

A PLACE TO BECOME... A POLICE OFFICER.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Saline County believes in dreaming big and working hard. We believe that if you can dream it, no matter who you are you can achieve it. However, at our Club it's not magic that makes dreams come true; it's the support and safety that is provided to our youth every day by our staff. Our Club is more than just a place to dream. It's a place to belong. A place to have fun and learn. It's a place to grow. Our Club is **a place to become...** your greatest self.



Meet Colin Yarbrough. Colin is a 14-year-old eight grader who attends Bauxite Schools. When asked what he dreamed of being when he was older, Colin replied "a police officer." In order to show Colin that our Club is here to help him achieve his dreams, our staff took Colin to visit the Benton Police Department (BPD) on June 12th. A day before the visit, our staff sat down with Colin to dig a little deeper into why he wanted to be a police officer.

Q: Why do you want to be a police officer when you grow up?

A: "I always thought it would be a really cool job, and it is a fun way that I can help others."

Q: What do you think would be the most exciting part about being a police officer?

A: "Getting the bad guys off the streets."

Q: What do you think would be the most challenging part about being a police officer?

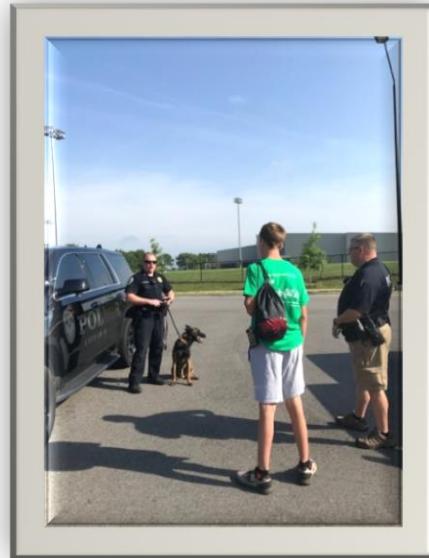
A: "Actually having to chase down the bad guys."

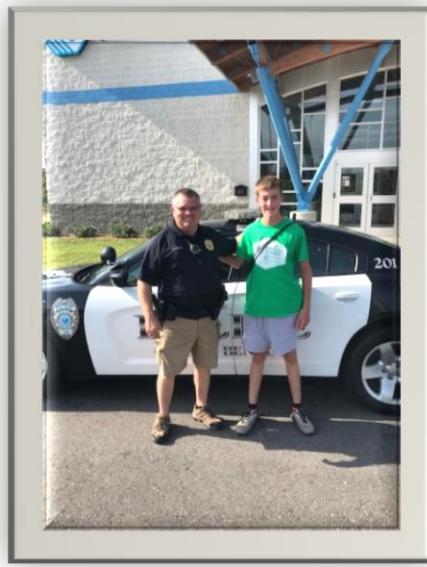
Q: What do you hope to get out of your visit to the police station?

A: "I hope to see what police officers actually do on a daily basis."

The following morning, Officer Shell and Officer Robinson arrived at our Club to meet Colin. Officer Robinson is part of the K-9 Unit at the BPD, and he brought his friend Sam to meet Colin. Sam is a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois, and he has lived with Officer Robinson for about a year now. Colin really enjoyed getting to meet Sam!

Shortly after he said goodbye to Sam, Officer Shell gave Colin a ride in his police car to the department's headquarters in downtown Benton. Upon Colin's arrival, Officer Spadaro, who works patrol at the Benton Schools with Officer Shell, gave Colin a sneak peek into some of the department's vehicles. Colin was able to view the police hummer and the communications van. He even got to sit inside and work the lights on the hummer, which he thought was really cool.





Next, Officers Shell and Spadaro took Colin on a tour of the entire police department. This included interrogation rooms, patrol rooms, holding cells, the cyber crime unit, classroom and he even got to see the Chief's office! Along the way, Colin was able to meet some of the officers and detectives from other units, including Detective Benham with the Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU). To wrap up his visit, Officers Shell and Spadaro took Colin on a tour of the evidence van.



Colin had a great time on his tour of the BPD. Afterwards, our staff asked Colin what his favorite part of the tour was, and he replied “definitely getting to ride in the police car.” Our staff also asked Colin if after his tour he still wanted to be a police officer, in which he replied “oh yes, for sure.”

Our staff learned that Colin’s grandfather is a police officer in Hot Springs Village, and that is who inspired him to want to be a police officer as well. Our staff at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Saline County believe that with a little hard work and support, Colin can achieve his dream of becoming a police officer.

Remember our Club is a place to become, and for Colin it is a place to become... a police officer.

