

Junior Detective Badge Program (Grades K-6)

Objective

Create an activity booklet with safety tips, laws, and good citizenship tasks. Award “Junior Detective” badges upon completion.

Materials

- Printable Junior badge template
- Clipboards or hard writing surfaces (optional)
- Detective hats or magnifying glasses (optional but fun)
- Stickers or stamps (for task completion)
- Envelopes or folders labeled "Case Files"
- Worksheets or clue cards for challenges (create your own or request a printable pack)

Instructions

1. **Introduce the Program:** Tell students they are entering the Junior Detective Academy, where they'll learn how to observe carefully, think critically, and make safe choices.
2. **Set the Goal:** Explain that they must complete 3–5 detective challenges to earn their official badge.
3. **Distribute Materials:** Give each student:
 - a. A “Case File” folder
 - b. A blank badge card (with spaces for stamps/stickers)
 - c. A pencil
 - d. Optional: detective hats, toy magnifying glasses
4. **Detective Challenges:** Choose 3-5 of the following:
 - a. Observation Tray Challenge
 - i. **Objective:** Sharpen attention to detail
 1. Place 10–12 everyday objects on a tray.
 2. Let students observe for 30 seconds, then cover it.
 3. Ask: “What did you see?” Have them list or draw from memory
 - b. Find the Safety Hazards
 - i. **Objective:** Learn home or classroom safety

1. Show a picture or model of a messy or dangerous room (e.g., cords on floor, open drawer).
 2. Students identify and mark all the hazards.
 3. Discuss each one together.
- c. Mystery Footprint Match
 - i. **Objective:** Practice pattern recognition
 - ii. Show cutouts of shoe prints. Match them to “suspect” shoes.
 - iii. Great for critical thinking and introducing basic forensic science.
- d. Decode the Safety Message
 - i. **Objective:** Learn important safety rules
 1. Give a simple substitution code (e.g., A = 1, B = 2).
 2. Students decode phrases like “CALL 911 FOR HELP” or “STOP, DROP, AND ROLL.”
- e. Clue Hunt (Scavenger Style)
 - i. **Objective:** Follow directions and teamwork
 1. Hide 3–5 clues around the room. Each clue gives a hint to the next.
 2. Final clue leads to a “safety secret” like a smoke alarm or emergency exit.
5. Badge Ceremony
 - a. Once students complete their challenges, hand out the Junior Detective Badges.
 - b. Hold a brief ceremony. Have them raise a hand and repeat:
 - i. “I promise to observe carefully, make safe choices, and help others as a Junior Detective!”