



AMERISPAN PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

SPANISH FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS

Oaxaca, Mexico

Course Details

Length: 2-4 weeks

Minimum Spanish Level: Low Beginner (if zero, add 1-2 weeks of regular Spanish before course)

For Whom: Police, Fire/EMS, Border control, 911/Dispatch, Corrections

Schedule: 15 hrs/wk Spanish in small groups & 10 hrs/wk of private Law Enforcement classes

Text & Materials: Breezing through Emergency Spanish Book 1 & 2

Spanish For Law Enforcement (Patricia Rush, Patricia Houston)

Spanish For Law Enforcement Personnel (William C. Harvey)

Field Trips or Excursions: Customizable

Overview

The goal of this course is to provide Law Enforcement and Public Safety workers with the background and skills to handle daily situations with Spanish-speaking people. The course is customizable so that if you want to focus on specific areas more than others this can be arranged upon request.

Concepts

Topics that may be discussed during the course may include.

1. **How To Take Control of Situation** – Law enforcement and public safety workers need to take control of the situation quickly.
2. **Recognizing Danger** – It is important to quickly recognize words and phrases that indicate hostility and/or immediate danger. You'll be taught certain cuss words, street slang as well as a number of alert words and phrases. There are many ways to say "attack him" or "kill him" so you'll be taught to recognize these. Some example of alert phrases include: Kill him/her, Beat him/her, Shoot him/her, Waste him/her, Grab him/her, Jump him/her, Hang him/her, Stab him/her, Grab his/her gun, beat him/her, etc.
3. **Understanding Culture and Family Structure** – You'll be more successful if you understand the Mexican or Latin American culture and family structure better. Topics of discussion will include religion, family structure, educational background, the concept of justice in poor communities in Mexico and Latin America and the concept of family members working in USA to support family members still living in Mexico. In addition, you will be living and eating some meals with a Mexican family so you'll get a firsthand look at the culture.
4. **Understanding Names and Nicknames** – For example, if someone is known as Crazy Billy by their friends, you would know that there is a chance his real name is William or Bill. You'll be taught typical Spanish nicknames. Also, women have married and maiden surnames in English, but in Spanish children take both their parents last names so it is helpful to know how this is done will help immensely.
5. **Routine Duties** - traffic stops, crowd control, DUI, serving an arrest/search warrant, booking a suspect, responding to domestic situations, "mirandizing" a suspect and more.
6. **Medical Emergencies** - taking patient medical histories, finding out how hurt, where hurt, learning related vocabulary to body, etc.
7. **Conducting Witness Interviews** – vocabulary for physical attributes of a person, vehicles, etc.