

# NEW ALLECA DIRECTOR, MATTHEW GRIFFIS (SAL - PDC 2017-2018)

As a SONS of The American Legion 8 year member, a Past Detachment of Arizona Commander and a 30 year Law Enforcement veteran, I am honored and humbled to have been selected as the new Director for the Department of Arizona's American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy - ALLECA, a partnered youth program between the Department of Arizona American Legion and the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZ DPS) that began back in 1981 and has now reached its 38th year. ALLECA is one of only **21** such programs in the United States (Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin) that are geared toward those individual teenagers who have shown an interest in some phase of law enforcement or military and ours is unique because much of the program is focused on physical fitness. This is one of the many "**AMERICANISM**" programs that are sponsored by The American Legion and our program is seen as the national model for such programs. The program consists of a **eight-day encampment** and will be held at the Emmanuel Pines Camp, Prescott AZ. **The program is offered to youths between the ages of 11 and 19.** The cadets are fed three meals a day and are provided quarters and uniforms. **You do not need to be a member of the American Legion to participate as a cadet.**

This camp is not meant to correct disciplinary problems, but is one developed for kids interested in law enforcement or the military. Physical training is rigorous, so cadets attending the academy must be in good shape and able to run 1.5 miles within 15 minutes, and complete 35 push-ups and sit-ups (depending upon age group) upon entering the program. The cadets experience many aspects of law enforcement including, but not limited to; first-aid, air rescue, introduction to police K-9s, defensive tactics, SWAT, collision investigation, Citizenship and Americanism, building searches, active shooter, what not to do when driving, how to prevent bullying, etc. The encampment is under the direct leadership of the Department of Arizona American Legion and the Department of Public Safety with most of the instruction being provided by certified Arizona or Federal law enforcement officers.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP! \$250.00 WILL SPONSOR 1 ALLECA CADET!**

**American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy of Arizona** is a registered Trademark@ **ALLECA**, a Domestic Nonprofit organization with the State of Arizona Corporation Commission, **Entity ID #09370064**. We are always looking for donations in order to keep sponsoring kids to attend the program and to maintain and upgrade equipment. If you would like to send a donation to the program, please send it to: **ALLECA, P.O. Box 750, Cortaro, Arizona 85652-0750**. If you are sending a check or money order, please make it payable to **American Legion-ALLECA**. If you are sending your donation in cash, please attach a note with your name, so we can properly thank you and send you a thank you letter for tax purposes. You can also go to the Store tab within the web page and also make it easier on you making a donation there.

[www.orgsites.com/az/legionalleca](http://www.orgsites.com/az/legionalleca)

**NEW DATE IS JUNE 29 THRU JULY 6, 2019**

[www.ALLECA-AZ.org](http://www.ALLECA-AZ.org)

**CLASS MAX SIZE 60 CADETS**

I encourage ALL American Legion POST's, SAL Squadrons, Auxiliary Units and ALR Chapters to reach out and sponsor a cadet from your community, schools, JROTC programs, youth programs, even your very own children or grandchildren. Like all of our American Legion programs, this program relies on your generous monetary donations in order to operate. Invite me to your meetings, I will schedule to attend and explain our program to your membership.

**Matt Griffis, ALLECA Director**

**Email: allecadirector@gmail.com / 520-289-5113**

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