

Become an FWC Officer...



...It actually pays to
love the outdoors



**Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission**
Division of Law Enforcement
MyFWC.com

Agency Overview

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is a constitutionally established state agency charged with managing freshwater and saltwater aquatic life, wildlife and their habitats. The agency's mission is to manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

Division of Law Enforcement

The Division of Law Enforcement provides wildlife and marine law enforcement services throughout the state of Florida, particularly in its woods and water environments. The Division's mission is to protect Florida's natural resources and people through proactive and responsive law enforcement services. Officers focus on managing imperiled species and conflict wildlife, expanding participation in conservation, utilizing boating as a gateway to the outdoors and using an innovative conservation approach.

FWC officers are sworn law enforcement officers and can enforce all state laws. They are also federally deputized and authorized to enforce federal fisheries and wildlife laws. During times of crisis, such as civil and natural disasters, FWC officers are called upon to provide general law enforcement services as well.

What can you do as an FWC officer?

The Division of Law Enforcement's more than 800 officers are responsible for ensuring Florida's natural resources are protected and all of Florida's residents and visitors can recreate safely. This means they patrol on the water and on both public and private lands, including state parks, state forests and Wildlife Management Areas. They enforce fish, wildlife and boating rules and regulations. They also address environmental crimes and promote the next generation of conservationists and protect public safety.

The Division of Law Enforcement also has the following specialty programs with officers throughout the state:

- Investigations
- Offshore Vessel Patrol
- Special Operations Group
- Aviation
- K-9
- Training
- Dive Team



FWC officers often work independently in the woods. Here, an officer sets up a deer decoy to target poachers.

Minimum qualifications

In order to be considered for a sworn position with the FWC, you must:

- Be at least 19 years old
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have a high school diploma or GED and one of the following:
 - 2 years military experience
 - 2 years public contact experience (any job in which you interacted with the public)
 - 1 year sworn law enforcement experience
 - 30 semester/45 quarter hours at an accredited college or university
- Have a valid Florida driver's license

Disqualifiers

- Any felony conviction or any misdemeanor conviction involving domestic violence, perjury or a false statement
- A dishonorable discharge from any of the Armed Forces of the United States
- Marijuana use in the past two years or other controlled substances use in the last five years
- DUI/BUI within the past five years
- Any traffic violation involving the refusal to submit to a breath/blood/urine test within five years
- No more than four moving violations within the past three years
- Any sustained internal investigation for perjury or false statements as a law enforcement or corrections officer

Vision Requirements

Applicants must pass a thorough visual evaluation and meet the following requirements:

- Unaided vision not less than 20/200 in each eye and corrected to 20/20
- Field of vision must be 160 degrees
- Must have the ability to distinguish primary colors and have binocular vision
- Must not have double vision, lack of depth perception or other chronic eye disorders that affect normal vision

Medical Requirements

- Must pass a thorough medical examination
- Must pass a psychological evaluation by a psychologist designated by the FWC

Physical Fitness Requirements

- Must pass the Physical Abilities Test (PAT) of Florida, including a timed swim of 300 yards in ten minutes

Salary and Benefits

- The starting salary in most counties is \$36,222.68.
- The starting salary is \$39,222.56 in Lee County, \$39,222.56 in Collier County, \$41,222.48 in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach counties and \$46,222.28 in Monroe County.
- Incentive pay is also offered for certain academic achievement and/or career development courses.
- Subsidized health and life insurance (State of Florida pays 2/3 of the cost)
- 97% State funded retirement (Employee contributes 3% pretax)



An FWC officer measures a lobster to make sure that it is the appropriate size.

- Ten paid holidays per year
- Annual and sick leave earned at an accelerating rate depending on length of service
- College credits upon completion of basic recruit academy
- Tuition-free college classes

Academy training

Once accepted for employment, recruits attend the FWC Training Academy located at the Florida Public Safety Institute near Tallahassee. While there, they receive extensive training, including an overview of all state laws, firearms qualification, fish and wildlife identification and handling, vehicle and vessel operation, safety and survival training in the water, defensive tactics and man-tracking.

The FWC offers two different types of academy training. One is for non-certified applicants and is approximately 26 weeks long. The other is an 8-week academy for previously certified law enforcement applicants that want to become FWC officers. During training, recruits are paid by the FWC, living in dorms with meals and lodging provided.

Upon completing the academy, graduates report to their assigned area of the state. They must successfully complete a 16-week field training period before they begin patrolling alone.

How to apply

Follow the directions at the People First website at peoplefirst.myflorida.com to submit a State of Florida Employment application and an FWC Supplemental Application for Law Enforcement Officer.



Firearms qualifications are part of the training FWC officers undergo during their time at the FWC Academy.

For more information:

- Visit MyFWC.com to contact a regional recruiter or call the FWC Academy at (850) 558-4080
- An Equal Opportunity Employer/
Affirmative Action Employer



Youth and community outreach are key parts of an FWC officer's duties to promote safe, responsible use of Florida's natural resources.



FWC officers conduct search and rescue missions and provide aid during storms and other disasters.



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“Patrol, Protect, Preserve”

FWC Law Enforcement Training Academy
75 College Drive, Suite 102
Havana, Florida 32333