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| |  | | --- | | DEC Announces Newest Class of Environmental Conservation Officers | | Recruits Graduate from DEC's 20th Basic School for Uniformed Officers New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced the graduation of 31 Environmental Conservation Officers (ECOs) from the agency's 20th Basic School for Uniformed Officers.  The new officers received their diplomas in a formal ceremony at the Kallet Theater in Pulaski.  The Basic School was held at the Division of Law Enforcement's Training Academy in Pulaski, which runs along the Salmon River.  The Academy began Feb. 29 and ran for 27-weeks. Training and coursework included environmental conservation law, criminal procedure, vehicle and traffic laws, physical conditioning, firearms, wildlife identification, emergency vehicle operations, search and rescue, land navigation, boating, and wildfire suppression.  The successful graduates hail from across New York and range in age from 22 to 40 years old. Five women are part of this year's graduating class.  ECOs, originally called Game Protectors, were first appointed in 1880 and undertake actions ranging from investigating deer and checking fishing licenses on local waterways to conducting surveillance on corporate chemical dumping. Across the state, ECOs responded to more than 25,000 calls statewide and issued more than 22,000 tickets in 2015.  "Since 1880, but now more than ever, the mission of the Division of Law Enforcement is vital to the protection of New York's abundant natural resources," said Joseph Schneider, Director of DEC's Division of Law Enforcement. "From Montauk Point and the City of Buffalo to deep in the Adirondack wilderness, ECOs protect New Yorkers from environmental damage and exploitation, whether enforcing clean air and water regulations, supporting fish and wildlife laws, investigating large scale environmental crimes, or ensuring solid waste is properly managed."  The graduating class will join the ranks of 268 ECOs currently serving across the state. Recruits in this newest class were selected from an eligible list of qualifications and passing scores generated from the most recent Civil Service exam, which was given in 2013. To view job qualifications for ECOs visit the [Environmental Conservation Officer](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwOTAyLjYzMzEzNzcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDkwMi42MzMxMzc3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MTEwMTg1JmVtYWlsaWQ9aGFybGVxdWluMDRAaG90bWFpbC5jb20mdXNlcmlkPWhhcmxlcXVpbjA0QGhvdG1haWwuY29tJmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&103&&&http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/746.html) job description webpage.  **The next ECO trainee exam is scheduled for November 19, 2016.**  **20th Basic School Graduates**  **Environmental Conservation Officers**  ECO Christopher J. Amato, Patchogue, NY  ECO Kyle A. Bevis, Albany, NY  ECO Ike G. Bobseine, Cattaraugus, NY  ECO Justanna N. Bohling, Sauquoit, NY  ECO Timothy J. Brown, Randolph, NY  ECO Zachariah R. Brown, Lake Placid, NY  ECO Melissa M. Burgess, East Berne, NY  ECO Emma C. Carpenter, Farmingdale, NY  ECO William J. Chomicki, Poughkeepsie, NY  ECO Zachary R. Crain, Rensselaer, NY  ECO Anthony M. Drahms, Savannah, NY  ECO Charles F. Eyler III, Pleasant Valley, NY  ECO Nathan E. Godson, Depew, NY  ECO Mary B. Grose, Frankfort, NY  ECO Brian M. Gustitus, Hicksville, NY  ECO Michael J. Hameline, Rensselaer, NY  ECO Katie L. Jakaub, Bliss, NY  ECO Adam P. Johnson, Oswego, NY  ECO Andrew P. Kostuk, Cortland, NY  ECO Evan G. Laczi, Williamsville, NY  ECO Jarrod W. Lomozik, Ithaca, NY  ECO Christopher P. Macropoulos, Whitestone, NY  ECO Evan J. McFee, Hemlock, NY  ECO Maxwell P. Nicols, Middle Grove, NY  ECO Spencer L. Noyes, Munnsville, NY  ECO Lucas A. Palmateer, Athens, NY  ECO John T. Rich, Horseheads, NY  ECO Jason P. Smith, Lake George, NY  ECO Benjamin P. Tabor, Saranac Lake, NY  ECO Craig P. Tompkins, Beacon, NY  ECO Jonathon P. Walraven, Cohoes, NY | |
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