

Shoulder Patch Heraldry and Symbolism Of the Acworth Police Department

The police shoulder patch has a long and proud tradition that is rooted in American military history. Union General Phil Kearney is widely recognized as the first general officer to order his units to wear an insignia patch to distinguish his units from others during the Civil War. In 1862, General Kearney ordered his officers to wear a distinguishing red emblem on their “kepi” or caps. Units throughout the Army followed and today’s military services distinguish themselves with a special unit patch.

The American police forces began widely following the military model after World War One including uniform design and rank structure. Today, most local police departments distinguish their departments with a shoulder patch unique to their jurisdiction.

The Acworth police shoulder patch combines both the history of the law enforcement service and its ideals with the local community of the City of Acworth, Georgia. Featured prominently at the center of the shoulder patch is the official city logo. The old gas street light represents historic Acworth as a railroad city. The sailboat represents the quality of life enjoyed by our citizens and community.

Flying above the city logo is a light or French blue banner on which the word “POLICE” is emblazoned. This signifies the police mission of providing protection of our citizens and community. Another blue banner rests underneath the city’s name and has the state’s name GEORGIA. The colors chosen on these banners represent the “thin blue line” of the police service and remind the officer that he or she is part of that police service in our community and state. The date 1860 is at the base of the patch and symbolizes the founding year of the City of Acworth.

The gold laurels of oak leaves are traditional symbols of honor and victory and represent the honor of the police profession. They also remind the wearer of his or her importance as the police warrior/servant necessary to prevail against the evil of the criminal culture.

The patch is bordered in bright gold which is a traditional symbol of purity and integrity, both of which protect the police profession. The interior gold border reminds the wearer that this honor and integrity is associated with the name of our city, and by extension, to its officers. Its shape is the three-cornered shield which is also used as a traditional law enforcement symbol.

The background color of the patch is dark blue representing the history of the police profession and its founding at the creation of the London Metropolitan Police Department in 1829. The founder, Sir Robert Peel, advocated a military-like police presence in the city complete with a distinguished uniform. The dark blue color was chosen as a contrast to the bright red of the British military uniform.

The Acworth Police shoulder patch began service in January, 2007.

