

HUMAN, PERSONAL, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

↑ CAREER LAUNCHER

Highway Patrol Officer



“If you were ever speeding on a state highway, I might have pulled you over and given you a ticket. I patrol the highways, enforcing criminal laws and making sure motorists obey traffic laws.”



- **Education needed:** Associate's degree in criminal justice, police science, or related field
- **Salary range:** \$30,000 – \$80,000 annually
- **Related jobs:** Correctional officer, detective, FBI agent, fire marshal

Highway Patrol Officer

➤ What I do every day

Some people call me a state trooper or a state police officer. I enforce the state's motor vehicle laws and issue citations when motorists disobey the law. I also investigate burglaries, assaults, and other crimes that are committed in my jurisdiction. When a motor vehicle accident occurs, I go to the scene and give first aid, direct traffic, and call for ambulances, fire trucks, and other emergency equipment. I also call for road service when highway motorists experience mechanical trouble with their vehicles.

Highway Patrol Officer

➤ The best part of my job

As a highway patrol officer, I protect the people in my territory and keep them safe. It's a big responsibility that I take seriously.

➤ The worst part of my job

I spend long hours sitting and driving in my car, which can numb my brain. But to do my job well, it's important for me to stay alert.

Highway Patrol Officer

➤ What I need to know and be able to do

Highway patrol officers enforce both criminal laws and motor vehicle laws and should know and understand these laws. They must be able to operate and maintain firearms. They need to be able to investigate crimes, respond to emergencies, and offer assistance to other local law enforcement agencies when called upon.

➤ How I prepared to be a highway patrol officer

Ever since I was a teenager, I wanted to go into the field of law enforcement. After high school, I enrolled in a two-year program and earned my associate's degree in criminal justice. To become a highway patrol officer, I passed written and physical examinations and met strict physical and personal requirements.

➤ How I could have prepared better

When I'm out on the highway, I often encounter people who don't speak English. Knowing simple words in other languages would make it easier for me to communicate with them.

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English
Skill Check

► Skill Check 1

Two teenagers were killed instantly in a severe car accident that occurred at 2:00 in the morning. As a highway patrol officer, it is your job to go to the parents' homes and inform them of their children's deaths. List the points you will discuss with the family. Describe your manner of speaking and what you will say to comfort the family after you deliver the news.

Points to Make with the Family

Manner of Speaking

Comforting Words

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English
Skill Check

► Skill Check 2

You have just pulled over a car in which a woman was driving 80 miles per hour (mph) in a 65 mph speed zone. When you tell the woman how fast she was driving and prepare to issue a citation, she tries to change your mind. Using the attached script, write your portion of the conversation with the speeder.

Highway Patrol Officer:

Woman: Really, Officer? I thought I was only driving 65. Are you sure I was driving 80?

Highway Patrol Officer:

Woman: Certainly. Here's my license and registration. But Officer, do you really have to give me a ticket? I can't believe I was speeding. You know, I think the heel on my shoe must have gotten stuck under the accelerator.

Highway Patrol Officer:

Woman: It's not fair for you to give me a ticket. Everybody else was speeding, too.

Highway Patrol Officer:

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Math
Skill Check

► Skill Check 1

You worked $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours longer today than your usual 8-hour shift. If you are paid your regular hourly rate of \$22 for the first eight hours and time and a half (your hourly wage times $1\frac{1}{2}$) for the overtime hours, how much did you earn for the day?

Answer: _____

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Math
Skill Check

► Skill Check 2

One week each month you set up radar on the interstate highway to catch drivers who are speeding. During the past three months, you issued the following citations and warnings:

APRIL		
Day of the Week	# of Citations	# of Warnings
Sunday	12	17
Monday	3	5
Tuesday	4	1
Wednesday	9	8
Thursday	15	2
Friday	10	4
Saturday	8	11
MAY		
Day of the Week	# of Citations	# of Warnings
Sunday	21	4
Monday	8	6
Tuesday	1	17
Wednesday	11	3
Thursday	19	12
Friday	4	14
Saturday	14	1
JUNE		
Day of the Week	# of Citations	# of Warnings
Sunday	1	4
Monday	18	12
Tuesday	10	7
Wednesday	16	13
Thursday	9	2
Friday	7	4
Saturday	8	12

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**Highway Patrol
Officer**

**Math
Skill Check**

► Skill Check 2

(continued)

Calculate the average number of citations and the average number of warnings you issued per day during the weeks that you set up radar.

Average number of citations: _____

Average number of warnings: _____