



Minnesota Department of Public Safety Minnesota State Patrol

2014 Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Academy Graduates

Eric Anderson

HOMETOWN: CLOQUET
ASSIGNMENT: OWATONNA

Cadet Anderson was born and raised in Cloquet, and graduated from high school in 2006. After graduation, he enrolled in courses at Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College to obtain his law enforcement education. Cadet Anderson continued his studies and attended University of Minnesota Duluth, graduating in 2011. Cadet Anderson worked as a Correctional Officer at Moose Lake River Correctional Facility for two and a half years. He enjoys sports, movies and video games.

Chad Arneson

HOMETOWN: SARTELL
ASSIGNMENT: MINNEAPOLIS

Cadet Arneson was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea, and adopted by a family in Sartell. He graduated from Sartell in 2003. He attended the University of Minnesota, graduating in 2008. Cadet Arneson joined the National Guard and was commissioned as an officer in the Field Artillery. Before starting his career with the Minnesota State Patrol, Cadet Arneson was employed as a Detention Deputy with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. He currently resides in Plymouth

Brett Bilky

HOMETOWN: SPICER
ASSIGNMENT: FERGUS FALLS

Cadet Bilky was born in Waukegan, Ill., and moved to Minnesota in 2001. For the past 10 years, he has lived in Spicer. After completing school at New London High School in 2008, he enrolled in courses at Ridgewater College in Willmar, where he obtained his associate degree in Law Enforcement. Cadet Bilky worked at a private fish hatchery for five years, raising walleyes and muskies. He also worked at Kandiyohi County Sherriff's office water patrol during the summers of 2012 and 2013. He enjoys fishing in the winter and being on the water during the summer.



Daniel Britz

HOMETOWN: SOUTH ST. PAUL
ASSIGNMENT: HASTINGS

Cadet Britz was born, raised and graduated from High School in South St Paul. He lives in Cottage Grove with his wife, new baby boy, two dogs and two cats. He has an associate degree in General Studies from Inver Hills Community College and a bachelor's degree in Aviation Maintenance Management from St. Cloud State University. He has been a member of Minnesota Army National Guard since March 2001. He initially was a Blackhawk crew chief and currently is a pilot. He enjoys spending time with his wife, boating, fishing and hunting.

Cody Carlson

HOMETOWN: BAUDETTE
ASSIGNMENT: BEMIDJI

Cadet Carlson was born in Park Rapids. At the age of six, he moved with his family to Baudette, where he attended and graduated from Lake of the Woods School. He enrolled in courses at Northwest Tech in Bemidji, majoring in firefighting. He also spent two years at Northland Community College in Thief River Falls, where he obtained his Law Enforcement degree. Shortly after, he enrolled and attended Bemidji State University for one semester prior to coming to Minnesota State Patrol. Cadet Carlson has worked for Baudette Police Department since 2012 while attending college. He enjoys hunting, fishing and the outdoors.

Burton Crary

HOMETOWN: DETROIT LAKES
ASSIGNMENT: MINNEAPOLIS

Cadet Crary was born in Fargo, N.D., and raised in Detroit Lakes. He graduated from Detroit Lakes High School and attended Alexandria Technical College in 1990-1992 to obtain his law enforcement education. After completing his studies, he began working for the Alexandria Police Department in 1994, where he remained until 2014. Cadet Crary is married and has two children, two step children and six dogs. He enjoys spending time with family and being outdoors.

Grant Davison

HOMETOWN: WEST FARGO, N.D.
ASSIGNMENT: GRAND RAPIDS

Cadet Davison grew up in West Fargo, N.D., and attended college for two years, after which he joined the U.S. Army. He was on active duty for four years, serving as an infantryman and stationed at Fort Myer, Va., as part of The Old Guard. Upon completing his military service, he went back to school at the University of Northern Iowa and received a B.A. in Physical Education (Teaching) and Health Promotion. After graduating, he married and moved to Colorado. He spent 16 months overseas as a PSD Team Member for DynCorp International. He moved to Minnesota in January 2013 and currently is living in Minneapolis.



Joshua Eisenbacher

HOMETOWN: ST. CLOUD

ASSIGNMENT: THIEF RIVER FALLS

Cadet Eisenbacher was born and raised in St. Louis Park. After high school, he attended St. Cloud State University and received his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Studies. He was employed in the automotive industry as a technician and service manager. Cadet Eisenbacher currently lives in Saint Cloud with his wife and two children. He enjoys hunting, spending time at the lake and spending time with his family.

Keith Erickson

HOMETOWN: MOUNTAIN IRON

ASSIGNMENT: HIBBING

Cadet Erickson grew up in Mountain Iron and currently resides in Hermantown with his wife. He has three children. Cadet Erickson received his bachelor's degree from Bemidji State University in Adult and Technical Education. Cadet Erickson served as a college instructor at the Hibbing Community College for 13 years. In addition, Cadet Erickson is a member of the Minnesota Air National Guard, where he currently serves as a Crew Chief on an F-16 Fighter Aircraft. He has served with the Air Guard for 20 years. His hobbies include dirt track racing, college and high school hockey and traveling.

Andres Gomez

HOMETOWN: FINLAND

ASSIGNMENT: DULUTH

Born in Ely, Cadet Gomez lived in Finland, Minn., for the first year of his life. His father was in the U.S. Air Force, so his family moved to Virginia Beach, Las Vegas, and Germany before returning to Finland when Gomez was thirteen. After graduating from high school in Silver Bay, Cadet Gomez followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Air Force and was stationed in Las Vegas with the Predator UAV Program. He separated from the Air Force in 2002 and he and his wife moved to Wasilla, Alaska. There, he attended the Alaska State Trooper Academy and worked for the Anchorage Airport Police Department until 2012. Gomez loves to do anything outdoors or sport related. He has two children.

Kyle Goodwin

HOMETOWN: BLACKDUCK

ASSIGNMENT: BEMIDJI

Cadet Goodwin was born in Bemidji and graduated from Blackduck High School. After graduation, he joined the Minnesota National Guard as an Infantryman in 2008. Cadet Goodwin enrolled and obtained his education in law enforcement at Alexandria Tech in 2012. Cadet Goodwin is currently expecting the arrival of his baby girl, with a due date set just one day prior to graduation from the academy. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, four wheeling and spending time with his family.



Benjamin Karon

HOMETOWN: DULUTH
ASSIGNMENT: PINE CITY

Cadet Karon was born in Seoul, South Korea. He was adopted to a family in Duluth and has lived there since. He went to school at Lake Superior College and Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. Cadet Karon worked as a Wildland Firefighter for the Superior National Forest and EMT-B at Carlton County Fire and Ambulance. Cadet Karon enjoys staying active, hunting, fishing, boating and other outdoor recreational activities. He currently lives in Duluth.

Michael Koblinski

HOMETOWN: ANOKA
ASSIGNMENT: GRAND MARAIS

Cadet Kobelinski is married and currently lives in Minneapolis with his wife and dog. Prior to joining the Minnesota State Patrol, he worked at Midwest Mountaineering for 10 years.

Tomasz Krolak

HOMETOWN: BRZEG POLNY, POLAND
ASSIGNMENT: BLOOMINGTON

Cadet Tomasz Krolak was born and raised until the age of 10 in Poland. When he was 10-years-old, he moved with his family to Chicago, where he remained until the age of 18. Shortly after high school, Cadet Krolak enlisted in the U.S. Marines. He spent 11 years and 4 months in the Corps, working on small arms and precision weapons repairs. In 2012, he moved to Minnesota with his wife and three children. Prior to joining the Minnesota State Patrol, he worked for JP Enterprises as a gunsmith, based out of the Twin Cities.

Eric Labere

HOMETOWN: KALISPELL, MONT.
ASSIGNMENT: ALBERT LEA

Cadet LaBere grew up in Kalispell, Mont. He has an associate degree in Law Enforcement from Century College and was working on his Bachelor's in Police Science from Saint Mary's University when he was hired by Minnesota State Patrol. His work experience includes security at the Saint Paul Park Oil Refinery and loss prevention at Kohl's department store in Maplewood. Cadet LaBere is a NASCAR and Green Bay Packers fan. He lives in Hastings.

Cadet Shaun Leshovsky

HOMETOWN: CIRCLE PINES
ASSIGNMENT: MINNEAPOLIS

Cadet Leshovsky was born in St. Paul and currently resides in the north metro. He served in the Army National Guard as an Infantryman for six years and received his degree from Anoka Ramsey Community College and Hennepin Tech. Previously, Cadet Leshovsky managed a department in the medical machining industry for 12 years. He is married and is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys walleye fishing and bow hunting.



Jacob Letourneau

HOMETOWN: HINCKLEY
ASSIGNMENT: INTERNATIONAL FALLS

Cadet Letourneau was born in Mora and grew up on a farm. He currently lives in Hinckley. He received his Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Winona State University and additional skills from Alexandria Technical College. Cadet Letourneau took flight lessons at Field of Dreams in Hinckley in the hopes to become a commercial line pilot. Prior to starting his journey with Minnesota State Patrol, Cadet Letourneau interned with the Minnetonka Police Department. Cadet Letourneau enjoys competitive team-oriented games and debate.

Dustin Lewis

HOMETOWN: DAWSON
ASSIGNMENT: WINDOM

Cadet Lewis was born and raised in Dawson. He graduated from Dawson-Boyd High School. He enrolled and attended courses at Rasmussen College-Mankato campus, where he received his associate degree in Criminal Justice. After completion, he transferred and attended Alexandria Technical College, where he received his Law Enforcement skills training. The winter of 2009, he was hired as part time working for the Dawson Police Department and, in May 2011, he was hired full time, where he continued to work until he began his journey with the Minnesota State Patrol. He enjoys fishing, hunting, four-wheeling and spending time with his fiancé and family.

Adam Maguire

HOMETOWN: WICHITA, KAN.
ASSIGNMENT: MINNEAPOLIS

Cadet Maguire was born in Kansas but has lived throughout the Midwest. He served in the U.S. and has been married for 10 years. Cadet Maguire has a son and daughter. Prior to his Minnesota State Patrol journey he was a worker's compensation claims processor. He currently lives in Victoria.

Tesa McLeod

HOMETOWN: CLOQUET
ASSIGNMENT: HIBBING

Cadet McLeod was born and raised in Duluth and currently lives in Cloquet with her two boys and husband. She graduated from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in 2013 with a degree in Law Enforcement. Prior to starting her journey with Minnesota State Patrol, Cadet McLeod worked in the restaurant management industry. Cadet McLeod spends much of her free time at her children's sporting events, biking and time with family.



Jeffrey Mohs

HOMETOWN: PLYMOUTH
ASSIGNMENT: ALBERT LEA

Cadet Jeffrey Mohs grew up in Plymouth and currently lives in Maple Grove with his wife and three children. He graduated from Wayzata High School and received his associate degree in Law Enforcement from North Hennepin Community College. He spent 16 years performing paint-less dent removal on cars and one year working as a water patrol deputy for Douglas County. He enjoys spending time with his family and being around cars.

Brian Mueller

HOMETOWN: ELK RIVER
ASSIGNMENT: VIRGINIA

Cadet Mueller grew up in Elk River and graduated from Elk River High School in 2004. He attended St. Cloud State and received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2008. He currently lives in South Minneapolis with his fiancé. Prior to his journey with the Minnesota State Patrol, Cadet Mueller worked for the TSA for two and a half years at the Minneapolis/St Paul Airport. He enjoys weight lifting, working out and Muay Thai.

Aaron Myren

HOMETOWN: ALEXANDRIA
ASSIGNMENT: REDWOOD FALLS

Originally from Alexandria, he attended school at Vermillion Community College and Alexandria Technical College. Before coming to the Minnesota State Patrol, he worked as a Police Officer for the Rolla Police Department in North Dakota. He moved on to become a Deputy Sheriff for the Wright County Sheriff's Office, working there for seven years. Cadet Myren recently got engaged and he enjoys hunting and fishing with his two labs.

Russell O'Fallon

HOMETOWN: PAYNESVILLE
ASSIGNMENT: VIRGINIA

Cadet O'Fallon was born and raised in Paynesville, and graduated from Paynesville Area High School in 2009. In 2012, he graduated from St. Cloud State University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology. Prior to joining the Minnesota State Patrol, Cadet O'Fallon served the communities of Maple Plain and Independence as a Police Officer with the West Hennepin Public Safety Department. He enjoys being outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and playing sports.



Josh Orbeck

HOMETOWN: BENSON
ASSIGNMENT: WINDOM

Cadet Orbeck was born in Benson. He has a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science and his master's in Criminal Justice from St. Cloud State University. He is married and has two dogs. Before coming to the Minnesota State Patrol, he worked as an EMT and was a Police Officer for St. Cloud Police Department. He enjoys snowmobiling, hunting, fishing and camping. He currently lives in Sartell.

Daniil Poptelecan

HOMETOWN: DEJ, ROMANIA
ASSIGNMENT: MINNEAPOLIS

Cadet Poptelecan was born and raised in Dej, Romania. At the age of 16, he moved with his family to the U.S. and lived in California until his high school graduation. Shortly after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After attending school for one year in Chicago, he was stationed in Sasebo, Japan, where he completed his active tour of duty. He continued his support to the U.S. military by remaining in active reserve status for an additional eight years. He completed his studies at the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities campus, where he majored in Criminal Justice in 2006. He currently lives in St Paul with his wife and three children.

Dillon Rieland

HOMETOWN: SAUK CENTRE
ASSIGNMENT: BAGLEY

Cadet Rieland was born in Alexandria and raised on a farm in Sauk Centre. He graduated from Sauk Centre High School in 2010. He attended Alexandria Technical College and graduated in 2012. Cadet Rieland continued his studies and enrolled at St. Cloud State University to obtain his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. While at St. Cloud State, he worked at St Cloud State Public Safety as a Loss Prevention Officer. Cadet Rieland enjoys hunting, ice fishing, snowmobiling and golfing. He has a one-year-old German shepherd named Sage.

Ellissa Schmidt

HOMETOWN: APPLETON
ASSIGNMENT: SAUK CENTRE

Cadet Schmidt was born and raised in Appleton where, in high school, she was a member of the dance, cross country and softball teams. She attended college at Alexandria Technical College. Previously, Cadet Schmidt was a jailer/dispatcher for Swift County, as well as a Police Officer for Appleton and Benson Police Departments. She likes to bow hunt and bow fish. Cadet Schmidt currently lives in Osakis.



Justin Schuelke

HOMETOWN: MARSHALL
ASSIGNMENT: MARSHALL

Cadet Justin Schuelke was born in Dawson and raised in Marshall. He joined the Army National Guard in 2000 and attended Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Okla. He graduated from the Minnesota West Community and Technical College electrician program in 2004. Cadet Schuelke was deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005 and 2009-2010. He married in 2006 and has a one-year-old son. He received his bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Minnesota School of Business in 2011. Previously, Cadet Schuelke worked at Camp Ripley at the United States Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO).

Brian Schwartz

HOMETOWN: BEMIDJI
ASSIGNMENT: FAIRMONT

Cadet Schwartz was born and raised in Bemidji. He graduated from Bemidji High School in 2003 and attended University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, graduating in 2007 with an associate degree in Criminal Justice. Cadet Schwartz has been married for five years and they currently live in Detroit Lakes. Previously, he worked as a Deputy for Mahnomen County Sherriff's Office. Cadet Schwartz enjoys playing disc golf, duck hunting and working out.

Joseph Setnes

HOMETOWN: AFTON
ASSIGNMENT: INTERNATIONAL FALLS

Cadet Setnes was born in St. Paul and grew up in Afton. He graduated from Hill-Murray High School in 2009. In 2013, he enrolled in college courses at Rasmussen College from where he earned an associate degree in Law Enforcement. Cadet Setnes enjoys going to hockey games, playing softball and traveling to his cabin in Canyon. He has two dogs. He still lives in Afton with six of his seven brothers and sisters.

Shaun Stang

HOMETOWN: MONTICELLO
ASSIGNMENT: MORA

Cadet Stang grew up in Monticello. He is currently a Deputy for Kanabec County and is engaged. Cadet Stang currently lives in Mora.



Derek Swanhorst

HOMETOWN: DEERWOOD
ASSIGNMENT: OWATONNA

Cadet Swanhorst was born and raised in Deerwood. He graduated Crosby-Ironton High School in 2008. He attended college at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where he played football and received his degree in Criminology. He obtained his law enforcement education at Fond Du Lac Community College. Cadet Swanhorst worked at Woodland Hills in Duluth as a Youth Care Counselor. Cadet Swanhorst enjoys working out, playing sports and listening to music.

Jake Thompson

HOMETOWN: COKATO
ASSIGNMENT: MAHNOMEN

Cadet Thompson was born and raised in Cokato. After graduating from high school, he enrolled and attended courses at Ridgewater College and Minnesota State University in Moorhead. Cadet Thompson worked for North Dakota Highway Patrol as a State Trooper for two and a half years. He enjoys being outdoors, camping, being with his family and playing with his dog. He is engaged to be married in August.

Deanna Wayne

HOMETOWN: MINNETONKA
ASSIGNMENT: MINNEAPOLIS

Cadet Wayne was born in St Louis Park and raised in Minnetonka. She attended Mankato State University, where she took general studies and ran track and cross-country. Cadet Wayne received her paralegal degree from the Minnesota School Of Business, after which she spent 15 years working in the Labor and Employment Law Group at Faegre Baker Daniels, LLP. Cadet Wayne lives in Maple Grove with her husband and three children. She enjoys long-distance running and has completed 13 marathons, including the races in Boston and New York.

Terry Wood

HOMETOWN: GRACEVILLE
ASSIGNMENT: MONTEVIDEO

Cadet Terry Wood comes to the State Patrol from Ortonville. He is married and has three children and two dogs. Cadet Wood spent five years in the Army as a K-9 MP and 10 years in the National Guard, where he was assigned to an artillery division. He has worked as a Police Officer for Brown Valley Police Department and Big Stone County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy. Cadet Wood enjoys spending time with his family and friends, camping, hiking and participating in sports.



Michael Wren

HOMETOWN: LAKEVILLE

ASSIGNMENT: VIRGINIA

Cadet Wren was born and raised in Lakeville and currently lives in St. Paul with his wife and daughter. Cadet Wren attended Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., where he majored in History of Arts. In 2006, he married and moved to Homer, Alaska. A year later, they returned to Minnesota. Prior to the Academy, Cadet Wren worked as a Volkswagen mechanic for 17 years. He received his Law Enforcement degree from Hennepin Tech. He enjoys hiking, kayaking and fishing.

Jared Zochert

HOMETOWN: BROOKLYN CENTER

ASSIGNMENT: FAIRMONT

Cadet Jared Zochert was born and raised in Pipestone. His family moved to St. Peter, where he graduated high school. After high school, he attended the University of Minnesota. Cadet Zochert has been married for 13 years. Before coming to the Minnesota State Patrol, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 13 years. He enjoys grouse hunting, playing with his dog, studying history, science fiction and trivia. Cadet Zochert lives in Brooklyn Center.

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