



Drone Exploring: Career Spotlights

Military Operations — Club

Overview: The military uses drones to scout areas, deliver supplies, and support training exercises, letting service members gather important information without putting themselves in danger first. In this session, youth learn about the reconnaissance and support roles drones play for the military and practice a hands-on “recon relay” activity that mirrors how a scouting team reports information back to a command team.

OBJECTIVES

- Introduce youth to the career of using drones to support military operations.
- Explain how drones help the military scout areas and deliver supplies safely.
- Practice clear communication and reporting through a hands-on relay activity.
- Build awareness of teamwork, chain of command, and careful communication in military operations.

SUPPLIES

- Flip chart or whiteboard and markers
- Cones or chalk to mark a scouting area for the relay activity
- Hidden cards or objects representing information to be found and reported
- Walkie-talkies or a simple verbal relay system (optional)
- Printed handouts: How the Military Uses Drones and Recon Relay Report

ADVISOR NOTES

- Keep the focus on reconnaissance (scouting and observing), logistics (delivering supplies), and training support — all age-appropriate, non-combat uses of military drones.
- Emphasize clear, accurate communication: A scouting report is only useful if it's reported correctly to the team that needs it.
- Discuss how military drone missions involve careful teamwork between a pilot, sensor operator, and command team.
- Consider inviting a guest speaker (a veteran, ROTC or JROTC instructor, or someone who has worked with military or defense-related drone programs) to share their experience. See Optional Extensions.
- If no guest speaker is available, Advisors can run the entire session using this outline and the resource links below.

SESSION OUTLINE

- **Welcome and Icebreaker** (10 min)
 - “Scout It Out:” Ask youth how a team might safely check what’s over a hill or around a corner without walking into danger first.
- **Safety Moment (Careful Communication Saves Lives)** (10 min)
 - Military teams rely on clear, accurate reports to make good, safe decisions.
 - A drone can scout ahead so people don’t have to walk into an unknown or risky area first.
 - Ask: “Why do you think a clear chain of command and accurate reporting matters so much in a military operation?”
- **Mini-Lesson: How the Military Uses Drones** (15 min)
 - Explain reconnaissance (scouting and observing an area), logistics support (delivering supplies), and training support (helping practice realistic exercises safely).
 - Discuss how a drone team usually includes a pilot and a sensor operator working together, reporting to a command team.

- **Activity: Recon Relay Challenge** (20–25 min)
 - Mark off a scouting area with a few hidden information cards placed around it.
 - One scout team searches the area and reports findings accurately back to a command team, who records the information on the Recon Relay Report.
 - Compare how accurately each team's report matched what was actually found.
- **Discussion: Why Accuracy and Speed Both Matter** (10 min)
 - Discuss how a report that's fast but wrong, or accurate but too slow, could both cause problems for a real team.
- **Wrap-Up Share-Out** (10 min)
 - Groups share their Recon Relay Reports and discuss what made communication clear or confusing.

REFLECTION SECTION

Advisor Note: Some sample questions are below. They are designed to help the participants apply what they have learned to their own interests. You are welcome to use these questions or develop your own.

Focusing Questions

- What was tricky about reporting information accurately and quickly?
- What surprised you about the different roles on a drone team (pilot, sensor operator, command)?

Analysis Questions

- Why does a scouting report need to be both fast and accurate to be useful?
- How could a drone help a team avoid walking into an unknown or risky situation?

Generalization Questions

- Where else in life does clear, accurate communication under pressure matter?
- What's one thing you learned today about teamwork in a military operation?

Challenge: This week, practice giving someone clear, step-by-step directions to a location and see how accurately they can follow them.

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Guest Speaker: Invite a veteran, ROTC or JROTC instructor, or someone who has worked with military or defense-related drone programs to share their experience, in person or by video call.

Advisor-Led Option: If a guest speaker isn't available, Advisors can run this session using the outline above and the resource links below. No outside expert is required.

Resource Links: Search "military reconnaissance drones explained" on a video platform for kid-friendly explainer videos.

Group Extension: Design a simple "mission report" form your team would use to report what a scouting drone found.

Handout: How the Military Uses Drones

Military Operations — Club

Read through the key ideas below before starting the Recon Relay Challenge.

Reconnaissance

Drones scout and observe an area from above, helping teams understand a situation before deciding what to do next.

Logistics Support

Drones can deliver supplies to hard-to-reach locations, reducing risk for delivery teams.

Training Support

Drones help create realistic training exercises so service members can practice safely.

Teamwork and Communication

A drone mission usually involves a pilot, a sensor operator, and a command team working together and communicating clearly.

Handout: Recon Relay Report

Military Operations — Club

As the scout team reports back, record exactly what they found and where.

Item Found	Location	Reported By