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Montco tech students build suspect search boxes for K9 competition



Norristown, Pa. (June 14, 2017) – Montgomery County law enforcement K9 units got some help from local tech school students, who built new suspect search boxes for a regional K9 competition being held in the fall.

The four-foot square wooden boxes with concealed doors are required for the evidence and suspect search tests in the United States Police Canine Association’s Police Dog 1 Region 6 Certification Competition, which is being co-hosted by the

Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office and Montgomery Township Police Department in September.

“It gives me the ability to teach something ‘real world’ that will be used, and not just taken apart when done,” said [North Montco Technical Career Center](#) carpentry instructor Nelson Newton.

During the competition, an officer acting as a suspect will enter each of the boxes in the testing area to contaminate them with his scent. The boxes will air for 30 seconds before the same officer permanently hides in one of the boxes. After entering the testing area, the K9 will have four minutes to locate and indicate in which box the suspect is hidden without their handler’s direction.

Newton was more than happy to help build the



boxes, since Montgomery County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit Sgt. Richard Miles and Dep. Thomas Franklin are graduates of the school. The carpentry program at the tech school covers instruction, safe and proper use of hand and power tools, drywall work, counter top construction, finish carpentry, as well as building wood frame structures such as rough framing, roofing and siding. This made the project a great fit for the type of work that the students do.

Students built the boxes out of pressure treated lumber, plywood, hardware and fasteners donated by Lowe's home improvement stores. If purchased from a K9 training vendor, the set of boxes could cost more than \$1,000.

After the boxes were assembled, Miles, Franklin and Montgomery County Police Department Sgt. Bob Hart and Officer Joe McGuigan picked them up from the school and delivered them to a nearby storage facility, where they will be painted white before competition rolls around. The USPCA PD1 Region 6 Competition is being hosted by the [Montgomery Township Police Department](#) and [Montgomery County Sheriff's Office](#) on September 9 – 10, 2017 at Windlestrae Park, 1137 Kenas Road, North Wales, PA 19454. The event is free and open to the public. For more information about the USPCA PD 1 Region 6 Competition check their website at <http://www.uspca6.com/page1/page4/>.

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