

# Portage Northern Business Department Job Shadow | 2016

**Directions:** You are required to answer every question. If a question does not apply to your job shadow experience, put N/A in the answer slot. Spellcheck does not work when typing in the form fields. You will have to type your answers on a separate Word document to use spell check, then you can copy and paste your response into this form field.

<b>Company Visited:</b>	<b>Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office</b>		
<b>Student Name:</b>	Kyle Cattell	<b>Date Job Shadow Took Place On:</b>	4/27/2016
<b>Person Job Shadowed:</b>	Michael Cattell	<b>Job Title:</b>	Sheriff's Deputy

**1. Explain the business – What does this company do?**

Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office is a Police department that oversees all of Kalamazoo County. They provide assistance to anyone in trouble. If there is a disturbance they get called out, Or if the need to take someone into jail. Another part of their job is to stop anyone violating the traffic policies and give tickets to those people.

**2. What was the first thing you noticed when you arrived (about the facility, people, dress code, etc.)?**

The first thing I noticed when I arrived was that there were about 6 or 7 people woking from out of that office for the day. They were all wearing their normal clothes at first and changed into their work stuff and grabbed anything they needed out of their lockers. They usually sit and joke aorund with each other for about 30 minutes before they split up and go on their own. Everyone their seemed like they were close friends, and it was an enjoyable experience to be around all the workers.

**3. What does a typical day look like for the person you shadowed?**

**a. Hours?**

He has a weird schedule. Mr. Cattell has 12 hour shifts from 7am to 7pm. He works 3 days and has 3 days off, then he works 2 days and has 2 days off and it repeats itself over and over.

**b. Job Duties/Tasks?**

He is a patrol officer so he has his own car that he gets into every morning and drives it all day. He patrols Texas Township and enforces any laws that he deems necessary. Sometimes he takes calls and goes to help people and other times it is just sitting around checking for traffic violations.

**c. Meetings?**

Every morning they have a daily briefing to get any necessary information, but mostly it's just them mainly joking around and talking for about 30 minutes. They also have field training meetings and township meetings once or twice a month.

**d. Work Environment?**

He mainly just works out of his patrol car because it has all the tools he needs. There is a radio, a printer, a computer, and anything else he may need throughout the day. Sometimes the day goes really quickly if it's busy and other times it can be very boring and slow.

**e. Who do they interact with? (Colleagues, customers, clients, etc.)**

They interact with many people. There are other patrol officers that they see every morning and sometimes help each other out with calls during the day. There are many public citizens that they have to interact with. Helping people in danger, and enforcing the law.

**f. Travel opportunities?**

The only travel opportunity is driving around every day in their township or county.

**4. Share with the reader the shadowee's background information/career path.**

**a. How long has this person worked in the position?**

Mr. Cattell has worked as a patrol officer for over 28 years.

**b. What education was achieved?**

He went to Kalamazoo Valley Community College for 2 years and achieved his associates degree in law enforcement.

**c. What motivated your shadowee to pursue this career?**

Wanting to make a difference in people's lives motivated him to go into this field of work.

**5. What types of skills/training/continuing education are required for this job (Technical? Employability? Personal Characteristics?)**

You need general people skills because you have to interact with a lot of people throughout the day. They constantly update laws so there is always more training for that. There is also field training, firearms training, weapons retention, and hand-to-hand combat training that needs to be constantly checked to make sure the officers are lawful and safe at their job.

**6. What are the career opportunities/advancement opportunities for this job/field?**

There are many places a person can go from his position. There are sergeants, detectives, training officers, lieutenants, captains, evidence technicians, and crime scene investigators. In the field of law enforcement, there are many opportunities to grow. Even after just a public police, there is the FBI, DEA, and many other parts of the federal government.

**7. What are the negative/positive aspects about this job?**

**a. Negative**

There are bad people everywhere in the world that they see every day. There are really bad shifts and the timing of the shifts. They also have to work a lot of weekends, and every holiday some police have to work.

**b. Positive**

The only real positive to the job is that you know you are making a difference in people's lives.

**8. What advice would you give to students who want your type of job?**

The only advice I was given from Mr. Cattell is that he would advise students not to go into this field of work because of how disappointing it can be sometimes.

**9. What school subjects and employability skills did you see being used at the job site? How were they used?**

The subjects they learn about are a few psychological classes, firearms classes, and many classes about the law. Some of the good skills to have in this field are language arts because you need to write a report on everything that you do. Also, people skills, problem solving, driving skills, and investigation skills.

**10. If discussed what is the average salary range and/or benefits package of this career?**

We did not discuss this, but the Law enforcement websites states the starting salary is about \$32,000

**11. What did you learn from doing this job shadow?**

I learned how tough of a job this can be. Police officers see a lot of bad things during their day. This can definitely talk a toll on your body and mind. I like that it was a very hands-on job shadow, I helped with writing the daily report anytime we did anything. When over we went on a call, I also went with him unless it was a particularly dangerous call. I got to meet a lot of the other officers, and they were all really nice to talk to. They usually have a daily coffee break after the first hour of working and an hour lunch break later in the day. It seems like a tough job, but some days it can go very quickly if it's busy and they have a lot of things to do.

**12. What did you think/feel about the job shadow experience, what did you like/not like?**

**Was the job what you expected it to be? Would you still consider this job for your future?**

**Please state why or why not.**

The job is kinda what I expcted. The parts I knew about where giving tickets out and driving around a lot. The parts I didn't know were, taking normal house calls and checking out a scene if someone trespasses where they aren't supposed to. I would only consider this job opportunity as a last resort if my first options don't work out. Being a police officer can be a sad job at times because of the bad things you can see every day.