



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

prevention • protection • enforcement

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# SOUTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL

## DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

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September 30, 2021

To Whom it may concern;

This letter is to provide a testimonial for the American Legion/ Highway Patrol Youth Trooper Academy (YTA) program. I have been a part of the South Dakota program in various roles since 2014. I currently hold the rank of Lieutenant and am the Director of Training and Professional Standards. I'm responsible for the scheduling, supervision, and management of the program during the week-long training.

The program is designed to expose 24 high caliber youth to the rigorous demands of Trooper training. The South Dakota Highway Patrol utilizes a military-style stress academy. Year in and year out the South Dakota American Legion posts, and Highway Patrol have been successful in selecting the best attendees. The conduct of the youth and the mentors (both Highway Patrol and American Legion) has been consistently remarkable.

The high schoolers are taught values such as discipline, integrity, collaboration, loyalty, respect, and courtesy from mentors who have devoted their lives to their communities and country.

It a fun and fantastic program and we have reaped the benefits of the seeds planted in these young people's souls. We have hired many YTA graduates as Troopers with our agency. They are working in our communities and serving our citizens. The week is also a lot of fun for our American Legion and Highway Patrol mentors! It's a win/win.

Thank you,

Lieutenant Tony Maunu  
SD Highway Patrol  
Training Director.

