

Exploring



What Is Exploring?

Exploring is Learning for Life's career education program for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) or 15 to 20 years old. Adults are selected by the participating organization for involvement in the program. Color, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status, or citizenship is not criteria for participation.

Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Explorers are ready to investigate the meaning of interdependence in their personal relationships and communities.

Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and the organizations in their communities. Fire departments initiate an Explorer post by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, and develop.



Everyone Wins With Exploring

Exploring will be one of the best opportunities you offer your department, your employees, and the youth of your community.

DEPARTMENT BENEFITS

- Impact on the education process of youth
- Team-building attitude within the department
- Opportunity to interpret adult occupational roles for youth
- Preparing young adults for transition into the workforce
- Creating a "safe haven" for the healthy development of adolescents
- Developing future responsible and caring adults
- Ensuring that young people see how your department relates to the free-enterprise system
- Helping young adults gain insight into the ethics and ideals of fire/emergency services
- Visible commitment to the welfare of your community

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Greater job awareness
- Developing leadership and problem-solving skills
- Re-evaluating ethical and moral values



- Opportunity for greater community involvement
- Respect from youth and community
- Identification as appropriate adult role models
- Enhancing communication, planning, and program development skills
- Greater commitment to service
- Developing interpersonal skills used in the workplace and elsewhere



YOUTH BENEFITS

- Stimulated interest in continual education
- Career information; insight into future vocation
- Positive alternative to negative youth activities, such as drug abuse and involvement with gangs
- Sense of acceptance and belonging to the "right" group
- Safe environment for adultlike activities
- Opportunities to participate in practical, real, and meaningful hands-on experiences
- New career and personal skills
- Opportunities to try leadership roles and develop skills
- Cooperative relationship between adults and youth
- Service to others



Exploring's Five Areas of Emphasis



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Developing potential contacts that may broaden employment options
- Boosting self-confidence and experiencing success at school and work

SERVICE LEARNING

- Encouraging the skill and desire to help others
- Gaining a keen respect for the basic rights of others



LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Developing leadership skills to fulfill our responsibilities in society
- Providing exposure to different leadership traits



LIFE SKILLS

- Developing physical and mental fitness
- Experiencing positive social interaction



CHARACTER EDUCATION

- Helping make ethical choices
- Fulfilling one's responsibility to society as a whole

Fire and Emergency Services Exploring . . .

“ . . . brings together all areas of our operation for training.”

—Mike Brown, fire chief
Kitsap County Fire District 7



“ . . . gives young adults a new respect for a challenging profession.”

—Garry Briese, executive director
International Association of Fire Chiefs



“ . . . brings fire and emergency services to life for teens.”

—Heather Schafer, executive director
National Volunteer Fire Council



“ . . . is a consistent recruiting tool for new firefighters.”

—Chip Prather, chief
Orange County Fire Authority



“ . . . provides excellent support to community-based programs.”

—Kenneth O. Burris Jr., chief operating officer
U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Academy



Scholarship Opportunities

- AFL-CIO Skilled Trades Explorer \$1,000 Scholarship
- American Veterinary Medical Association \$500 Cash Award
- ATF Special Agents' Law Enforcement Explorer \$500 Scholarship (two awarded)
- Capt. James T. Regan Memorial Law Enforcement Explorer \$500 Scholarship (two awarded)
- Comair Aviation Explorer \$2,000 Scholarships (10 awarded)
- DEA Drug Abuse Prevention Service Award, \$1,000 Recognition
- Floyd Boring Law Enforcement Explorer \$1,000 Scholarship
- International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation Fire Service Explorer \$500 Scholarship
- National Young American Award \$5,000 Grant
- Sheryl A. Horak Memorial Law Enforcement Explorer \$1,000 Scholarship
- Silver Wings Aviation Explorer \$1,000 Scholarship (two awarded)
- Sporty's Pilot Shop Aviation Explorer \$1,000 Scholarship
- U.S. Customs Service Law Enforcement Explorer \$1,000 Scholarship
- U.S. Federal Investigators Law Enforcement Explorer \$500 Scholarship



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Learning for Life to serve others by helping to instill core values in young people and in other ways prepare them to make ethical choices throughout their lives so they can achieve their full potential.

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