

Police Explorers-Information for Parents

What will my Child be doing?

Your child will be participating in a program that is both fun and educational. The exploring program instills core values in your child such as honesty, loyalty, and personal integrity while at the same time teaching them about the fun and exciting career they could have in Law Enforcement.

Does My Child Have to Become a Police Officer?

No, your child is more than welcome to join our program even if they have no desire to enter the field of Criminal Justice.

Will My Child be Permitted to Carry a Gun?

No, Explorers are NEVER permitted to carry any type of firearm, baton, or pepper spray like device while in the post. However, the post will periodically visit gun ranges and receive gun safety and usage training from certified firearms instructors. Each Explorer may be issued a gun holster from the post for training purposes ONLY. This holster will be used only during training and NEVER worn outside of explorer functions.

Will My Child Have the Authority to Arrest People?

No, Explorers DO NOT have the authority to arrest anyone. However, Explorers may be required to have a pair of handcuffs for training purposes; these may be issued by the post or purchased by the explorer. These handcuffs are for training purposes ONLY and should never be worn outside of explorer functions.

Where do I Purchase Equipment for my Child?

You May purchase equipment for your explorer by contacting the Post Advisor(s) for assistance.

Do I Have to Purchase All of My Child's Uniforms and Equipment?

No, the post will provide all of your child's uniform needs EXCEPT the following: A pair of black boots, a Duty Belt, black shoes, flashlight, underwear and personal items.

The post will provide your child with other necessary equipment. If the explorer has a situation preventing them from being able to purchase them on their own, the post will work to assist.

However, because we are a not for profit organization we ask that if at all possible you purchase as much of your own equipment as possible. If you have a situation that requires further assistance please *contact an Advisor* and let us know.

How much does it cost?

Excluding the purchasing of equipment and uniforms; the post requires a non refundable \$150.00 annual membership fee to cover the costs of initial registration and insurance. The post also asks for some cost sharing throughout the year for traveling to competitions, the explorer academy and any social activities. The post often tries to cover half the cost of the event. Two installment payments of \$75.00 can be made. The first payment is due by the first of January and July for each year your child is a member of the Torrington Police Explorers. If you require financial assistance to pay please contact us.

What is the Time Commitment For My Child?

The Post will meet every Wednesday night at the Torrington Police Department in from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm.

The post will also regularly have details and competitions that will take other days such as the weekend.

Please be aware that this is a huge time commitment and that the post requires 75% attendance to all post functions.

Department Purpose And Mission For Exploring

The intent of Law Enforcement Exploring is to educate and involve youth in police operations, to interest them in possible law enforcement careers and to build mutual understanding. The education aspect provides knowledge of the law enforcement function in one's community whether one enters the field of law enforcement as a career or not. Through involvement, and service to the community, the Explorer program establishes an awareness of the complexities of police service. While police personnel remain the key to success, other reliable citizens can also become involved in the Law Enforcement Exploring Program.

The Post's Community Service Mission

It is the additional mission of this Post to provide assistance to the community when requested, when capable, and when permitted by the guidelines as set forth in Chapter 14.00.00 of this manual. This mission is separate from service during times of crisis.

Purpose Of Goals And Objectives

The Law Enforcement Exploring program has three main themes that any Goals and Objectives must provide for. These are:

- A. *To further the Explorer's education.*
- B. *To encourage Explorer's participation in a rewarding and productive service activity.*
- C. *To enhance Explorer's preparation for future roles as citizens, community members, leaders and future law enforcement careers.*

To Serve As A Potential Recruitment Tool For Future Men And Women In Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Explorer program will further the explorer's education by providing the members with a basic knowledge of the field of law enforcement. Members **must** receive instruction in law, criminal investigation, crime prevention, traffic control and direction, accident investigation, juvenile delinquency and other related fields, which are an integral part of law enforcement.

To Serve As A Community Relations Effort Between Police And Youth, And Between Youth And The Community

The Law Enforcement Explorer program brings the Explorer into direct contact with the "Police Officer" on a one-to-one basis through its meetings, details, social functions, and ride-along program. Explorers are given the responsibility and respect they demand. In turn they make their public service felt among members of the community, especially members in their age bracket.

To Be Utilized As A Service Group Within The Community

Frequently community organizations call upon Explorers to assist with security, crowd control, traffic direction, drug resistance education programs, etc. Community services are strongly encouraged. Explorers are not to be used in assignments requiring police authority, but are used to assist the community under the direction and supervision of Police Officers. See Chapter 14.00.00 for the Guidelines for Use of Explorers for further detail.

Potential Use As Supplemental Manpower

Although Explorers are not used in place of law enforcement personnel, they can supplement them. Explorers can free Officers to concentrate on the most important aspects of their jobs. Utilizing Law Enforcement Explorers to their full potential can bring savings in manpower to the Department. Qualified members can also participate in the Ride-along Program, a privilege of membership that allows for on-site understanding of law enforcement on the street level.

