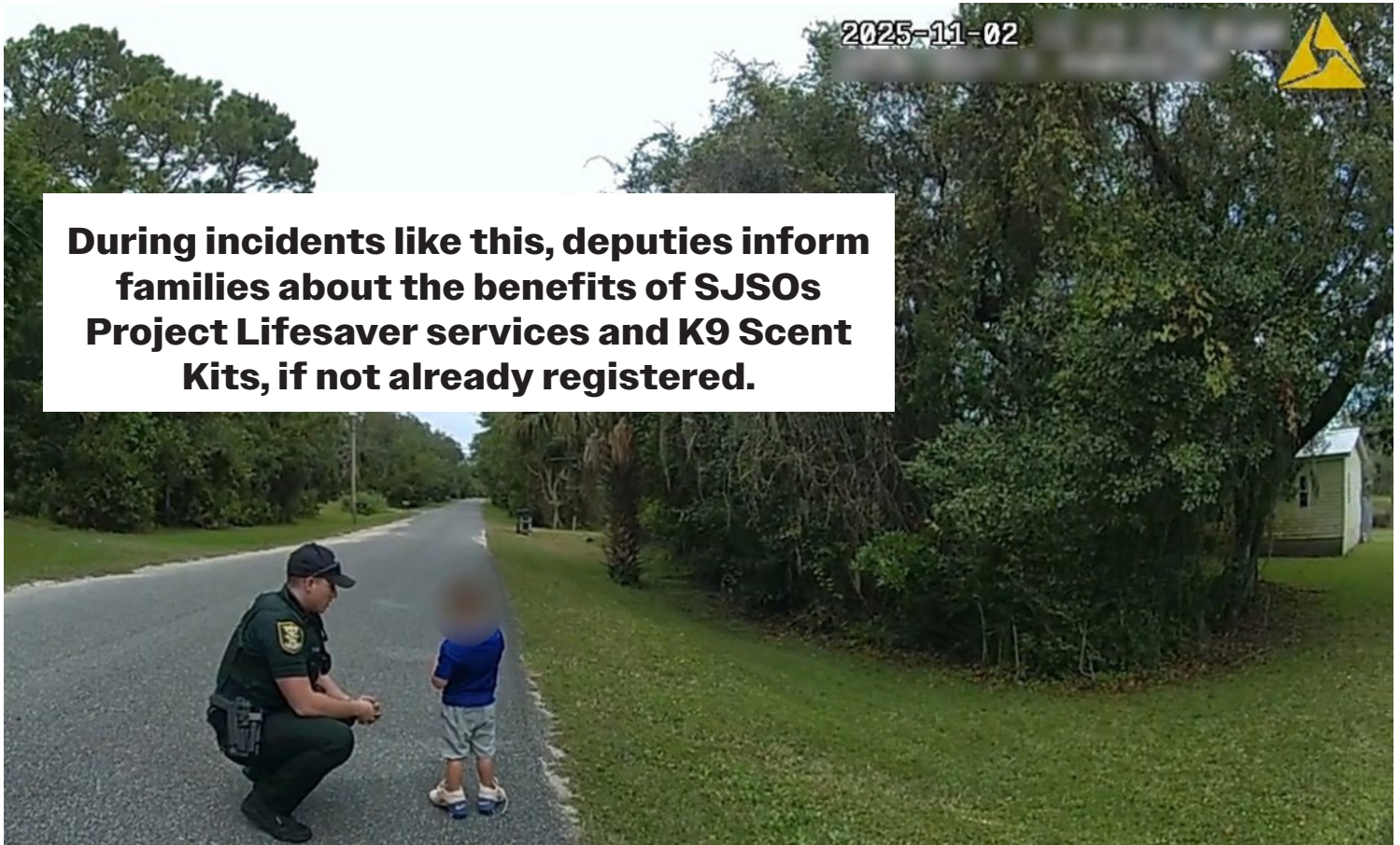
“The world is a scary place. You can never let your guard down. Always watch around you.”

Her experience reinforces the practical lessons taught in W.A.V.E.: awareness, instinct, distance, and decisive action. W.A.V.E. instructors continue to share essential safety principles with women and teens throughout the county, including:

- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you
- Understand your “Danger Zone”—the distance where your safety may be compromised
- Trust your instincts; if something feels wrong, it usually is
- Create distance and get away when possible
- Mentally prepare for worst-case scenarios
- Remember that attitude, commitment, and preparation are key to surviving violent encounters

For more information on the W.A.V.E. programming and upcoming classes:
<https://www.sjso.org/community-programs/crime-prevention/wave/>

BOY WAS REUNITED WITH HIS FAMILY



During incidents like this, deputies inform families about the benefits of SJSOs Project Lifesaver services and K9 Scent Kits, if not already registered.

On November 2, 2025, SJSO Deputies responded to a call about a 4-year-old boy walking in the middle of the road. Deputies arrived and found the child was non-verbal autistic. He was happy, alert, and not injured. With the help of good Samaritans, the boy was reunited with his family.

During incidents like this, deputies inform families about the benefits of SJSOs Project Lifesaver services and K9 Scent Kits, if not already registered.

Project Lifesaver is a bracelet worn by participants with special needs, or those suffering from a traumatic brain injury, dementia, Alzheimer's, etc. The bracelet helps identify the participant and assists deputies in a quick recovery if they wander off.

Learn more about **Project Lifesaver**: <https://www.sjsso.org/project-lifesaver/>

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office also offers free K9 Scent Kits for individuals with a disability. Items belonging to the person are tools for our Bloodhounds to track if reported missing.

Learn more about **K9 Scent Kits**: <https://www.sjsso.org/k9-scent-kit/>

TACTICAL TRAINING FACILITY COMPLETED



In the summer of 2025, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office proudly completed its long-planned Tactical Training Facility—a major investment in public safety and professional readiness for our deputies. The new facility brings modern, purpose-built training space directly to St. Johns County for the first time.

The multi-story complex offers flexible, realistic environments designed to support a wide range of tactical training needs. From scenario-based exercises to classroom instruction and debriefing, the building provides deputies with the space and tools necessary to train effectively and safely. By having these resources on-site, the Sheriff's Office can reduce travel time, minimize training costs, and ensure deputies have more frequent access to the specialized instruction required in today's public safety landscape.

The Tactical Training Facility represents a commitment to preparedness, efficiency, and community protection. Its completion marks a significant milestone in the county's broader public safety Master Development Plan and strengthens the Sheriff's Office's ability to respond to evolving challenges while continuing to serve the residents of St. Johns County with professionalism and excellence.

ACCREDITATION: THREE (3) SUCCESSFUL ACCREDITATIONS

In 2025, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office achieved an exceptional milestone with three (3) successful accreditations across the agency's core public safety disciplines — **Law Enforcement, Corrections, Telecommunications.**

In February, the agency earned reaccreditation from the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission (FLA TAC), affirming excellence in emergency communications.

In June, the agency achieved reaccreditation from the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) - its third consecutive Excelsior recognition, highlighting sustained superior performance in Corrections operations.

In August, the agency received Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for the 11th time, underscoring a longstanding commitment to professionalism and service.





Why does Accreditation matter to me?

It ensures the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office is operating with transparency, efficiency, and best-practice procedures which protect both the community and the deputies who serve it. Simply put, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office is working every day to keep you safer, with professionalism you can rely on.



WORLD CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE

DECEMBER 22, 2024 —

This is Caroline and she is “Officer Tedder’s Cheerleader” Everyday she sees me she waves and yells with the sweetest voice that makes every day great. This Christmas Deputy Tedder got her the largest stuffed bear he could find and gave it to her.”

(Photo taken by Caroline’s mother)



MARCH 21, 2025 —

“Just witnessed this sweet deputy [Deputy Chris King] helping out an elderly couple on the side of the road. He held her hand and walked her and her husband to safety.

— Heather Roy



MARCH 19, 2025 —

“We were out on a death scene when I was approached by this little boy, Preston, and he asked if I had a Sheriff’s star sticker. I didn’t, but I told him I’d figure something out for him. He asked me all kinds of questions about being a detective. I called LT Blanton and asked him to bring me some stickers. Preston was so excited. He’s 9 years old and said he wants to be a cop when he grows up. Such a sweet boy!” — Detective Cheyenne Kroul



JULY 16, 2025 —

Shoutout to SJSO deputies who assisted a driver with a tire change ... Deputy Rockwell came prepared with extra tools to help get the replacement done quickly and safely.



AUGUST 17, 2025 —

In January, SJSO deputies responded to a home in reference to a baby not breathing. Deputy Hines performed CPR on baby Grayson until he regained consciousness and was transported to the hospital.

This month [Aug. 2025], deputies reunited with Grayson — he is happy, healthy, and turns one year old today [Aug. 17, 2025].

We couldn’t be happier to celebrate this milestone with him and his family.



E Bike Safety



PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING:

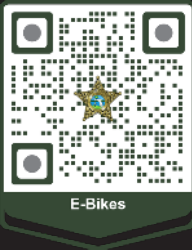
- ▶ Obey traffic signals, stop signs, and speed limits
 - ▶ Slow down for pedestrians
- ▶ Stay visible by wearing bright colored clothing
- ▶ Ride in the same direction as traffic, not against
 - ▶ Use front and rear bike lights
- ▶ Riders under 16 must wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet, but helmets are recommended for all ages

THIS IS NOT AN E-BIKE



This is a motorcycle, aka E-Moto.
They are not street legal.

- The top brands include Sur-Ron and Talaria.
- They are the same size as a typical 250cc dirt bike.
- They are significantly more powerful than an e-bike.
- It can be modified to go speeds up to 70 mph.
- Riding an e-moto on sidewalks and roadways is in violation of Florida State Statute.



Scan for more information about E-Bikes



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF

DESIGNED BY SJSO PUBLICATIONS

REVISED: 06/30/2025

Know the Difference: Electric Bicycles & More

Category	Segway/Hoverboard	Motorized Scooter*	Class 1** E-Bike	Class 2** E-Bike	Class 3** E-Bike
Photo					
Description:	Designed for one person. Self-balancing, two non-tandem wheels.	Designed for one person. With or without a seat or saddle; no more than three wheels.	Bike with electric motor that only engages while the rider is pedaling (pedal-assist or pedelec).	Bike with electric motor that can be engaged at any time, with or without the rider pedaling.	Bike with electric motor that only engages while the rider is pedaling (pedal-assist or pedelec).
What is the max assisted speed?	19 MPH	20 MPH	20 MPH	20 MPH	28 MPH
Do I need a license?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Do I need to register my vehicle?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Where can I ride?***	Trails, multi-use paths, and sidewalks; may only operate on roads with a speed limit of 25 mph or less	Roadways, bike lanes, trails, multi-use paths, and sidewalks	Roadways, bike lanes, trails, multi-use paths, and sidewalks	Roadways, bike lanes, trails, multi-use paths, and sidewalks	Roadways, bike lanes, trails, multi-use paths, and sidewalks
Do I need to wear a helmet?	Required for riders under 16; recommended for all	Required for riders under 16; recommended for all	Required for riders under 16; recommended for all	Required for riders under 16; recommended for all	Required for riders under 16; recommended for all

*Additional local regulations may apply to shared fleets.

**All classes of e-bikes can be visually similar. The difference is in their max assisted speed and how the user can engage the motor.

***Unless prohibited by local municipal code. Refer to local government regulations for more information and additional local e-bike restrictions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MISSION STATEMENT

“SERVE WITH EXCELLENCE”

VISION STATEMENT

**“A TRUSTED TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS
ENSURING ST. JOHNS COUNTY IS THE
SAFEST PLACE IN THE NATION FOR
FAMILIES TO LIVE, WORK, AND VISIT
THROUGH COLLABORATION,
EXCELLENCE, AND LEADERSHIP.”**

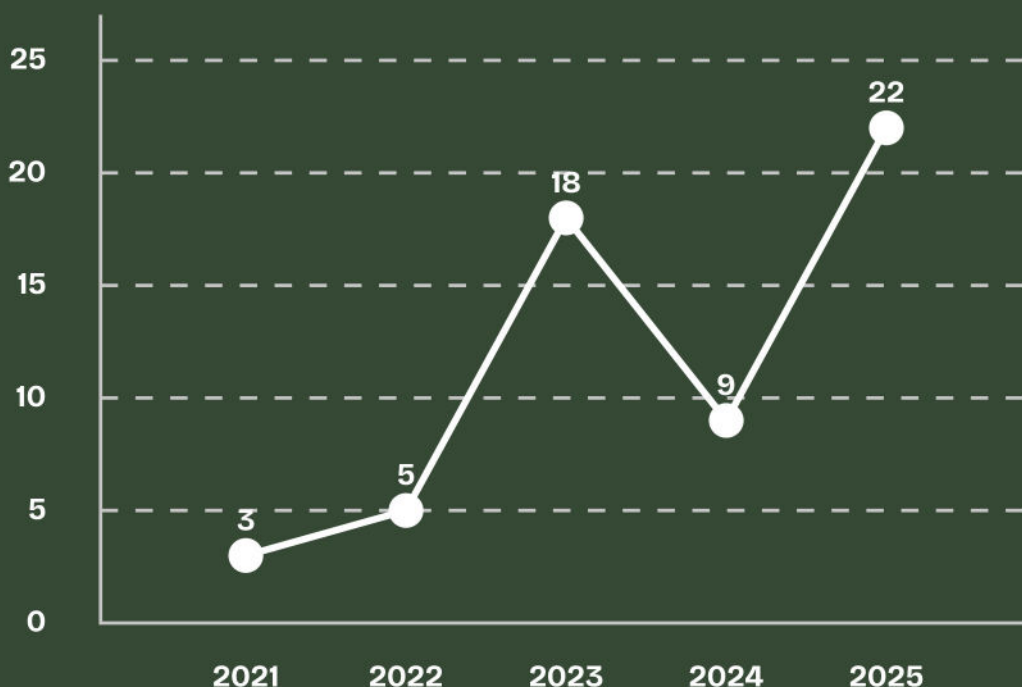
AGENCY MOTTO

“ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION, ONE FUTURE”

IN-CUSTODY GED PROGRAM ACHIEVES SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE



GED Graduates 2021-2025



In 2025, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office marked a significant achievement in its correctional education efforts with a record 22 incarcerated individuals successfully earning their General Educational Development (GED) credential through the agency's in-custody GED Program. This program is administered in conjunction with First Coast Technical College. This achievement represents the highest number of graduates in a single year since the program's establishment. By addressing educational deficits that are closely associated with unemployment and recidivism, the program supports institutional order, personal accountability, and post-release readiness. This record level of achievement reflects the commitment of participating inmates, correctional education staff, and program partners who work collaboratively within the secure facility environment to deliver consistent, standards-based instruction. The 2025 outcomes demonstrate the program's capacity to produce measurable educational results despite the operational constraints inherent in a correctional setting. As the Sheriff's Office continues to prioritize evidence-based correctional practices, the in-custody GED Program remains a valuable tool for improving reentry prospects and strengthening public safety outcomes. The graduation of 22 inmates in 2025 establishes a new benchmark for program performance and underscores the role of education in responsible correctional management.

PARTNERSHIP WITH U.S. IMMIGRATIONS AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

This year, the Corrections Division continued to demonstrate its commitment to public safety, constitutional policing, and professional excellence while managing increasing operational demands. Through strategic partnerships, innovative programming, and a focus on staff development, the Division strengthened both its internal operations and its service to the community.

A significant area of focus has been our continued participation in the 287(g) program in partnership with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Through this collaboration, specially trained detention personnel are authorized to perform certain immigration enforcement functions within the secure environment of the jail. This initiative enhances public safety by ensuring that individuals who pose identified risks are appropriately processed in accordance with federal law, while maintaining strict adherence to due process and professional standards.

Building on that partnership, we are pursuing our Jail Enforcement Model (JEM) framework. This model formalizes procedures, training protocols, supervisory oversight, and compliance safeguards related to immigration enforcement within the detention setting. The Jail Enforcement Model emphasizes accountability, transparency, and alignment with federal guidelines while preserving the integrity of local correctional operations. This structured approach ensures clarity of roles, consistency in application, and measurable performance outcomes.

Equally important is our continued investment in reentry success. The Division expanded evidence-based programming focused on education, vocational skills, substance abuse treatment, faith-based initiatives, and cognitive behavioral interventions. Strengthened partnerships with community providers have improved transition planning, ensuring that individuals leave our custody with identification, resource connections, and a pathway toward stability. Recidivism reduction remains a core objective, and early indicators reflect meaningful progress in post-release employment engagement and program completion rates.

Recognizing that our people are our greatest asset, recruiting and retention remained a top priority. In a competitive labor market, the Division implemented targeted recruitment strategies, enhanced training and mentorship programs, and expanded professional development opportunities to support career growth. Retention efforts focused on wellness initiatives, leadership accessibility, and clear advancement pathways. These efforts have improved applicant quality, reduced vacancy durations, and strengthened workforce morale.

Throughout the year, the Corrections Division has remained steadfast in its mission: operating safe, secure, and humane detention facilities while supporting lawful enforcement efforts and preparing individuals for successful reintegration into the community. The progress made in partnership development, program innovation, and workforce stability positions the Division for continued excellence in the year ahead.

CYBER CRIMES SPOTLIGHT:

These cases represent more than arrests or investigations; they reflect a commitment to vigilance, collaboration, and community safety.



PROTECTING CHILDREN. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TRUST

In September 2025, local, state, and federal law-enforcement agencies came together with one shared mission: protect children from exploitation and hold offenders accountable. **Operation Safe Passage** was a four-day, coordinated undercover initiative conducted September 17–20, 2025, which focused on identifying individuals seeking to exploit minors both online and in person.

Using multiple undercover investigators operating across several digital platforms, the operation targeted offenders attempting to meet children for sexual activity and those engaged in online exploitation. The result was decisive — **22 individuals were charged** on charges ranging from human trafficking and travel to meet a minor for sex, to the transmission of harmful material and possession of child sexual abuse material. Those arrested came from across the country, underscoring the reality that online exploitation knows no geographic boundaries.



A UNIFIED FRONT AGAINST EXPLOITATION

The **Northeast Florida Intercept Task Force** represents the power of collaboration. Formed to combat child exploitation and human trafficking throughout the region, the task force brings together law-enforcement agencies with one purpose: protect the most vulnerable.



The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office is a founding member alongside Homeland Security Investigations; Clay, Putnam, Nassau, Jacksonville, and Flagler County Sheriff's Offices; and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. In 2025, the task force conducted **two Missing Child Rescue Operations** — one with the United States Marshals Service and another in partnership with the National Child Protection Task Force. These efforts led to the safe recovery of approximately 60 missing children and at-risk runaways across Northeast Florida, reconnecting families and restoring hope.

INTERVENING WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

Throughout 2025, SJSO investigators executed approximately **40 residential search warrants** related to child exploitation cases. One investigation uncovered a devastating situation involving **two juvenile victims** who were being sexually abused and exploited online by a family member. Through swift investigative action, both children were removed from harm, provided protection, and the offender was brought to justice.

In another case, ICAC detectives partnered with the Youth Resource Deputies to investigate inappropriate communications between a school bus driver and a St. Johns County student. Detectives assumed the student's online identity to prevent further harm and gather evidence. When the offender attempted to meet the child for sexual activity, he was arrested before any contact could occur—stopping a crime and protecting a young life.

OUR COMMITMENT

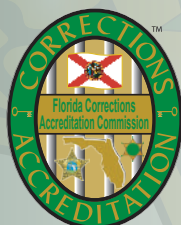
These cases represent more than arrests or investigations; they reflect a commitment to vigilance, collaboration, and community safety. Behind every operation is a child protected, a family supported, and a clear message: **child exploitation will not be tolerated in St. Johns County.**

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

4015 LEWIS SPEEDWAY, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

904.824.8304 | WWW.SJSO.ORG

"SERVE WITH EXCELLENCE"



INTERNATIONALLY AND STATE ACCREDITED

@TeamSJSO