



POSITION STATEMENT

Learning for Life programs are designed for all age groups from pre-kindergarten to those not yet age 21. Youth participation is open to any youth in the prescribed age group for that particular program. Adults are selected by the participating organization for involvement in the program. Color, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, disability, economic status, or citizenship are not criteria for participation by youth or adults.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Youth Focused	Professional
Customer Oriented	Quality Driven
Proactive	Fiscally Responsible
Innovative	Clear And Direct Communication

VISION

PRE-K TO 12

To provide engaging and relevant Pre-K to 12 solutions that positively impact academic performance, social and emotional maturity, character development, and career education for all students.

VISION

EXPLORING

Shape the workforce of tomorrow by engaging and mentoring today's youth in career and life-enhancing opportunities.



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

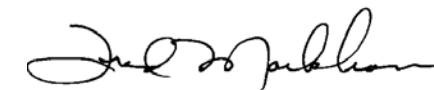
We are pleased to share program successes that demonstrate strong engagement and great achievements in the National Learning for Life 2016 Annual Report.

“Strategic priorities and initiatives” in education and career interests has been our focus. These words ring true as they show unity and strength in our mission to engage, cultivate, and mentor our youth of today.

...“Strategic priorities and initiatives”

The National Learning for Life Executive Board and Staff sincerely thank those that continue to support with their gifts, time and talents. We are extremely excited about what lies ahead!

Sincerely,



Fred Markham

Chairman, National Learning for Life Executive Board



Dr. Diane E. Thornton

National Director

EXPLORING™

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

A NEW ACTIVITY LIBRARY PACKED WITH RESOURCES

You've heard about Exploring.org's new look, and since then, you've been clamoring to get your hands on some fun resources to fuel your Exploring experience. Now, we've launched what you've been looking for—the Exploring Activity Library, full of career-specific content to serve all of your Exploring needs.

Located on the new Exploring.org, the Exploring Activity Library is loaded with 54 new activity guides available to view and download. Guides for activities in areas such as health, business, fire and EMS, science, engineering, and technology are ready for you to share. There are also guides for building life skills like leadership, customer service, and team building.

More Activities Are Rolling Out Soon!

Don't see guides for your career field? Not to worry! Activity guides for some careers aren't loaded yet, but they are on the way. In the meantime, those guides will be shaded gray with a yellow "coming soon" label, but you can click

through to get a sneak peek of what to expect when they are ready. The library will be updated regularly, so keep checking Exploring.org for the latest resources.

Scope out the activity guides for yourself and email us at exploring@lflmail.org to let us know what you think.



HOW AVIATION EXPLORING HELPS GOALS TAKE FLIGHT

There are two crucial elements to every Exploring post—youth members and adult leaders. Both are what make Exploring possible, and the stories of Didi and Tim show just how youth and leaders work to make a difference for themselves and in the lives of others.

An Explorer's Experience

Didi Aranki thought she had her future career figured out, but when she encountered an Exploring post at a local airport, her path took an unexpected turn.

"I initially thought photography was my thing. I had done that all throughout high school and [I] bought a nice camera and everything," Didi said.

Upon joining the Orange County Aviation Exploring post, Didi discovered a passion for something she had never before considered: aviation mechanics.

The new experiences, networking, and camaraderie she found within her post are what really jump-started her newfound enthusiasm. Her involvement in the post also developed her academic focus so she could begin pursuing a career as a certified airframe and power flight mechanic.

"You can't stray off when you're in high school either," Didi said. "You have to stay focused; you have to just be dedicated. ... You may find what you love without even knowing what it is."

An Advisor's Perspective

Tim Lloyd has a robust background in aviation. Not only is he a retired Air Force pilot, he also teaches aviation at a local university. So when



he learned about the opportunity to spark youth interest in the subject, he was on board.

Now serving as an advisor for the Orange County Aviation Exploring post, Tim has been able to share his flair for flying with young people, helping them explore the field of aviation.

"The aviation program has really allowed me to share my love of aviation and working with youth, and I can put the two together," Tim said.

One of the Explorers Tim shares this passion with is his son, who joined the program along with his father. His son was able to delve into the field and gain the skills needed as he now prepares to pursue a career in aviation at the Air Force Academy. Tim explains that Exploring engaged his son's interests as well as his own, keeping his enthusiasm for aviation alive.



Leadership students at Queen City High School (QCHS) in East Texas may be one of the Caddo Area Council's newest Learning for Life groups, but they are fast becoming some of the most involved participants. By taking advantage of resources offered through Learning for Life and triggering the council to build new opportunities such as the Leadership Development Workshop for High School Youth, the group set a goal of honing their skills so they can go into schools and train other young people to be leaders.

The 32 students and two teachers boarded a school bus early on December 7, 2016, bound for Little Rock, Arkansas. They carried with them all the food items necessary to serve a Mexican feast to more than 50 residents and family members at Ronald McDonald House (RMH) on the campus of Arkansas Children's Hospital.

To meet health department codes, all food must be brought in and prepared on-site. RMH administrators had suggested a simple lunch meal

such as hot dogs or Frito pie, but QCHS leadership teacher Mandi Stringer chose a made-from-scratch meal complete with sopapilla cheesecake so students would need to work together as an effective team.

In addition, some of the students stuffed bags with toiletry items that are much needed but often missed when a family is in a medical emergency and has little or no time to pack necessities.

The students and teachers also enjoyed meeting the RMH family pet, Mac the Labradoodle.

One week after the Ronald McDonald House opportunity, many from this same leadership class attended the Disney Youth Leadership Forum in Orlando, Florida.

Remember this small, rural school district of East Texas, because the residents at Ronald McDonald House in Little Rock won't ever forget them. Queen City ISD and Learning for Life are changing lives and preparing the leaders of tomorrow!

STORIES FROM THE COUNCIL

LFL PROGRAMS MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

We started a new program at North Glade Elementary called "Girl Power." We started this program with about 45 fifth-grade girls who had low self-esteem and from households where there have been situations of abuse. We met once a month and concentrated on building self-esteem as well as leadership skills. Prominent female members of the community came out and motivated the girls and worked with them on self-esteem. In June you could really see that the majority of these girls had self-confidence and were about to successfully transition to middle school.

Diane Hickman

South Florida Council | Miami Lakes, Florida

I received two cards from a fifth grade class on a day when I was feeling very overwhelmed about financing LFL. ... Anyway, we do make a difference. Youth are struggling so hard to find their place in the world and the life skills we teach give them the tools to do so. I was brought to tears that [one boy] felt the lessons I taught in the classroom were worthy to share with his cousin. ...

One other story—I was doing a lesson on stress and how to cope with it in your life when one of my fifth grade students raised his hand and ... promptly said, "Oh, Mrs. Smith, I am so stressed. I don't know what to do. I turn 12 next week and I have to decide which parent to live with now. ... I have two different sets of rules, one for my mom and one for my dad. I don't want to leave my friends." Then 11 other hands shot up in the classroom, all waving fiercely while saying, "Me too! Me too!" ... Needless to say we did not expand on things that I had THOUGHT they were stressed about: homework, chores, friendships, etc. We spent the 30 minutes talking about how to cope with choosing one parent over another. It was amazing to see the tenderness and kindness that this group of 11-12 year olds shared and the things they came up with to cope with stress. ... The LFL program gave me the ability to help them

create a forum to discuss something that weighed heavily on their minds. The youth that didn't have divorced parents learned ... how it must be for their peers to come to school every day worrying about something so hard. What a learning experience!

Georgia Smith

Greater Salt Lake Council | Salt Lake City, Utah

"Youth are struggling so hard to **find their place in the world** and the life skills we teach give them the tools to do so."

Shederika is an angry fourth-grader who is very argumentative and very disrespectful to others. For example, I saw her in the hall one day and when I said hello to her, she said, "Don't talk to me!" I told her she needed to get in line with her class and she said, "Don't tell me what to do!" Later, I talked with the girls in her class and they said that she was mean and argued with everyone. We discussed how they could help her. ... I told them that they should try to be a good example to her and some day they might get some kindness from her. ... I worked hard with this group of children to demonstrate the Learning for Life traits. And then one day, I was walking past Shederika's classroom and she was sitting in the doorway. She kindly said, "Hello." I looked around to see if anyone else was there. I said, "Are you saying hello to me?" She said, "Yes." I said, "Thank you. You just made my day by saying hello to me. Thank you." I smiled and kept walking. She smiled back at me! Mission accomplished! Lesson learned ... a little bit of kindness goes a long way.

Melanie Behrends

Gulf Coast Council | Pensacola, Florida

TWO WEEKS OF LFL FUN FOR ALL

Every school year, the Lincoln Heritage Council Learning for Life offers Adventure Camp for our Champions members. For a week in the fall and in the spring, children with mental, physical, emotional, learning, and behavioral challenges join our staff and volunteers at Camp Crooked Creek, the council's Boy Scout camp at the Harry S. Frazier Jr. Scout Reservation. Each day, a different group of students joins us in the beautiful outdoors and participates in boating, rafting, canoeing, fishing, arts and crafts, science demonstrations, music and dance therapy, archery, and marksmanship. Everyone participates because all our activities are adapted to meet any student's limitations. For many of the students, this is their only opportunity to visit a nature-filled, lake-front setting and participate in outdoor activities.

Our Champions program covers 11 counties in Kentucky and Southern Indiana. This year we had 5,313 students representing 179 schools in the program. This was a record high! At camp, we average 1,800 students each week and 100 volunteers each day. We are grateful to the sponsors we have had this past year: Kentucky Colonels, Metro United Way, United Way Central Kentucky, Prospect/Goshen Rotary, and the Crusade for Children.

Each summer our Adventure Camp committee of 13 hardy souls comes together to plan the coming school year's events. We study evaluation surveys completed by the teachers and volunteers to see what challenges need to be addressed and what activities were successful. Everyone reviews the activity stations to see where specific skilled help and supplies will be needed. We brainstorm possible new options for our students too.

Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to allow the students to return in time for their bus transportation home. For such a long day, often in the Kentucky humidity and heat, we like to say

thank you to our volunteers with breakfast and lunch. Our longtime chef, Tom, and his wife lead our kitchen in the meal shopping, preparation, and cleanup. Tom, who is paraplegic, is a wonderful example to our students about hard work and perseverance in the face of adversity.

As you can imagine, it takes a village to run this camp. We strive to promote community involvement with our public schools by recruiting volunteers for Adventure Camp. United Parcel Service has been involved for 10 years and has led the way, providing 72 volunteers and more than 1,600 hours to just one Adventure Camp. We have also partnered with the Louisville Metro Police Cadets, Jefferson County Public Schools, Volunteer Talent Center, Equine, Louisville Power Boat Squadron, and seven area high schools to provide volunteer assistance.

Adventure Camp is fun for the students, teachers, parents, and volunteers! As two of our teachers told us on their surveys:

"It's a great experience for our group. Please keep it as is—**everything is great!**"

"I just want to note how incredible this program is for my students! It gives them the opportunity to participate in activities that they do not have the opportunity to do otherwise. **I love this program!**"

Ruthe Holmberg
Learning for Life director
Lincoln Heritage Council
Louisville, Kentucky



EXPLORING SUMMERFEST

DEBUTS AT THE SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE

Explorers from around the country gathered at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, a BSA national high-adventure base for the first-ever Exploring Summerfest, July 27-30, 2016. A first-time camp experience for many of the attendees, the experience was made possible thanks in part to a donation from Wenzel.

The outdoor retreat hosted youth from the Exploring program. From experiencing the epic outdoor thrills of the Summit to kicking back at the Summerfest Luau, Explorers from all career fields participated in three days of back-to-back adventure.

Summerfest attendees ended each action-packed day by camping out in tents set throughout the Summit's incredible landscape. Since a number

of the Summerfest participants were inexperienced campers who did not have sleeping bags of their own, BSA teamed up with Wenzel—one of the Exxel Outdoors family of outdoor recreational gear brands—which donated 300 sleeping bags for the Exploring event.

"We at Wenzel are heartened and inspired by BSA's commitment to providing youth with invigorating and formative Scouting experiences at Exploring Summerfest 2016," said Tory Upham, general manager of Exxel Outdoors. "We're honored to donate sleeping bags for these new Scouts to enjoy a great night's sleep under the stars."

The outdoor retailer's sponsorship helped give these youth a camping adventure to remember.



EXPLORERS PROJECT

2016 IACP CONFERENCE

The annual International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference was held October 15–19, 2016 in San Diego, California. Twenty-five Law Enforcement Explorers from posts in the San Diego area participated in a special program called the Explorers Project on the second day of the conference. Participants included Law Enforcement Explorers representing the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, Chula Vista Police Department, National City Police Department, Gardena Police Department, and U.S. Border Patrol.

The project, cosponsored by the IACP Human and Civil Rights Committee and the National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee, along with support from the National Law Enforcement Exploring Alumni Association, provides a unique opportunity for Explorers to “shadow” chiefs, sheriffs, and agency directors for half a day during the conference.

Each Explorer is assigned to an individual chief, sheriff, or agency director who serves as his or

her mentor for the duration of the program. The Explorers are encouraged to engage their mentor in conversations about career development, education, and leadership. In turn, each mentor is encouraged to have the Explorer accompany them at scheduled training sessions in the morning and on a visit to the Exhibit Hall.

Two national committee members served as mentors for the 2016 Explorers Project: San Gabriel (California) Chief of Police David Lawton and Federal Reserve Law Enforcement Unit Chief Kathy Perez-Grines. Several other national committee members supported the Explorers Project in other ways, including Vice Chair for National Events Mike Prout, Vice Chair for Liaison and Development Kent Jefferies, Robert Tompkins, and Michael Knight.

The Explorer Project commenced with a kickoff meeting where the objectives of the program were reviewed for the participants by Rhonda Glover, FBI headquarters supervisory special agent and a member of the IACP Human and Civil Rights Committee; and Tyler Schutt, national youth

representative for Law Enforcement Exploring. Both of them challenged Explorers to take full advantage of the time with their mentors.

Prout, an assistant director of the U.S. Marshals Service, also addressed the mentors and participants at the kickoff meeting. The program concluded with a luncheon sponsored by the National Law Enforcement Exploring Alumni Association at which Gil Kerlikowske, U.S. Customs and Border Protection commissioner and chair of the National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee, spoke and introduced the keynote speaker, U.S. Border Patrol Chief Mark Morgan. In his motivational address, Morgan talked about law enforcement officers as individuals who “do good” for a living, citing as an example Dallas police officers who had risked their lives that July providing cover for a protestor and her children who were in danger from gunfire. Will Johnson, chief of police in Arlington, Texas, and chair of the Human and Civil Rights Committee—who was serving as a mentor for the second year—also

shared some inspirational thoughts with the group. Special thanks are due to Glover and Jennifer Rolfe, staff liaison of the Human and Civil Rights Committee, for their contributions in organizing an outstanding experience for the Explorers and mentors. And thanks to all the mentors who supported the Explorers Project this year.

Plans are underway for the Explorers Project that will be conducted at the 2017 IACP Conference in Philadelphia.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORING



In 2015, the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing introduced recommendations to increase the trust between law enforcement and the communities they protect and serve.

One of the key pillars introduced in these recommendations focused on the need to actively build positive relationships with community. **Law Enforcement Exploring empowers community policing efforts.** Exploring serves as a catalyst for social connectivity by actively building positive relationships through consistent civil engagement. Respectful interactions through the Exploring program help law enforcement and community members establish mutual trust and cooperation—key elements of community policing.

In an effort to support this federal initiative and to continue the success of Exploring, the National Exploring Team has collaborated with BSA’s Marketing and Diversity teams to outline resources that already exist to support your local Law Enforcement Exploring growth efforts.

The Plan

The plan is simple—show your support of community policing by building meaningful relationships with the law enforcement agencies in your communities. Together with law enforcement agencies, we aim to make positive, lasting impacts on the future of more youth than ever before using the Exploring program as the means to reach your mutual goal. You can accomplish the goal using the tools and methods designed by the National Exploring team specifically for this purpose. Review the attached one-page plan for a list of specific actions and resources.

EXPLORING[™]
DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

Professional and Volunteer Recognition

The goal is to start two new Law Enforcement Exploring units—posts or clubs—in every district in every council utilizing volunteers to help ensure the four phases are completed. Exploring units registered during the 2017 calendar year (January 1 through the close of membership) will qualify for this recognition. Applications will be collected via online form in January 2018. The link to the online form will be sent via Scout executive council packet as well as other communication channels. **New units will be verified.** Each person will not receive more than one coin and one vest.

One volunteer and one professional will qualify when working together to complete all four phases of starting new Law Enforcement Exploring units. It is also acceptable for two volunteers to work together. In other words, a maximum of two people—one of which must be a volunteer—can qualify for the recognition. Professionals cannot

earn this recognition on their own. **Each volunteer/professional may earn a maximum of one coin and one vest.**

LEVEL 1 RECOGNITION

COMMEMORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT
EXPLORING CHALLENGE COIN

To qualify, the pair must start and register one NEW Law Enforcement Exploring unit. Each person will receive a coin.

LEVEL 2 RECOGNITION

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORING FLEECE VEST

To qualify, the pair must start two NEW Law Enforcement Exploring units. The vest will display the Law Enforcement Exploring logo with a “Strengthening Communities” theme. Each person will receive the vest.



INTRODUCE **EXPLORING** TO YOUR COMMUNITY **TODAY**

- Establish or expand Exploring posts and clubs in communities from coast to coast.
- Help develop Exploring partnerships with influential law enforcement organizations, such as the DOJ, IACP, NSA, NOBLE, and HAPCOA.
- Share success stories within your organizations as well as with local media.
- Support the Exploring program by helping fund more dedicated resources and champions that will focus on growing Law Enforcement Exploring across the country through the local Boy Scouts of America councils.

www.exploringexplosion.org

2016

EXPLORING

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

AVIATION EXPLORING

- Skylar Peterson**
Commemorative Air Force, Post 2352 | Mesa, AZ
Grand Canyon Council | Phoenix, AZ
- Kristian Nyman**
Commemorative Air Force, Post 2352 | Mesa, AZ
Grand Canyon Council | Phoenix, AZ
- Austin Thompson**
Commemorative Air Force, Post 2352 | Mesa, AZ
Grand Canyon Council | Phoenix, AZ
- Jack Cudecki**
Windy City Flyers, Post 9 | Wheeling, IL
Pathway to Adventure Council | Chicago, IL
- Diar “Didi” Aranki**
AFI Flight Training Center, Post 445 | Yorba Linda, CA
Orange County Council | Santa Ana, CA
- Ryan Coats**
Commemorative Air Force, Post 2352 | Mesa, AZ
Grand Canyon Council | Phoenix, AZ
- Sara Svec**
San Fernando Valley Chapter of 99’s Inc./American Airport, Post 747 | Sylmar, CA
Western Los Angeles County Council | Van Nuys, CA
- Daniel Carpenter**
Commemorative Air Force, Post 2352 | Mesa, AZ
Grand Canyon Council | Phoenix, AZ
- Kellan Bradshaw**
Commemorative Air Force Post, 2352 | Mesa, AZ
Grand Canyon Council | Phoenix, AZ
- Monique McAnnally**
San Fernando Valley Chapter of 99’s Inc./American Airport, Post 747 | Sylmar, CA
Western Los Angeles County Council | Van Nuys, CA
- MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION**
Matthew Trojanowski
Commemorative Air Force, Post 2352 | Mesa, AZ
Grand Canyon Council | Phoenix, AZ
- Victoria Rose-Burke**
Wyandanch-Wheatley Heights Ambulance Corps, Post 1289 | Wyandanch, NY
Suffolk County Council | Medford, NY

- Joseph Carmichael**
Glendale Fire Department, Post 2045 | Glendale, OH
Dan Beard Council | Cincinnati, OH
- Oscar Escarcega**
Cobb County Police Explorers, Post 5 | Marietta, GA
Atlanta Area Council | Atlanta, GA
- Isaiah Murillo**
Lubbock Police Department, Post 999 | Lubbock, TX
South Plains Council | Lubbock, TX
- HISPANIC AMERICAN POLICE
COMMAND OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
(HAPCOA)**
Rebecca N. Long
Phoenix Police Department, Post 2906 | Phoenix, AZ
Grand Canyon Council | Phoenix, AZ
- NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
EXPLORING YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE
SCHOLARSHIP**
Cynthia Garcia
U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Post 707 | Chicago, IL
Pathway to Adventure Council | Chicago, IL
- Sabrina Capriotti**
Howell Township Police Department, Post 154 | Howell, NJ
Monmouth Council | Morganville, NJ
- THE JAMES E. BREINING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**
Dennis Stack VI
Marlboro Township Police Department, Post 105 | Marlboro, NJ
Monmouth Council | Morganville, NJ
- CAPTAIN JAMES J. REGAN
SCHOLARSHIP**
Kimberly Wiley
Copley Township Police Department, Post 2600 | Copley, OH
Great Trail Council | Akron, OH

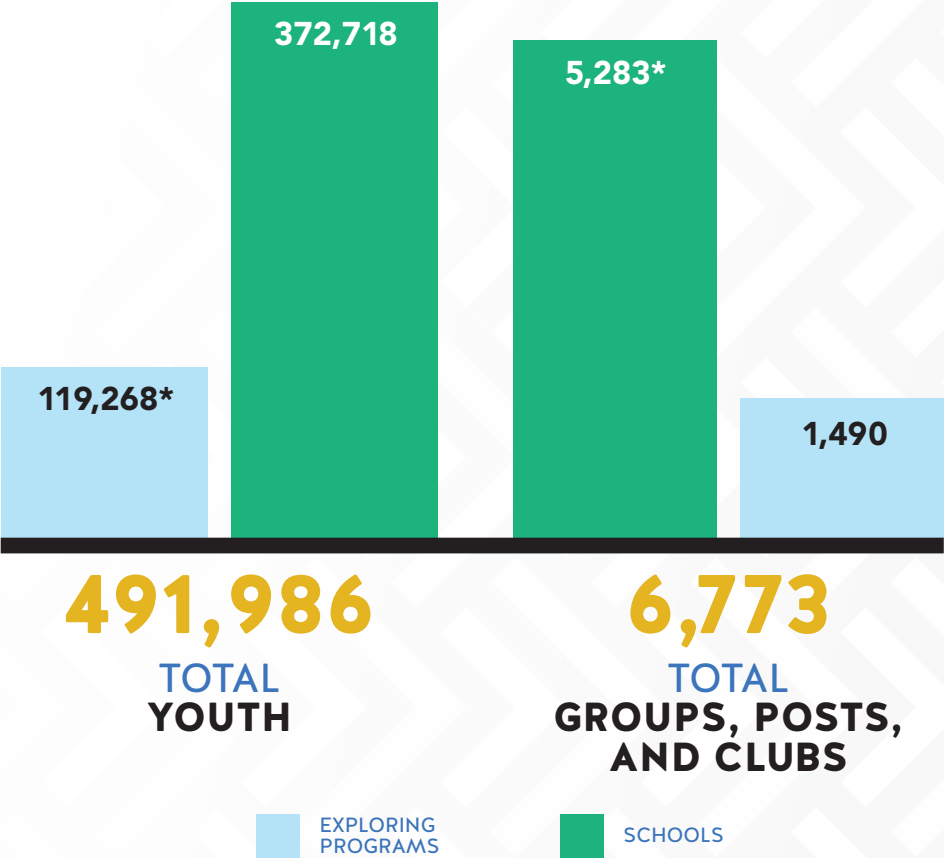
- Vincent Mazzola**
St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, Post 9269 | St. Louis, MO
Greater St. Louis Area Council | St. Louis, MO
- SHERYL A. HORAK
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**
Melissa Mae Hetzel
Hartford Police Department, Post 9910 | Hartford, WI
Bay Lakes Council | Appleton, WI
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FIRE CHIEFS FOUNDATION (IACF)**
Victoria-Rose Burke
Wyandanch-Wheatley Heights Ambulance Corp, Post 1289 | Wyandanch, NY
Suffolk County Council | Medford, NY

- Jonathan I. Kuo**
Los Angeles County Fire Department, Post 5 | Los Angeles, CA
Western Los Angeles County Council | Van Nuys, CA
- Austin Leggert**
Spring Grove Fire Protection District, Post 1800 | Spring Grove, IL
Blackhawk Area Council | Rockford, IL
- Morgan H. Schmitz**
Novato Fire District, Post 61 | Novato, CA
Marin Council | San Rafael, CA
- Mark J. Liepins**
Elburn Country Side Fire Protection | Elburn, IL
Three Fires Council | St. Charles, IL

2016

LFL

PARTICIPATION



* The Explorers and posts/clubs data includes STEM pilot participants.

REAL WORD CAREER EXPERIENCES

Exploring is an innovative, worksite-based program. Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and the organizations in their communities. Local community organizations initiate a specific 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.

The 12 career fields are aligned to the 16 U.S. Department of Education career clusters.

Explorer Clubs
Interest in the concept of career orientation has skyrocketed in recent years, due in large part to the focus of the U.S. Department of Education. All over the country, schools are conducting research into the career interests of middle school students.

The National Service Center has responded by creating new and innovative coeducational Explorer Club programs for students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. There is also a new Explorer Journey to Excellence program through which councils and districts will receive recognition for growth in membership and density.



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