

## **NYC Parks Mounted Auxiliary: WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO**

The New York City Parks Enforcement Patrol Mounted Auxiliary Unit, founded in 1996, is a group of private citizens who assist the Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Officers of the city's Department of Parks and Recreation. PEP Officers are certified New York State Peace Officers and NYC Special Patrolmen.

Auxiliary Officers serve as "Eyes and Ears" for the Parks Department, patrolling on horseback in areas inaccessible by vehicle to ensure the safety of park patrons and the preservation of animals, plants, and natural resources. In uniform, riding well-trained Parks mounts we deter, identify, and report illegal or unsafe activities that require PEP, NYPD, FDNY, or EMS attention. We advise the public on Parks' rules, provide directions and information, and assist those who are injured, lost, or victims of crime. We support PEP at special events such as concerts, parades, and the New York Marathon. Not simply volunteers but "unpaid professionals," we represent the not only the Auxiliary but also Mounted PEP, The Parks Department, and the City of New York.

We do much more than just ride during our tours: We take care of our mounts before and after patrol; clean and maintain tack and other equipment; and help keep the stables and offices in good order. In short, we do what PEP Mounted needs us to do!

***The Mounted Auxiliary Unit is not a recreational riding club.***

### **WHAT'S EXPECTED OF YOU**

**Successful completion of mandatory testing and training**, initial evaluations and classes, as well as annual refresher courses.

**A minimum of 48 hours of service annually** A tour (preparation, patrol, and post-patrol duties) averages four to five hours, but can last much longer if we need to address something like a medical emergency or an arrest. We patrol on horseback all year round; when severe weather precludes riding we perform horse care, equipment maintenance, or a mobile patrol. We are required to volunteer for least one special event, such as a parade, each year.

**Fundraising** The Mounted Auxiliary Unit is a 501(c) 3 organization supported by tax-deductible donations. Auxiliary Officers are encouraged to help with fundraising. We are required to buy at least one ticket (currently \$100) to our annual Gala and are expected to help out by selling Gala and raffle tickets, donating or securing raffle or silent auction gifts, and/or volunteering on the night of the event.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

Your application will be reviewed by the Auxiliary Training Committee and the Auxiliary Coordinator, who is a PEP Mounted Sergeant. Please wait to hear from us—we'll call you for an interview if your application is approved.

After your interview, look for an email offering dates for **Riding and Grooming Evaluations**. Using a Parks horse, you'll be asked to groom and tack up, mount from the ground, and demonstrate confidence and control riding at the walk, trot, and canter.

Then, you will be schedule an **In-Field Evaluation**. You'll ride out in a park with the Sergeant as if on patrol -- walking, trotting, and cantering on the trails.

If you pass both the **Riding and Grooming Evaluations** and **In-Field Evaluation**, you will be scheduled to attend an **Orientation** on a weekend.

Next is a six-week **Academy** that meets one evening or weekend day a week for three hours for instruction in Parks rules, patrol procedures, radio use, paperwork, and Verbal Judo (a way of eliciting cooperation through language). PEP and Auxiliary Officers will explain the Unit's operations; you'll receive materials on Parks rules, geography, and radio codes, and we'll share lunch.

### **GEARING UP**

Having completed the Academy, you'll be ready to patrol once you have your **Parks ID card** and full **Uniform**. We require tall, black English riding boots (or smooth black leather jodhpur boots plus black half chaps), green riding breeches, and an ASTM-approved riding helmet (preferably white or black). In addition, you will have to buy some uniform items (shirts, nameplate, etc.) the cost of which comes to about \$200.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to overwhelming response from the public we are temporarily suspending our recruitment drive while we process the applications for membership we have received so far. However, if you would like to be placed on a waiting list to join the Mounted Auxiliary you may fill out the form. We will contact you when we resume recruiting. For comments or questions about the Mounted Auxiliary please contact [MountedAux.Recruitment@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:MountedAux.Recruitment@parks.nyc.gov).