



150TH

TROOPER RECRUIT SCHOOL



28TH

MOTOR CARRIER OFFICER
RECRUIT SCHOOL

GRADUATION CEREMONY

MAY 22, 2026



150TH TROOPER & 28TH MOTOR CARRIER OFFICER RECRUIT SCHOOLS

January 4 - May 22, 2026

Today we welcome new troopers and a motor carrier officer to the ranks of the Michigan State Police. Not only do these recruits become enforcement members, but they and their families become members of our Michigan State Police family – part of a long and proud tradition.

For the past 20 weeks, they have received the very best in educational, physical, and mental training. They are fully prepared and ready to embrace the department's standard of providing service with a purpose.

Policing is a duty of the highest honor with the highest responsibility, the highest visibility, and some of the greatest challenges. Each of these new members is tasked with a mission to serve and protect.

Congratulations to our newest Michigan State Police troopers and motor carrier officer.

Col. James F. Grady II

150TH TROOPER RECRUIT SCHOOL & 28TH MOTOR CARRIER OFFICER RECRUIT SCHOOL **GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Blue Diamonds

Cadence.....Spl/Lt. Cimmeron McRae

Presentation of Colors.....Rec. Rebekah Bledsoe
Rec. Marcus Major
Rec. Ryan Roberts
Rec. Mitchell Wert

Welcome.....F/Lt. Tedric Gibbs

National Anthem.....Rec. Landon Strzelewicz

Invocation.....Chaplain Anthony Strouse

Introduction.....F/Lt. Tedric Gibbs

Keynote Speaker.....Governor Gretchen Whitmer

Remarks.....Col. James F. Grady II

Presentation of Awards.....F/Lt. Tedric Gibbs

Class Orator.....Rec. Matthew Brown

Oath of Office.....Col. James F. Grady II

Presentation of Badges

Trooper's Pledge.....Sgt. John Looney

Benediction.....Chaplain Anthony Strouse

Dismissal.....Sgt. John Looney



150TH TROOPER & 28TH MOTOR CARRIER OFFICER RECRUIT CLASSES



Jonte Abernathy
Hometown: Marion
Mt. Pleasant Post



Daniel Abrahamson
Hometown: Hesperia
Paw Paw Post



Dexter Berends
Hometown: Grant
Grand Rapids Post



Rebekah Bledsoe
Hometown: Canton, GA
Lakeview Post



Luisa Espinoza
Hometown: Owosso
Jackson Post



Brody Fitzgerald
Hometown: Marshall
Marshall Post



Brodie Fogus
Hometown: Whitehall
St. Ignace Post



Bryce Fortune
Hometown: Davison
Lapeer Post



Matthew Brown
Hometown: Saline
Jackson Post



Kyle Buchanan
Hometown: Sturgis
Marshall Post



Isaac Caterina
Hometown: Belding
Lakeview Post



Jaqueline Chavarria
Hometown: Destin, FL
Marshall Post



Gerrit Groenendyk
Hometown: Holland
Wayland Post



Connor Groesbeck
Hometown: Jackson
Marshall Post



Tucker Havel
Hometown: Marquette
Negaunee Post



Jacob Hetchler
Hometown: Holt
Jackson Post



Justin Corby
Hometown: Port Huron
Metro North Post



Kolton Cumberworth
Hometown: Hartland
Marshall Post



Austin Dinauer
Hometown: Bay City
West Branch Post



Connor Erskin
Hometown: Carson City
Lakeview Post



Sheldon Huff
Hometown: Johannesburg
Alpena Post



Caleb James
Hometown: Saginaw
Caro Post



Noah Jensen
Hometown: Saginaw
Tri-City Post



James Johnston
Hometown: Lapeer
Flint Post

150TH TROOPER & 28TH MOTOR CARRIER OFFICER RECRUIT CLASSES



Trent Kangas
Hometown: Hale
Alpena Post



Lindsey Kaufman
Hometown: Brown City
Caro Post



Andrew Kitz
Hometown: Oshkosh, WI
Wakefield Post



Evan Knoll
Hometown: Hemlock
West Branch Post



John Pavelchik
Hometown: Swartz Creek
Flint Post



Kiona Porchia
Hometown: Muskegon
Grand Rapids Post



Brayden Provoast
Hometown: West Branch
West Branch Post



Michael Pruchnic
Hometown: Macomb
Metro North Post



John Koltvedt Jr.
Hometown: Saginaw
Tri-City Post



Grant Krumlauf
Hometown: Pontiac
Wayland Post



Xavier Magyar
Hometown: Freeland
Metro North Post



Marcus Major
Hometown: Stevensville
Niles Post



Michael Reed
Hometown: Livonia
Metro North Post



Ryan Roberts
Hometown: Tecumseh
Jackson Post



Braden Rohring
Hometown: South Boardman
Cadillac Post



Kyle Roman
Hometown: Plainwell
West Branch Post



Zachary McMillan
Hometown: Greenville
Lakeview Post



Brandon Michling
Hometown: Warren
Lapeer Post



Jonathan Moelker
Hometown: Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids Post



Michael Nowland
Hometown: Cadillac
Mt. Pleasant Post



Mason Rondy
Hometown: Mt. Pleasant
Lakeview Post



Blake Roose
Hometown: Milford, IN
Niles Post



Nathaniel Schwartz
Hometown: Centreville
Niles Post



Joshua Siler
Hometown: Merrill
Mt. Pleasant Post

150TH TROOPER & 28TH MOTOR CARRIER OFFICER RECRUIT CLASSES



Haydin Sims

Hometown: Harrison
Mt. Pleasant Post



Lucas Smith

Hometown: North Branch
Lapeer Post



Bradley Socia

Hometown: Essexville
Tri-City Post



Veronica Steinman

Hometown: Lambertville
Monroe Post



Shane Vuylsteke

Hometown: Sterling Heights
Metro North Post



Mark Wells

Hometown: Howe, IN
Marshall Post



Mitchell Wert

Hometown: Union City
Marshall Post



Chayten Westgate

Hometown: Sanford
Tri-City Post



Landon Strzelewicz

Hometown: Caro
Calumet Post



Ryan Szczepaniak

Hometown: Woodhaven
Monroe Post



Paul Theodore

Hometown: Hamilton
Paw Paw Post



Jacob Visscher

Hometown: Saugatuck
Alpena Post



Sabine Yonak

Hometown: Ann Arbor
Jackson Post



Brent Zloto

Hometown: Grand Blanc
Tri-City Post

MSP MISSION

Provide the highest quality law enforcement and public safety services throughout Michigan.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Performance Award: Rec. Mitchell Wert

This award recognizes the individual who has consistently exhibited the highest standards of academic achievement, skill development, and physical fitness while in the training environment. This award focuses on overall development during recruit training.

Physical Fitness Award: Rec. Mitchell Wert

This award is presented to the recruit who demonstrates exemplary performance in the trooper recruit school physical training program. This award recognizes physical ability, resiliency, and overall wellness.



Team Building Award: Rec. Matthew Brown

This award is chosen by classmates and presented to the recruit who united the class by providing leadership, encouragement, and motivation throughout all aspects of the recruit school.

Class Orator Award: Rec. Matthew Brown

The recipient of this award is selected by their fellow classmates to speak on graduation day on behalf of the recruit school. Recruits select a classmate who they feel best represents their class to speak about training experiences, lessons learned, and future endeavors as an enforcement member.



Academic Achievement Award: Rec. Landon Strzelewicz

This award is presented to the highest-ranking academic scholar. Recruit Strzelewicz achieved an overall scholastic average of 95.61 percent making him the highest-rated scholar of his academy class.



Lt. Thomas E. Baldus Marksmanship Award: Rec. Brayden Provoast

This award is presented to the recruit with the sharpest marksmanship ability. The recruits were scored across multiple drills and courses of fire that incorporated the primary pistol and patrol rifle from various ranges out to 100 yards. Shooting was done from positions of cover, while moving, and from various static positions. Recruit Provoast scored 225/225 points, making him the highest rated marksman of his peers.

Sgt. Matt Rogers Driving Excellence Award: Rec. Brandon Michling

This award is presented to the recruit who excelled in all aspects of emergency vehicle operations training. Recruits were evaluated based on their performance in driving exercises such as performance driving, lines of travel, cumulative skills exercise, precision maneuvering, and written examination. Recruit Michling is the highest-rated precision driver among his peers.



FROM THE RECRUITS

The journey to get here was not an easy one. Looking back, we relied on family, each other, staff, and the periodic funny moments during recruit school to help us get through. We would like to say thank you.

During the academy, we were pushed to our absolute limits physically, mentally, and emotionally. Despite all the trials and tribulations, we persevered by looking to our left and right and seeing our classmates going through the exact same suffering, remembering that we were not suffering alone. That fact made it a little less painful. Times when we thought Sergeant Breliniski would sentence us to death by burpees, or when we needed a little mental fortitude, we would unite and overcome. Admittedly, there were times during our journey when we thought our fellow recruits were going to be the end of us. Such as when a recruit would forget to put on their tie, or when another forgot to wake us up with reveille. Despite the misgivings we may have had, in the end we stood beside each other and together made it to this momentous day.

For 20 weeks our families were left home to maintain the house, watch the children, take care of the pets, and many other things. The support you provided us did not go unnoticed. For many of us Sundays were always the hardest day of the week, and while we may not have always shown it, leaving on Sunday afternoon was undoubtedly the hardest part of the academy. We knew that we were asking a lot from you while we went away for a week at a time, leaving you to carry on for the week alone. We wish we could have been there to help alleviate the stress our absence was inducing in your life. Despite how difficult saying goodbye was for 20 Sundays, we made the sacrifice to provide a better future for our families and a safer Michigan. If it wasn't for your strength and support, many of us would not be graduating today. Thank you to our families who stepped up so much.

To the staff, perhaps you are owed the biggest thank you of all. Despite being the administrators of our trials and tribulations, without you and the challenges offered, we wouldn't be who we are today. You were there to challenge us, mentor us, and push us forward, even when we thought we had given our all. You were able to see us, not for who we were, but for who we could become, and you shaped us and gave us the tools necessary to achieve that vision. We will always remember the lessons you instilled upon us and the memories from this academy we will all cherish deeply.

*Recruit school has been a whirlwind, and the stories and experiences have forever changed us for the better. When we started at the Michigan State Police (MSP) academy, we were 85 strangers from different walks of life. Now, we are 62 brothers and sisters who have forged a bond that will last a lifetime. We came together and finally reached our goal of becoming a part of the MSP. No matter where this career takes us or what we experience we will always remember who we are and what we **now** represent.*

Again, thank you all for your love and support during this time.

-The 150th and 28th Recruit Schools





MSP CULTURE — ONE

Disparate parts joining together under a singular mission to achieve success; uniquely different but working together to appear as one.

A state of connectiveness and community where together is always better.



TROOPER'S PLEDGE

I am a Michigan State Trooper, entrusted to keep sacred the traditions of my department. I will always serve honestly and faithfully, risking my life for others when necessary. When I am called upon to act, I will not shy from conflict or deviate from my call to duty, serving anyone who may be in peril or distress. I will obey the laws of Michigan, the United States of America, and the directives of my department. I will not consider race, color, or creed when enforcing the law. I will perform my duties with excellence, integrity, and courtesy, and conduct myself in a manner that honors those who served before me.

I am a Michigan State Trooper.

RECRUIT SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS

TROOPER
RECRUIT SCHOOL
COMMANDER



Sgt. John Looney
Training Division
Precision Driving

TROOPER
RECRUIT SCHOOL
ASSISTANT COMMANDER



Sgt. Justin Mazur
Training Division
Defensive Tactics

MOTOR CARRIER OFFICER
RECRUIT SCHOOL
COMMANDER



MC Spl/Sgt. Jason Newcomb
Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division
Firearms, Patrols, Report Writing

MOTOR CARRIER OFFICER
RECRUIT SCHOOL
ASSISTANT COMMANDER



MC Ofcr. Kurtis Herlein
Jackson Post
Firearms, Physical Training



Sgt. David Brelinski III
Training Division
First Aid, Physical Training,
Water Safety



Sgt. Ryan Davis
Training Division
Precision Driving



Sgt. Harris Edwards
Training Division
Precision Driving



Sgt. Christopher Rowell
Training Division
Firearms



Sgt. DiJon Ware
Training Division
Patrols, Report Writing



Tpr. Chayce Abbey
Flint Post
Patrols, Report Writing



Tpr. Anthony Adkins
Training Division
Defensive Tactics



Tpr. Evan Barthlow
Training Division
Precision Driving

MSP PHILOSOPHY OF LEADERSHIP

The department achieves its mission through employees who distinguish themselves as leaders by their ability to earn respect, instill confidence, and strengthen morale by providing vision, accountability, and recognizing individual contributions and achievements.

RECRUIT SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS



MC Ofcr. Justin Bess
Brighton Post
Firearms, Patrols,
Report Writing



Tpr. Patrick Gaudard
Gaylord Post
Patrols, Physical Training,
Report Writing



Tpr. Brandon Golden
Metro South Post
Defensive Tactics



MC Ofcr. Gregory Hicks
Training Division
Precision Driving



Tpr. Cody Morrison
Training Division
Physical Training,
Water Safety



Tpr. Clayton O'Neil
West Branch Post
Patrols, Report Writing



Tpr. Wyatt Peters
Training Division
Patrols, Report Writing



Tpr. Maxwell Prince
First District
Emergency Support Team
Firearms, Physical Training



Tpr. Chad Hopkins
Grand Rapids Post
First Aid, Physical Training,
Water Safety



D/Tpr/Spl. Shelley Izzard
Marijuana and Tobacco
Investigation Section
Patrols, Report Writing



Tpr. Rasey Jupin
Lansing Post
Patrols, Physical Training,
Report Writing



Tpr. Matthew Krause
Lakeview Post
Patrols, Report Writing



Tpr. Andrew Rothermal
Training Division
Firearms



Tpr. Abby Sassano
Executive Protection Detail
First Aid, Patrols,
Report Writing



Tpr. Scott Shattuck
Lakeview Post
Defensive Tactics, Patrols,
Report Writing



Tpr. Kevin Sutton
Training Division
First Aid, Physical Training,
Water Safety



Tpr. Ryan Kriebel
Cadillac Post
Patrols, Report Writing



MC Ofcr. Samuel Lane
Grand Rapids Post
Firearms, Patrols,
Report Writing



Tpr. Everett Lanphar
Training Division
Precision Driving



Tpr. Lucas Marston
Hart Post
Patrols, Report Writing

MSP VISION

Be a leader and partner in law enforcement and public safety, with a highly trained, full-service state police force that is mobile, flexible, and responsive to emerging public safety needs across Michigan.

TRAINING DIVISION STAFF

Capt. Tim Olson.....Division Commander
Ms. Jackie Fitzsimmons.....Executive Secretary



TRAINING SECTION

F/Lt. Tedric Gibbs.....Commander

PATROLS, FIRST AID, AND PHYSICAL FITNESS UNIT

Lt. Brian Kinaschuk.....Commander
Sgt. Rebecca Arsenault.....First Aid
Sgt. David Brelinski III.....First Aid/Physical Training/Water Safety
Sgt. Stephen Dehmel.....Patrols/Report Writing
Sgt. DiJon Ware.....Patrols/Report Writing
Tpr. Anthony Hoffman.....First Aid/Water Safety
Tpr. Rasey Jupin.....First Aid/Physical Training/Water Safety
Tpr. Cody Morrison.....First Aid/Physical Training/Water Safety
Tpr. Wyatt Peters.....Patrols/Report Writing
Tpr. Kevin Sutton.....First Aid/Physical Training/Water Safety
Ms. Kim Szczepaniak.....Departmental Technician

FIREARMS AND DEFENSIVE TACTICS UNIT

Lt. Gideon Paetz.....Commander
Sgt. Tyler Groskopf.....Defensive Tactics
Sgt. Justin Mazur.....Defensive Tactics
Sgt. Andrew Merryweather.....Ordnance
Sgt. Chris Rowell.....Ordnance
Sgt. Keel Stine.....Equipment & Testing
Sgt. Anthony Wirth.....Ordnance
Tpr. Anthony Adkins.....Defensive Tactics
Tpr. Joshua Every.....Defensive Tactics
Tpr. Brandon Golden.....Defensive Tactics
Tpr. Matt Laimon.....Armorer
Tpr. Andrew Rothermal.....Ordnance
Ms. Jamie Hansen.....Departmental Technician
Mr. Larry Klusack.....Quartermaster

FIELD TRAINING OFFICER UNIT

Spl/Lt. Cimmeron McRae.....Commander

APPLICATIONS ANALYSIS UNIT

Sgt. Nolan Gillespie.....Applications Analysis
Mr. Ron Kalich.....Human Resources Developer

FORFEITED WEAPONS

Mr. Chris Belt.....Departmental Analyst



PRECISION DRIVING UNIT

F/Lt. Nick Darlington.....Commander
Sgt. Ryan Davis.....Vehicle Operations Training
Sgt. Harris Edwards.....Vehicle Operations Training
Sgt. John Looney.....Vehicle Operations Training
Ms. Jill McKerr.....Administrative Assistant



ACADEMY SERVICES SECTION

Ms. Heather Rawat.....Manager
Ms. Pamela Koppleberger.....Dietitian/Nutritionist
Ms. Chantel Esch.....Food Services
Ms. Rachel Genko.....Food Services
Ms. Lauren Green.....Food Services
Ms. Lindsey Lopez.....Food Services
Ms. Clarinda Mason.....Food Services
Ms. Kandus McGlocklin.....Food Services
Ms. Hilda Nunez-Acosta.....Food Services





MSP VALUE STATEMENT

A PROUD tradition of SERVICE through
EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, and COURTESY