Vanessa Reyes

Job Shadow Reflective

I scheduled my job shadow for September 1st at 9am through 1pm. I had a hard time deciding who I was going to job shadow because the job I want isn’t here in Lindsay. At the end I decided to job shadow a police officer because I want to go into the law enforcement field. The appointment took place at the police department here in Lindsay. I had the honor to job shadow officer Joseph Hinojos, who has been working for the department for 16 years. Most of the time we drove around town while he answered my questions. We received a couple calls, which we went to.

As I arrived to the station, officer Hinojos was already waiting for me. The first thing he did was show me around the department and explained some of his duties. Around 5 minutes into the car ride we received a call of an argument between two males. He immediately turned around and headed to the address that was given to him. Something I found very interesting was the codes they used. I asked several questions on those and I learned that 414 means that there is an argument that got physical. When we arrived at the destination the problem was almost solved. My officer asked the guys if any of them wanted to press charges against each other, they both answered no so his job there was done.

The rest of the ride along went pretty smooth. We drove around for like 2 hours and talked most of the time. I learned more than I thought I would. For example he taught me some laws I didn’t know existed. One was that while driving their cop car they are allowed to talk on the phone and they aren’t required to wear their seatbelts. I liked that they have the freedom to drive around and do their job peacefully. I really didn’t dislike anything; I thought everything was pretty interesting. The only thing I wouldn’t like if I was a cop was the shifts, which take a lot of time away from your family. Officer Hinojos agreed with me on that, saying that the worse thing about his job is that he doesn’t spend as much time with his family as he wanted to.

I think that the job shadow made me become more interested in the job. I know that I want to enter the law enforcement field and becoming a cop would be a great option. It will not only prepare me for my dream job, but I would also gain all the experience needed in the real world in order to become a FBI agent. Before high school ends for me I will certainly look further into the requirements for becoming an officer.