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[Melinda.k.warren@illinois.gov](mailto:Melinda.k.warren@illinois.gov)**Webpage:** <https://ton.siu.edu/partner-camps/team-IL-police-camp.php>**YouTube Video:** <https://youtu.be/qBKVO0pESw8>**Dear Southern Illinois Business Leader,**

We are the Team Illinois Youth Police Camp Committee, and we are organizing a week-long camp for at-risk youth in Southern Illinois. Our goal is to provide a safe and structured environment for young people to interact positively with law enforcement officers, while also learning important life skills.

This camp is hosted in collaboration with the Illinois State Police, Carbondale Police Department, Touch of Nature, Southern Illinois University Police Department, Jackson and Williamson County Sheriff's Departments, and other law enforcement agencies throughout Southern Illinois. It will be held at SIU's Touch of Nature Environmental Center June 7-13, 2026.

The program is based on a successful 18-year model from the Metro East area and is a highly structured, week-long residency that aims to equip at-risk teenagers with skills to resist drugs, gangs, violence, and other societal pressures. The program includes physical training exercises and classroom instruction, all of which are coordinated by police officers, military personnel, and social service agencies. For more information, please watch our YouTube video at <https://youtu.be/qBKVO0pESw8>.

We are reaching out to ask for your support in the form of a donation. The camp's overall fundraising goal is \$25,000. Any contribution, big or small, would be greatly appreciated. Our expenses include t-shirts and hats for cadets and counselors, funds for extracurricular events, 3 meals a day for 40 cadets plus 20 counselors/volunteers for a week, and all supplies needed for a residency program. Our cost for each cadet is \$750, but we only ask the cadets to pay a \$25 registration fee for the entire week.

To show our appreciation, we would like to invite all sponsors to send a business logo to [MDunning@carbondaileil.gov](mailto:MDunning@carbondaileil.gov) for inclusion on a banner that will be displayed at the graduation ceremony and posted on various media sites.

If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to the Team Illinois Youth Police Camp and mail them to Carbondale Police Department, C/O Sarah McCollum, 501 South Washington Street, Carbondale, IL 62901. We can also arrange credit card donations if necessary.

Thank you for considering supporting the Team Illinois Youth Police Camp. We look forward to the positive impact this program will have on the youth in our communities.

Sincerely,

**Team Illinois Youth Police Camp Committee**