

Two Henderson County Sheriff's Detectives graduated from session XXII of the National Forensic Academy (NFA) sponsored by the Department of Justice and the University of Tennessee.

On Friday, November 14th 2008, Detectives Matt Raxter and Breena Williams completed this intensive 10-week training program, designed to meet the needs in evidence identification, collection, and preservation. The NFA is offered in-residence, utilizing curriculum developed by leading forensic practitioners from across the United States. Detectives Raxter and Williams were challenged in the various disciplines through classroom instruction, lab activities, and field practicum's in the specialized courses. Raxter and Williams completed written and in-class competency exams and successfully demonstrated mastery in the subject areas. The goal of the Academy is to prepare the crime scene investigator to recognize key elements and to improve the process of evidence recovery and submission. The training consisted of 400 hours in a ten week period. Of the 400 hours, 170 hours was in-class, classroom work and 230 hours of in the field practicum. During this ten week course Raxter and Williams were responsible for several educational objectives including quizzes, tests, case files, research papers and a host of other hands on experiences. Including but not limited to: Arson, blood stain pattern analysis, bullet trajectory and reconstruction, DNA, footwear and tire impressions, latent fingerprint processing, photography, post mortem fingerprinting, death investigations, forensic anthropology and a host of other courses.

Williams and Raxter are the second and third detectives to graduate from the NFA with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. Cpl. Andrew Anderson completed this instruction in 2005. The NFA has graduated just over 500 students nationally.