

Hi, my name is Jodi Jenks.

I started my journey as a Sage Woman Warrior when I was a teenager. My parents got divorced when I was 8 and I went to work at the age of 12. My friends always had money from their parents to go and do the things they wanted, but I went to work. Don't misunderstand me, my parents provided me with everything that was necessary, but I always wanted to make money on my own. They always supported me in my decisions and my father always said, "you can be whatever you want to be, only you can defeat yourself". As the time to go to college came closer I always knew that I was going to study something that had to do with law but as most young adults my mind changed monthly. Then one day, much to my entire family's dismay, I decided I was going to become a police officer.

I graduated college and worked in a mental hospital until the time I was hired as a police officer one year later. I had now officially entered a "man's world". In my three years as a University Police Officer I didn't deal with too many sexist issues within the department, more with the public. They believed in dealing with a female that I was weak or could be swayed from doing my job. I was subjected to rude sexual comments and offers as well as many physical confrontations when their advances did not achieve the goal they had hoped for.

I left the University and went to work for the larger police department in North Miami Dade County. On my first day there I was promptly made aware that I was one of five female officers. I now realized I was truly in a "man's world". I was told by many of the officers on my shift, "You have to prove yourself. We don't need to have to worry about protecting you while dealing with a subject." I realized that what they were really saying was, show us you can fight like a man. As time went on they realized that I might not be as strong as a man, but I was right in the mix with them when things went bad.

In the 35 years I have been in law enforcement I have had several encounters where I was fighting for my life. Six months before my wedding my partner and I responded to a suspicious person call. While my partner was patting him down and I was on the radio trying to identify him, he decided he was going to fight. He ran past my partner straight at me and head butted me in the face before I could react. We are always taught that hand and feet are dangerous, trust me - so are heads. He shattered my skull, split my nose in half and inverted it into the roof of my mouth. I earned the name "weeble" that day because I hit the ground and came right back up fighting. He continued to fight and attempted to wrestle our guns out of the holster. After five of the longest minutes of my life back up units from several agencies arrived and assisted us getting him into custody and in calming a hostile crowd. My ability to hold my own was never questioned again.

Through the years there have been many more situations that have occurred and, except for one, all my partners have been men. Those that worked with me never doubted my abilities and I was often told that they preferred me as their back-up over many man. By this point they also realized that women have a completely different way of dealing with and diffusing hostile situations. A woman's touch goes a long way. I have been working in the gang unit for the past 26 years and am one of the only female detectives in the country to be considered an expert in this field and am cited in professional journals.

I retired in 2013 but went back to work a week later for another agency. I am the President and co-founder of a consulting company that teaches various aspects of law enforcement to Police agencies as well as the private sector. I have been married for the past 28 years and have two beautiful children.

My goal is to teach you how to feel physically secure and sure of yourself in today's world. We will cover everything from self -defense to active shooter awareness and reaction. I'm looking forward to being part of your journey in becoming a Sage Woman Warrior.

Jodi Jenks