



# STRENGTHENING YOUTH THROUGH **EXPLORING**<sup>TM</sup>

## Wildland Firefighting







# WHAT IS EXPLORING™

Exploring is all about helping young men and women 14 through 20 years old to make a more informed decision about future careers and determine if a particular career is the right one for them. Typically, a young adult will either: 1) get involved, learn about a career, and decide to pursue it; OR 2) learn enough about the career to determine it's not the right fit for them. It's better to learn as a young adult that a career is not for you, than after spending lots of money on an education only to THEN discover you don't like the career!

Exploring leaders volunteer their time to provide real-world career experiences for young adults. Exploring is not about lectures and slide shows—it's about gaining practical experience in a career field. The result is a program of activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, and develop.



**FIRE  
& EMS**



Explorers get to experience firsthand what it's like to be a volunteer or full-time firefighter and emergency service provider through firefighting training and ride-alongs during actual fire calls.

## EXPLORERS WILL:

- Learn important leadership skills
- Participate in hands-on projects to give them a real feel for whether this career is the right one for them
- Network with professionals who work in these careers daily and who use the latest technology
- Learn about the educational requirements for a career in fire and emergency services and receive tangible advice on steps they can take now to prepare and position themselves for a successful career in the field of fire and EMS

## EVERYONE WINS WITH EXPLORING!

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

### AGENCY BENEFITS

- Recruit and train future employees
- Improved/increased retention in the workforce
- Impact the education process of youth
- Demonstrate visible commitment to the welfare of the community

### EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Be an integral part of shaping a young man's or woman's future
- Increased opportunity for advancement within the company
- Leadership & mentoring skills improved
- Influence the future

### YOUTH BENEFITS

- Practical, real-world career experiences
- Develop character and leadership skills
- Make new friends
- Obtain experiences that can be listed on college, and job applications
- Obtain a career

### OTHER BENEFITS

- Source of qualified call-when-needed firefighters
- Community service & improvement
- Volunteer work for Forest and community
- Improved public service

## 5 AREAS OF EMPHASIS

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

LIFE SKILLS

CITIZENSHIP

CHARACTER EDUCATION

## Purpose & Intent

- Recruit young men and women into US Forest Service Fire careers
- Train and prepare Explorers to become entry-level wildland firefighters
- Assist Explorers in obtaining wildland fire careers
- Hire Explorers into US Forest Service Careers

## OUR VISION

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







## SCHOLARSHIPS

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF FIRE CHIEFS FOUNDATION  
EXPLORER SCHOLARSHIP**

**FIRE SAFETY EXPLORING  
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS FOUNDATION PUBLIC  
SAFETY EXPLORER SCHOLARSHIP**

Learn more at

[www.exploring.org/fire-ems/](http://www.exploring.org/fire-ems/)  
<http://explorewildfire.com/>

Email

[sm.fs.explorers@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.explorers@usda.gov)

**EXPLORING™**  
DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

## Training & Skills gained

- Firefighting (Engine, Hand Crew, Helitack, Other)
- Fire Prevention
- 1st Aid/CPR
- Aviation Operations
- Leadership
- Firing Devices and Operations
- Fire Behavior
- Incident Command
- Firefighting tools, chainsaws & pumps
- Communications and use of radios
- Land Navigation
- Personal/Public Safety
- Much more

