



ALCATRAZ EAST

★★★ CRIME MUSEUM ★★★

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Alcatraz East Crime Museum Highlighting National Police Week with Free Admission, K9 Meet and Greet, Display Expansion

Honoring Law Enforcement: Join Us for a K9 Meet-and-Greet and the Unveiling of a New Display on Innovative Crime Prevention

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. (April XX, 2025) - Law enforcement officers play a crucial role in our society, and as such, they are honored every May during National Police Week. Alcatraz East Crime Museum is putting law enforcement officers in the spotlight during the special week of May 11-17, 2025, unveiling a new permanent display expansion, offering free admission to officers, and hosting a K9 meet-and-greet.

"We are looking forward to shining a light on the police and all they do to keep our communities safe," said Ally Pennington, artifacts and programs manager at Alcatraz East Crime Museum. "They contribute so much to our society and deserve recognition for their important work."

During National Police Week, May 11-17, 2025, Alcatraz East Crime Museum will offer all law enforcement officers free admission. They can also get half off the admission price for up to four guests. To claim free entry and the discounted guest rate, they must show their law enforcement badge or other form of professional identification. All officers will also get a free keepsake mugshot. National Police Week was established by Congress in 1962, with President John F. Kennedy proclaiming May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The period is to remember the fallen and honor all those in law enforcement.

The museum will unveil an expansion of a permanent display on May 9, 2025. The focus of the expansion, titled HARP: A New Way to Combat Opioid-Related Recidivism, will focus on a prison rehab program in Virginia. HARP (Helping Addicts Recover Progressively) was created in 2016 by Virginia's Chesterfield County Sheriff Karl Leonard. The program uses innovative therapies like trauma tapping to help inmates with substance use disorders learn new skills, work through past traumas, and transform their lives. It is a mind/body practice that helps to regulate stress and create

calm. The program has helped reduce re-offending, and those involved in the HARP program have seen the benefits of this revolutionary rehabilitation technique. The museum's display will feature information about the program and Sheriff Leonard's uniform shirt and hat.

HARP also caught the attention of singer-songwriter Jelly Roll, who visited participants of the program and then surprised four of them when he invited them to perform with him in Charlottesville at a concert the same evening. Jelly Roll even covered all the expenses involved, so that it wasn't paid for by taxpayers. He personally covered the costs of the sheriff's employees involved in escorting the inmate participants, gas mileage, and more.

"At the Chesterfield County Jail, we believe in recovery, redemption, and certainly rehabilitation. Without judgment of how an individual enters our jail, once entrusted to our care it is our moral obligation to best position that person for successful reintegration back into the community upon release," said Sheriff Leonard. "If we succeed in rehabilitating the individual, his or her achievement not only benefits them but also our community in many ways, to include reducing the burden on taxpayers to foot the bill for incarceration as a result of the revolving door of recidivism. Our investment in the individuals in our jail pays dividends to our entire community. But none as great as the preservation of life which is our number one goal!"

On May 16, 2025, a K9 officer and a motorcycle officer from the Tennessee Highway Patrol will visit the museum for a meet-and-greet. Guests can meet the officers, ask questions, and take photos. Fingerprinting demonstrations will also take place in the museum's lobby. This special event is included with the general admission ticket.

"Those interested in learning more about what law enforcement officers do for our community should plan to visit during National Police Week," said Pennington. "We look forward to honoring all police officers, those fallen and survivors, during this special week, and we hope others join in."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are nearly 650,000 police and sheriff patrol officers in the country. They serve in various capacities, including the federal and local government, schools and colleges, postal service, etc. California has the highest number of officers, with over 68,000.

The museum features over 100 exhibits and interactives and four temporary exhibit spaces, with many famous items on display, including Al Capone's rosary, Ted Bundy's dental molds, and Charles Manson's acoustic guitar. This top museum is open at 10 am daily. The last tickets are sold 60 minutes before closing. These interactive experiences are available for an additional fee for birthday parties, school groups, scouts, team building, or other [special events](#). To get a discounted rate for groups of 15 or more, complete the [online form](#) and allow up to 72 hours for confirmation. For more information about tickets, discounts, [temporary exhibits](#), and all the museum offers, visit the site: <https://www.alcatrazeast.com>.

Alcatraz East Crime Museum has updated its board of crime experts, which includes Derwin Bradley, a retired master police officer; James R. Knight, a crime writer; Robin Maynard, a certified crime scene investigator in Florida; Derek Newport, a law enforcement veteran who worked for the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation for 20 years; and Judge Belvin Perry, Jr., who presided over the notorious case against Casey Anthony, among others.

About Alcatraz East

Alcatraz East is the most arresting crime museum in the United States. Guests of all ages can encounter a unique journey into the history of American crime, crime-solving, and our justice system. Through interactive exhibits and original artifacts, Alcatraz East is an entertaining and educational experience for all ages - so much fun it's a crime! This family attraction is at The Island's entrance, 2757 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN. The last ticket is sold 60 minutes before closing. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.alcatrazeast.com.

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Sources:

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers*. May 2023.
<https://www.bls.gov/oes/2023/may/oes333051.htm>