

Law Enforcement Exploring

18-575-91

By

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Law Enforcement Exploring introduces young people to the criminal justice field; this program can also provide police agencies improved youth contact, supplemental manpower, and potential recruits.

Explorers' value to sponsoring law enforcement agencies can be specific and dramatic, as exemplified by the actions of two Explorers from Post 1016, chartered by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, who were presented the 1977 Law Enforcement Assistance Award by the U.S. Secret Service. The annual award recognizes an Explorer who has performed "... an act which assisted in the prevention or solution of a serious crime or an act which assisted in leading to the apprehension of a felony suspect wanted by a law enforcement agency." Following a shooting incident, these two Explorers called for assistance, warned bystanders, and gave first aid to a deputy shot by the suspects he had been questioning.

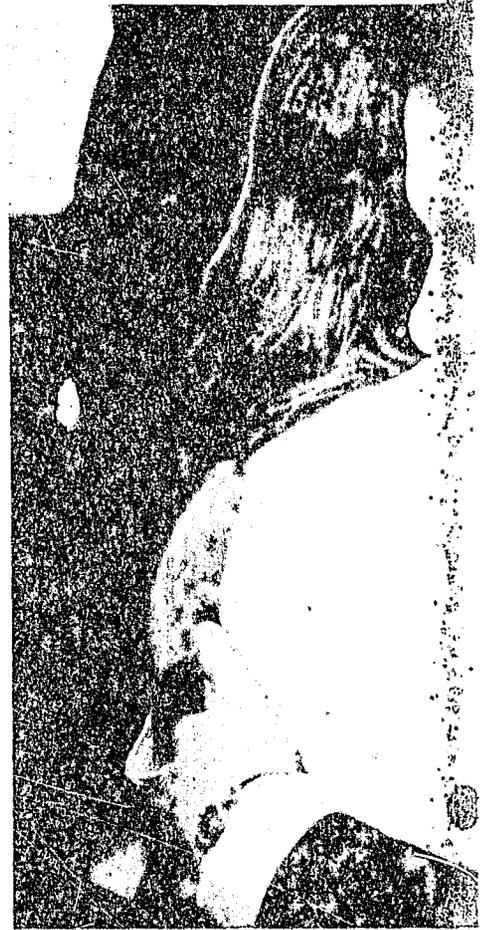
Other nominees for the 1977 award included: An Oregon Explorer who gathered information leading to the arrest of two heroin dealers; a Miami teenager who translated for an officer in an armed standoff with a non-

and

RICHARD C. CLEMENT
Chief of Police
Dover Township
Toms River, N.J.



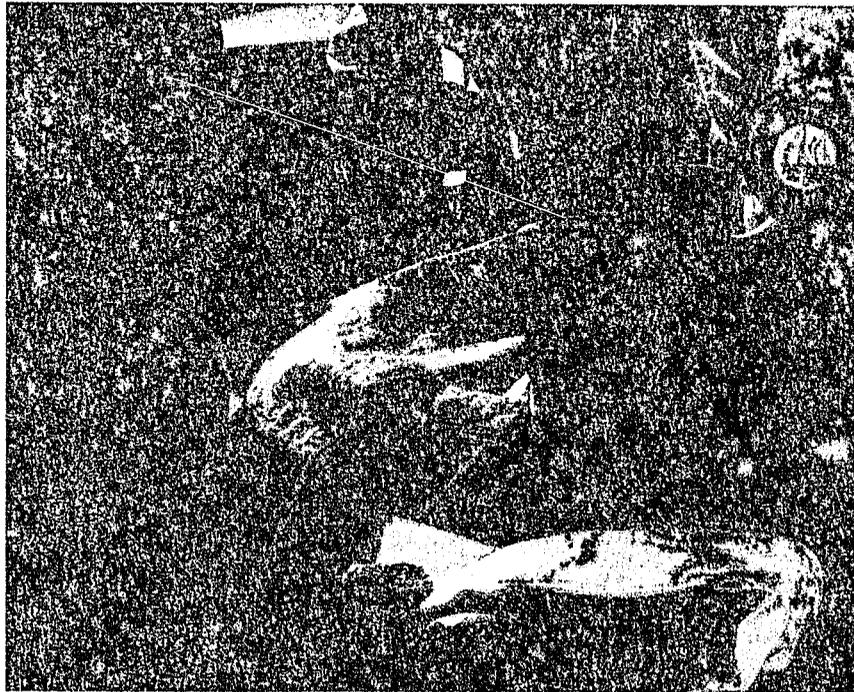
"Explorers are not used in place of law enforcement personnel, but to supplement them."



"[W]ith the continued support of the community, Law Enforcement can provide even more service to the public and American youth."



“Explorers’ value to sponsoring law enforcement agencies can be specific and dramatic”



Law enforcement will be able to give law enforcement agencies.



English-speaking murder suspect; three young Illinois women who helped locate the body of a murder victim; a Long Island Explorer working a police switchboard who helped detectives track down a very successful antique thief; an Arkansas youth who chased, caught, and subdued an offender who had assaulted two police officers and committed several crimes; and a California Explorer on a ride-along detail who made a timely assist call when the officer and an off-duty patrolman went in foot pursuit of an armed prowler. (The prowler, a prison escapee convicted of several motel burglaries and wanted by the FBI in New York for bank robbery, seriously wounded the off-duty officer.)

Exploring is the young adult division of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Tracing its roots back 65 years to the early days of the Sea Scout program, Exploring has continued to evolve and mature to serve the changing needs of American youths. Today, it is a nationwide movement of 350,000 young men and women between the ages of 15 and 21 participating in career exploration programs designed and administered by Exploring, BSA, with the coopera-

tion and support of business, industry, and service organizations.

As a service to high schools, the Exploring Division conducts career-interest surveys in schools across the Nation each spring. Law enforcement perennially scores high on the list of career interests among these surveyed teenagers. Exploring addresses itself to the acute need of young people for solid hands-on career experience. Law Enforcement Exploring assists police and sheriff departments, State police and highway patrol agencies, and private, industrial, and military security facilities in providing these young adults with an introduction to the rewarding careers available in law enforcement.

At present, over 30,000 young men and women are actively enrolled in 1,400 law enforcement posts from Alaska to Florida in communities of every size—from megalopolitan cities to the smallest hamlets. Of the 80 different interest areas that posts explore nationwide, the number involved in law enforcement ranks second only to those pursuing interests in medicine and the allied health fields.

Though Exploring's objectives are those of the Boy Scouts of America—character building, citizenship train-

ing, and mental and physical fitness—Exploring departs significantly from traditional scouting. Law Enforcement Explorers wear uniforms similar to those of the agencies that sponsor them. While a prodigious wealth of program support and resources is available from the Exploring Division and local BSA councils, Law Enforcement Exploring does not have an operating manual like the "Scout Handbook," nor does it have an advancement program by levels of skill.

Flexibility is one of the keys to the success of Law Enforcement Exploring, as it operates in a wide variety of law enforcement agencies and environments. Working closely with the local BSA council, the sponsoring law enforcement agency tailors the program to its own needs, plus those of the local community. The agency has the responsibility of providing a meeting place, adequate adult leadership, and program facilities and resources. The result: everyone benefits—the Explorers, the agency, and the public.

Training programs can vary greatly, depending upon the resources of the sponsoring agency. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, for example, sends its annual crop of 350 new Explorer recruits through

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demanding 155-hour special academy for Law Enforcement Explorers. Graduates of the 18-week curriculum, which includes such topics as criminal law, radio communications, firearms safety, first aid, narcotics control, fingerprinting, and community relations, are promoted to the rank of Deputy Explorer. The department's impressive "Law Enforcement Explorer Manual: Policy and Procedures" is 30 pages long.

But not all law enforcement agencies can fit this kind of Explorer academy into their budget. Many smaller agencies rely upon more informal, one-on-one training procedures.

Writing in the July 1977 issue of *The Police Chief*, Sydney P. Smith, Assistant Police Administrator for Elvedere, Calif., describes one innovative solution to a specific training problem. "The Peninsula Law Enforcement Explorer Academy has been set up to meet the needs of metropolitan San Mateo County [Calif.] law enforcement. Its 18 independent jurisdictions of moderate and small size have pooled their resources into a multiple-agency academy system for their collective needs. The result has been a better-qualified Law Enforcement Explorer, a more dedicated and more transient participant, and a uniform standard of economical and excellent training. . . ."

With the exception of training, the Exploring program is designed to pay for itself. Individual Explorers are responsible for paying their own national registration fees (\$3.50 annually). Posts raise money for other

expenses, such as uniforms, equipment, and the cost of traveling to regional and national meetings, by various fundraising projects, some of which are quite ingenious. For example, Law Enforcement Post 2282 of the Michigan State Police, Bridgeport Barracks, raised over \$700 one weekend operating a "Soak a Smokey" booth at a local fair. Troopers wearing fatigue uniforms agreed to sit in a dunking machine rented by the post for the occasion. Law Enforcement Explorer Post 70 of the Syracuse, N.Y., Police Department has hosted an annual race of quarter-midget cars in downtown Syracuse for the past 2 years. In rural Tillamook County, Oreg., Explorer Post 775, Tillamook County Sheriff's Department, raised enough money via a letter-writing campaign to absentee homeowners to buy two radio-equipped vehicles and one four-wheel-drive vehicle for their weekly night security patrols. (See the October 1976 FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.)

Post 775 has done a tremendous job of helping the Tillamook County Sheriff and his small department bring more effective law enforcement to the county. Elsewhere, Explorers are involved in a wide range of law enforcement activities—from conducting bicycle safety programs with young children to serving as "demonstrators" or "arrestees" in simulated crowd or mass arrest field exercises. Law Enforcement Explorers have been deployed successfully on stationary surveillances. They have

contributed significantly to community crime prevention via literature handouts, library research, house and property identification programs, and crime prevention lectures and demonstrations to the public.

At station desks from coast to coast, Explorers answer phones, greet the public, and render a host of administrative services—from filing and sorting to dispatching, translating, and giving guided tours to the public. In other divisions, they provide additional services and conserve manpower by assisting with crowd and traffic control at public gatherings, helping with search-and-rescue efforts, and staffing police information booths at fairs and shopping centers. In ride-along programs, Explorers handle the police radio, help with the paperwork, and double the number of watchful eyes in the cruiser.

Explorers are not used in *place* of law enforcement personnel, but to *supplement* them. Explorers free officers to concentrate on the most important aspects of their jobs. Utilizing Law Enforcement Explorers to their full potential can mean big savings in manpower and dollars for the sponsoring agency.

In addition to their extensive involvement with law enforcement on the local level, Law Enforcement Explorers also travel to State, regional and national training seminars, conventions, and competitions. More than 300 Explorers met recently in Tampa, Fla., for a weekend of friendly, instructive competition. One competitive event tested the Explor-

er's police skills in dealing with a simulated highway accident. Two automobiles, wrecked in an actual collision, were placed near each other. Three or four Explorers from each post were judged on their ability to quickly assess the situation, administer first aid to the "victims" (played by Medical Explorers), use effective crowd and traffic control, call for assistance, and begin the investigation—in short, do everything required of two police officers at a real accident scene.

Law Enforcement Exploring is one of four Exploring specialties to develop its own national organization—the National Association of Law Enforcement Explorers (NALEE). Law Enforcement Explorer delegates campaign for, and elect, new NALEE officers at the National Explorer Presidents' Congress held each spring in Washington, D.C. Florida and Connecticut boast similar State organizations.

Some Law Enforcement Explorers get school credits for their involvement in the program. In September 1976, the Volusia County, Fla., School System accepted the 3-year, 588-hour program of the Daytona Beach Explorer Unit 22 as an accredited class. Explorers in grades 10-12 receive one full vocational credit for each year in the program. Other educational systems throughout the country are in various stages of recognizing Law Enforcement Exploring as a valuable career educational tool.

Law enforcement agencies have realized the several rewards of the program for years. First, Law Enforcement Exploring provides both officers and teenagers an excellent opportunity to reach a better mutual understanding. Terry Wies, a member of Fraternal Order of Police Post 21, Lima, Ohio, and one of six recipients of the 1977 J. Edgar Hoover Foundation scholarships awarded to Explorers embarking on careers in

law enforcement, believes, "The most important aspect I've learned is that a police officer is not merely a symbol in a blue uniform, but a human being with real compassion and human problems."

Second, Exploring offers law enforcement agencies a means of recruiting local youth with strong potential for developing into career law enforcement officers. Post Adviser James P. Vuocolo reports that "about 30 percent" of the former members of Post 137, Dover Township Police Department, Toms River, N.J., have gone into the law enforcement curriculum at nearby Ocean County, N.J., Community College. He adds, "Two of our former members are working right

To find out more about how you can help Law Enforcement Exploring help you, contact your local BSA council or the National Director, Law Enforcement Exploring, Exploring Division, Boy Scouts of America, North Brunswick, N.J. 08904, or phone (201) 249-6000.

now in a Manpower program in the department. Two more have gone into the military police, one is in naval intelligence, and three are on waiting lists to join local agencies. Of approximately 150 Explorers who've been in the post, at least 10-15 are pursuing fulltime careers in law enforcement today."

Third, Explorers' direct assistance to law enforcement agencies cannot be overemphasized. The East Greenville—Pennsburg, Pa., Police Department employs 7 men and sponsors 25 Explorers in Post 66. Enthusiastic Law Enforcement Explorers can be a godsend to a department with a limited staff and budget.

In a letter to his fellow Law En-

forcement Explorers, NALEE chairman Robert L. Tompkins neatly summed up the present state of Law Enforcement Exploring. "There is no end to the capabilities our program has to offer. We have the support and backing of almost all major law enforcement agencies. We have a program that has proven successful over the past decade. But most importantly, we have the teenagers, Explorers, with a sincere interest in law enforcement; to make the entire program the most outstanding of its kind in the United States."

In 1976, the Exploring Division, BSA, received a 1-year grant from the Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). This grant, earmarked for creation of an impact program for Law Enforcement Exploring across the country, made possible: (1) The creation of a national Law Enforcement Exploring Committee; (2) the development of a Law Enforcement Exploring techniques booklet, with publication scheduled for late 1977; (3) a concentrated membership drive within designated local councils in each of BSA's six regions; (4) the identification and contact with a broader spectrum of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies; and (5) the creation of audiovisual and other promotional materials. Refunding is anticipated for another year.

A particularly valuable product of the LEAA grant has been the identification of 37 target sites for intensive development. With the help of LEAA funding, Law Enforcement Exploring should realize a 20 percent increase in membership over an 18-month period. And with the continued support of the law enforcement community, Law Enforcement Exploring will be able to give even more service to the public, law enforcement agencies, and American youth.

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