

Special Officers are used in many Township Police Departments in New Jersey and across the Country and have been very cost effective.

Special Officer

In New Jersey there is a recognized position known as the Special Officer. Special Officers are often utilized in beach communities as seasonal police officers. They have less training than regular officers but do possess certain police powers. The position can actually be broken down into two sub-parts. First, there is the Special Officer Class I. The Class I Special Officer goes through several weeks of training (depending on the structure of the training schedule) and is trained in motor vehicle laws, first aid, criminal law, use of force and other basic areas. He or she will generally be utilized for parking and traffic enforcement or to supplement a police presence in a certain area. Class I Special Officers do not carry firearms and have limited law enforcement powers.

There is also the **Special Officer Class II**. The Class II Special Officer goes through several months of training, usually at night, and is given all of the training listed above plus much of the training given to a regular police officer including **firearms training**.* The Special Officer Class II has full police powers but only while on duty.

If you are interested in becoming a Special Police Officer you should contact your local police department and inquire about positions. If they do not utilize Special Officers, contact other surrounding departments. As indicated above, shore towns hire a tremendous amount of Special Officers. There is no "pay your way" option for the police academy for Special Police Officer positions. You must be sponsored by a police department.

Auxiliary Police Officer

In New Jersey there is also a recognized volunteer police officer position known as Auxiliary Police Officer. Generally, the agencies that do have such a program hold an in-house training school, and attendees are subject to a variety of training. In the field Auxiliary Police Officers are used for special events, traffic control, and to supplement the police presence of the department.

Not every agency has an auxiliary program, and the powers possessed by the officers in these programs range widely. Some actually carry weapons and go out on patrol while others are used strictly on a limited basis. It is a good way, however, to get some experience, but, more importantly, it allows prospective police officers to network with the law enforcement community and develop contacts which can be of great benefit in the future.

NJLawman

<http://www.njlawman.com/>

Reserve Police Officers Association

<http://www.reservepolice.org/>

American Cop Magazine

<http://www.americancopmagazine.com/>

* All "Specials" should be carrying guns—it is complete stupidity for any Chief of Police not authorizing "Specials" to carry a firearm while on duty, especially when most States have Right-to-Carry or Shall-Issue Laws for law-abiding civilian citizens (see Right-to-Carry Tab on the www.njia.com website).