



HOW TO BECOME A TROOPER WITH THE WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

APPLYING

To request an application packet or to talk to a recruiter at Headquarters, call 1-800-888-8384 or (360) 704-2300.

Click on this [application packet link](#) to view it on-line in Adobe Acrobat. You can mail the completed application to the address below or write to us and have a packet mailed to you.

Human Resource Division
Washington State Patrol
210 11th Avenue SW
PO Box 42620
Olympia, WA 98504
You can also E-mail us at jobs@wsp.wa.gov

BENEFITS

Benefits:

- All uniforms and equipment, including side arms, furnished by the department.
- Retirement plan, with optional retirement at age 55 or 25 years of service for commissioned officers.
- Life insurance and medical, dental, and hospitalization programs subsidized by the state.
- Annual vacation leave accrued at one day a month, and increases with longevity.
- Sick leave accrued at one day a month.

In addition to the monthly salaries, trooper cadets are eligible for education incentive, shift differential, and Academy specialty pay. Troopers are eligible for education incentive, shift differential, specialty, and geographic pay. Geographic pay is an additional 10% for King County, 5% for Snohomish County, and 3% for Pierce County.



TESTING & PLACEMENT

[Phase 1 testing schedule](#)

1 PHASE

Phase One consists of two written examinations. Applicants are notified in writing of test dates.

The first examination is designed to evaluate an applicant's judgment and common sense. The examination contains situational questions with multiple-choice answers.

The second examination is a learning ability test, designed to evaluate the candidate's observation skills, written communication skills, and reading comprehension. The test also asks information about the candidate's background and personality.

Those applicants with qualifying accumulative scores advance to Phase Two. They are instructed to complete a background questionnaire and are scheduled, if possible, for the next phase prior to departing from Phase One. The height and weight of the applicants will be checked at this time.

2 PHASE

Phase Two consists of an oral interview within two weeks of Phase One, but may be scheduled up to one month later.

The oral interview consists of general personal background questions and situational questions requiring the applicant to formulate a response to solve or deal with a given problem.

The height and weight of the applicants are checked to ensure they meet departmental standards. Applicants are notified within two to three weeks if their accumulative scores have advanced them into Phase Three.

3 PHASE

Phase Three consists of a pre-employment polygraph examination and an extensive background investigation.

Applicants who pass through Phases One, Two, and Three and obtain enough cumulative points will be placed on the eligibility roster.

Applicants who pass Phases One, Two, and Three, but did not obtain enough cumulative points to be placed on the eligibility roster, may retest 1 year from the date of your Phase Three notification letter.

Applicants on the eligibility roster may be given a conditional offer of employment approximately two months before hiring begins. Hiring of an applicant is contingent upon the successful completion of Phase Four. Your name will remain on the eligibility register for one year, then be removed.

4 PHASE

Phase Four consists of a medical examination, a post-offer psychological test, and a psychological interview with the department psychologist. Applicants must also provide proof of a current TB (tuberculosis) test. Females are required to deliver results of a recent pap smear test.

Hiring & Placement:

Upon passing Phase Four, the applicant is given an offer of employment to the position of trooper cadet.

Trooper cadets are assigned to full-time paid positions with Mansion Security or other positions as needed. Trooper Basic Training is not guaranteed, since trooper cadets are selected to basic training on a competitive basis. The selection process may consist of an academy history questionnaire, physical fitness test, and an oral interview.

TRAINING & COMMISSIONING

Trooper cadets become commissioned as troopers after successfully completing approximately seven months of Trooper Basic Training, which is conducted at the [Washington State Patrol Academy](#) located in Shelton, Washington.

Training is provided in the following areas:

- firearms
- driving
- self-defense
- accident investigation
- first aid
- traffic and criminal law
- water safety
- physical fitness
- coaching trip with field training officer

Upon graduation, each newly commissioned trooper is assigned to patrol duty in one of the State Patrol's [eight districts](#) located throughout the state.

