



Citizens Academy: Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE CITIZENS ACADEMY?

This civic education program, coordinated by the City's Communications department, is an effort to provide our citizens with a deeper understanding of how their city government works, and give them more information about the daily operations and services provided on the local government level.

WHY WAS THIS PROGRAM CREATED?

Citizens Academy is designed to provide residents with a first-hand look at City operations to set the foundation for residents who are interested in volunteering or serving on one of the City's advisory boards.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM?

Residents are eligible to participate in the program if they live, work, attend school, or own a business within the City of St. Cloud city limits. Participants must be 18 years of age or older.

WHEN WILL CLASSES BE HELD?

Classes are generally held weekly, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Classes will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. Dates for Fall 2022 are Tuesday, Sept. 6 through Wednesday, Nov. 2. (SEE PROGRAM SCHEDULE.) Participants may miss no more than one (1) class to successfully complete the program. In order to help ensure the integrity of program, any student who misses 2 or more classes will be withdrawn from the program and may apply to participate in a subsequent program.

WHAT IS THE COST?

There is no charge to citizens to participate in the Citizens Academy.

WHAT ARE THE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS?

Students must attend at least 6 of the 7 class sessions, plus graduation, in order to successfully complete the program. We publish all dates in advance to help you plan. Graduation will be on Nov. 2. If you are unable to commit to these dates, we encourage you to apply at a time when you can commit to the attendance requirements.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO THE CLASSES?

The classes are interactive, so casual attire is acceptable. We will provide a Citizens Academy polo shirt for each student. This polo shirt must be worn during each class, so staff can easily identify class members. We recommend comfortable shoes, as there will be some walking and many activities during some of the classes.

AM I ALLOWED TO BRING A GUEST TO THE CLASS?

Students are not permitted to bring a guest or children to classes. However, you are encouraged to bring one guest to the graduation ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 2. An RSVP for your guest is required, as dinner will be served. Your class coordinator will facilitate this as we get close to graduation.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I GRADUATE FROM THE CITIZENS ACADEMY?

Following graduation from the City of St. Cloud Citizens Academy, you will be equipped with knowledge needed to volunteer, serve on one of the City's advisory boards or perhaps run for a seat on the City Council.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

For more information, please contact the Communications office at 407-957-7303 or email [Maryemma Bachelder at Maryemma.Bachelder@stcloud.org](mailto:Maryemma.Bachelder@stcloud.org)