



Drone Exploring: Career Spotlights

Security/Surveillance/Scouting — Post

Overview: This session takes a serious look at drones in private security, event scouting, and surveillance as a career, including the roles involved (drone security operator, event safety scout, critical infrastructure monitoring), the certifications and legal considerations (FAA Part 107, privacy law, private security licensing), and realistic pay ranges. Explorers plan a mock security scouting mission for an event venue, identifying vantage points, blind spots, and a communication plan with ground security.

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the roles involved in drone-based private security, surveillance, and event scouting.
- Learn the certifications and legal considerations relevant to this field: FAA Part 107, privacy law basics, and private security licensing where applicable.
- Identify realistic pay ranges across entry-level and specialized security drone roles.
- Practice planning a mock security scouting mission for an event venue.

SUPPLIES

- Laptop and projector to show sample event security planning diagrams or venue maps
- Printed handouts: Career Pathway — Drone Security/Scouting Operator and Venue Scouting Worksheet
- Whiteboard or flip chart and markers
- A sample venue map or aerial image for the scouting activity

ADVISOR NOTES

- This session is career-focused: Use real certification and legal considerations, real pay ranges, and real industry examples rather than a hobbyist framing.
- Emphasize that privacy law varies by location, and any real surveillance or security work must follow local laws in addition to FAA rules.
- Distinguish this role from sworn law enforcement. This session covers private security, event safety, and critical infrastructure monitoring roles.
- Consider inviting a guest speaker who works in private security, event safety, or critical infrastructure monitoring to share their career path. See Optional Extensions.
- If no guest speaker is available, Advisors can run the entire session using this outline, the Career Pathway handout, and the resource links below.

SESSION OUTLINE

- **Welcome and Icebreaker** (10 min)
 - “What large space (a stadium, campus, or festival) do you think would be hardest to keep secure, and why?”
- **Legal and Regulatory Moment: Certification and Privacy** (10–15 min)
 - Review the FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate: minimum age 16, required knowledge test.
 - Discuss that private security drone work often also requires a private security license depending on state or local law, in addition to Part 107.
 - Introduce basic privacy law considerations: Security drones should stay focused on the property or event they’re responsible for, not incidentally record private areas.
- **Mini-Lesson: Careers in Drone Security and Scouting** (15–20 min)
 - Roles: drone security operator, event safety scout, critical infrastructure monitoring specialist.
 - Typical pay: average hourly pay around \$26.61 (most between \$21-\$31/hour); drone inspection-adjacent roles \$40,000-\$70,000/year; specialized roles in critical infrastructure or high-demand industries can exceed

\$100,000/year.

- Discuss how this field overlaps with, but is distinct from, sworn law enforcement drone use.

– **Activity: Plan a Venue Security Scouting Mission (25–30 min)**

- Using a sample venue map, small groups use the Venue Scouting Worksheet to identify vantage points, blind spots, entry and exit points, and a communication plan with the ground security team.

– **Wrap-Up Discussion (10 min)**

- Groups present their scouting plans.
- Discuss the concrete steps (certification, licensing, experience) needed to pursue this as a career.

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 surprised you about the legal considerations involved in this field, beyond just flying safely?
- Which part of this role (scouting, monitoring, coordinating with ground teams) sounds most interesting to you?

Analysis Questions

- Why is it important for a security drone operator to stay within a clearly defined area of responsibility?
- What could go wrong if a security scouting mission didn't identify blind spots ahead of time?

Generalization Questions

- How is planning for potential problems ahead of time useful in other careers or situations?
- What other careers require balancing safety responsibilities with respecting people's rights, like this one does?

Challenge: This week, research your state's laws on private security licensing and drone surveillance and note one requirement that surprised you.

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Guest Speaker: Invite someone who works in private security, event safety, or critical infrastructure monitoring to share their career path and take questions, in person or by video call.

Advisor-Led Option: If no guest speaker is available, Advisors can run the full session using this outline, the Career Pathway handout, and the resource links below. No outside expert is required.

Resource Links: FAA Part 107 overview ([faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators](https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators)); state private security licensing board websites; industry associations for security professionals.

Extension Project: Explorers who are 16 or older can begin studying for the actual Part 107 knowledge test using the FAA's free study guide.

Handout: Career Pathway — Drone Security or Scouting Operator

Security/Surveillance/Scouting — Post

A typical path into this field looks like this:

1. Interest and Hobby Flying

Learn basic drone operation and become comfortable with camera and gimbal controls.

2. FAA Part 107 Certification (Age 16+)

Pass the FAA knowledge test to legally fly for pay.

3. Private Security Licensing (if required)

Check state and local requirements. Many jurisdictions require a private security license for this type of work.

4. Entry-Level Security and Scouting Roles

Entry-level roles pay roughly \$21-\$31/hour on average.

5. Specialized Roles

Critical infrastructure monitoring or specialized industry roles (energy, construction, film) can exceed \$100,000/year.

Handout: Venue Scouting Worksheet

Security/Surveillance/Scouting — Post

Use this worksheet to plan your mock venue security scouting mission.

Planning Item	Your Plan	Notes and Risks
Entry and exit points		
Vantage points for coverage		
Blind spots identified		
Communication plan with ground team		
Privacy boundaries to respect		