

Local Girl Scout troops visit MTI to investigate career

Over 40 girls experience a career in Law Enforcement, first-hand

(Bradenton, FL—September 3, 2009) Manatee Technical Institute hosted a Girl Scouts' career day Saturday from 8:30am to 2:00pm. Over 40 girls from 10 local troops visited MTI's East Campus to learn about Law Enforcement careers. The girls were 11 to 16 and ranged from Juniors to Cadets to Seniors.

The girls participated in seven events at the Law Enforcement Academy. They lifted fingerprints from a crime scene, wrote official reports, responded to calls and handled police car pursuits in the driving simulator, learned proper techniques to deal with a hostage situation, burglaries, and robberies using the firearms simulator, learned life safety skills in defensive tactics, took a polygraph test, and served as a jury members, defense attorneys, and prosecutors for a court room trial. After the events, the MTI Culinary department served lunch. At the event's end, the Girl Scouts received a certificate and their Interest Projects (IP) patch.

Juliette Lowe, founder of the Girl Scouts USA, once said that every young lady should be prepared for two different careers. Dr. Mary Cantrell, MTI Director, said that the most important part of the day was doing just that – showing the Girl Scouts that there are many career paths to choose from.

“It was surprising how smart and intuitive these young girls were. The questions they asked the judge before rendering a verdict truly impressed me. It's always exciting to watch people learn, and it was wonderful to see the look on the girls' faces. This day was mutually beneficial – it was an excellent opportunity for MTI to showcase our programs and to help the community, as well,” said Cantrell.

Paul Redecha, MTI Criminal Justice High School Coordinator, planned the entire event. Six high school students and five instructors volunteered to assist the Girl Scouts. “The best part of the day was seeing the girls get involved and really participate in the activities. They learned exactly what it would be like to be a recruit at the Criminal Justice Academy,” said Radache.

The mission of Manatee Technical Institute is to meet and exceed our community's training and educational expectations. MTI is a 2007 Tampa Bay Business of the Year and has won more SkillsUSA medals than any other school in the nation for the past six years.