

Police Explorers

1048.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Explorers work under direct supervision and perform a variety of law enforcement training and community service in preparation for a career in law enforcement.

1048.2 EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Explorers are required to maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 ("C" grade) for all courses taken. Explorers that have graduated high school will be encouraged to continue their education with college courses. High school age students shall continue to be enrolled in high school and maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average.

1048.3 PROGRAM COORDINATOR

A Sergeant will serve as the program coordinator. The program coordinator will be responsible to ensure tracking the educational and community service hours for explorers as well as making their individual assignments at Department sponsored events. The Program Coordinator will also monitor the training provided for explorers and review all decisions affecting status in the Explorer post.

1048.3.1 PROGRAM ADVISORS

The program coordinator may select individual officers to serve as advisors for the Explorer Program. These officers will serve as mentors for the explorers. Explorers will bring special requests, concerns and suggestions to their program advisors for advice or direction before contacting the program coordinator in most cases. One advisor may be designated as the coordinator's assistant to lead scheduled meetings and training sessions involving the explorers. Multiple explorers may be assigned to each program advisor. Program advisors are not intended to circumvent the established chain of command. Any issues that may be a concern of the individual's supervisor should be referred back to the program coordinator.

A Peoria Unified School District representative will serve as an adjunct advisor on the Department's Explorer Post. The adjunct advisor will review Post policies and procedures, as well as curriculum. They will also encourage students to join the post. The adjunct advisor will report to the YSSS lieutenant/manager or designee.

1048.4 ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

Newly appointed explorers will receive an orientation of the organization and facilities before reporting to their first assignment. In addition to the agency orientation, information will be offered to prepare explorers to compete successfully in the police officer selection process, as well as the academy training. All training will focus on improving knowledge and skills in preparation to become police officers. These meetings will also offer an opportunity to receive continuous feedback regarding progress of the program.

1048.5 EXPLORER UNIFORMS

Each Explorer will be provided a class C uniform upon being selected as a member of the post. They will be provided with Class A and B uniforms upon completion of a 6-month probationary period.

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1048.6 ASSIGNMENTS

Department needs and concerns will take precedence over individual explorer considerations, with the final decision resting with the Program Coordinator.

In general, senior explorers will be assigned to positions requiring more technical skill or responsibility, including training other explorers for new assignments.

1048.7 RIDE-ALONG PROCEDURES

All explorers are authorized to participate in the RideAlong Program, provided Ride-Along standards are met. Explorer ride-alongs will be approved by the Program Coordinator. Applicable waivers must be signed in advance of the ride-along. Explorers shall wear their uniform while participating in a ridealong.

All Explorer ride-alongs must comply with curfew laws.

Explorers will only be allowed to ride with same gender patrol officers, and on a scheduled basis.

During an approved ride-along, Explorers will be riding as observers only and will follow the officer's orders. If a situation arises which might endanger the Explorer or might hinder an investigation if the Explorer is present, s (he) may be directed to remain in the police vehicle. At the officer's discretion, Explorers may assist in the following duties:

- Minor traffic and crowd control including use of flares and cones.
- Administering first aid.
- Stranded motorist assistance.

1048.8 PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

Performance evaluations for all explorers shall be completed quarterly during their first year. After the first year explorers will be evaluated annually to assess their current attendance, compliance with rules and community service hours.

1048.9 FRATERNIZATION

Employees shall not date or be romantically involved with any member of the Peoria Police Department Explorer Post. Employees will not under any circumstances have Explorers as overnight guests in their home. Employees will not have any meetings one-on-one with Explorers of the opposite sex. Any employee contemplating becoming a personal mentor of an Explorer shall contact the Personnel, Training and Youth Services Section (PTYSS) lieutenant/manager for guidance and must involve and obtain approval from the Explorer's parents and/or legal guardian in establishing their mentoring arrangements.

The PTYSS Manager and Supervisor, as well as Explorer Advisors may contact Explorers at their residence, school, and/or telephone for official business only. No other Department personnel can contact an Explorer, at their residence, school, and/or telephone without authorization from the PTYSS lieutenant/manager or designee.

Explorers are not permitted to visit any Peoria Police Department personnel at their private residence, unless authorized verbally and/or in writing by the PTYSS lieutenant/manager or designee.

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Explorers are not permitted to ride in a vehicle personally owned by any department personnel, unless authorized verbally and/or in writing by the PTYSS lieutenant/manager or designee.