



Citizens Academy: General Information

Duration of Program

St. Cloud's Citizens Academy is an 8-week program that is generally held on Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*, unless otherwise announced. *Schedule is subject to change. Class schedules are announced at the time of application. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the class schedule to ensure they can meet attendance requirements.

Program Requirements

The City of St. Cloud requires participants to live within St. Cloud city limits. Those interested may obtain the application on the City's web site, www.StCloudFL.gov/CitizensAcademy, or at City Hall.

Once the form is submitted to the Communications office, the applicant's address is verified to determine if it is in the city limits. Once residency is confirmed, the citizen's name is added to the list in the order the form was received. If the applicant is not a city resident, a letter is sent to notify that they are not eligible to participate.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the Academy site each session. In certain circumstances, the City may provide group transportation for tours as needed. Additional information will be provided when applicable.

Selection of Participants

The class is selected by the order of submission. Participants must live within City limits. Each class is limited to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications are available online or at City Hall. Acceptance letters will be sent once applications have been reviewed and residency is verified. If the citizen decides not to participate or there is no contact made, the person is replaced with the next eligible resident on the list. Registration closes once the class is full, or 3 weeks before the start of the program.

Fees & Attendance

The program is offered free-of-charge. For this reason, the City has implemented an attendance requirement. Participants may miss no more than one session. Participants are required to sign-in at the beginning of each session, and a head count is taken to track attendance. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the Academy dates to ensure they can meet attendance requirements. Any participant who misses more than one session will be withdrawn from the program, and may apply for a future Citizens Academy.

Materials

The City provides each student with a polo-style shirt with the Citizens Academy logo; this shirt must be worn for each class session. Class members are provided with an Academy schedule and itinerary, along with a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Dinner is provided at each session. Each participant receives give-away items from departments, selected to coordinate with each department's duties and/or activities they present for their session. For graduation, each participant is presented with a framed certificate.