

Memorandum

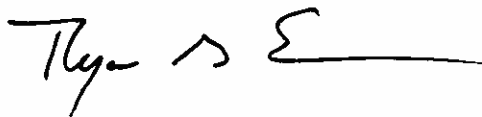


Date: September 3, 2009

To: Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway, Chair
and Members of the Public Safety Committee

Subject: Explorer Program

The Public Safety Committee will be briefed on the Explorer Program on Tuesday, September 8, 2009.



Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

- c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
 - Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
 - Deborah Watkins, City Secretary
 - Tom Perkins, City Attorney
 - Craig Kinton, City Auditor
 - Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge
 - Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
 - A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
 - Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
 - Dave K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer
 - Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council Office



Dallas Fire-Rescue

Explorer Program

**Billy Robinson
Battalion Chief
(Post Advisor)
Emergency Response Division**

September 8, 2009



Overview

- The Dallas Fire-Rescue Explorer Program is designed for young adults who are interested in firefighting and emergency medical services:
 - Targets students from ages 14 to 20
 - Emphasizes education and safety
 - Teaches 5 core values for future life skills
 - Creates mentoring relationships
 - Opens career paths for participants
 - Assists DFR members in the field with added manpower
 - Builds self-esteem

Mission Statement

To enable young people to become responsible individuals by teaching positive character traits, career development, leadership skills, social skills, and life skills.



Exploring: Defined

- Exploring is Learning for Life's career education program for high school students:
 - Learning for Life (.org) is under the umbrella of the Boy Scouts of America, comprised of the school-based character education program
- Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youths and community organizations
- Explorers are young adults with an interest in specific career paths

Explorer Posts

- There are currently over 60 Explorer Posts across the United States:
 - These posts include about 1,400 Explorers
- Career fields of interest for youths:
 - Fire service
 - Law enforcement
 - Medical services
 - Aviation
 - Finance
 - Communications

Area Fire Departments with Explorer Posts

PAID:

- Allen
- Dallas
- Garland
- McKinney
- Plano
- Richardson
- Waxahachie
- Wylie

VOLUNTEER:

- Celina
- Collinsville
- Gunter
- Howe
- Melissa
- Retreat
- Westside

Explorer History

- The DFR Explorer Program began eight years ago
- There are 30-40 students currently active in the program
- Five have been hired by the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department
- 25% of Explorers completing our program apply to fire departments state-wide



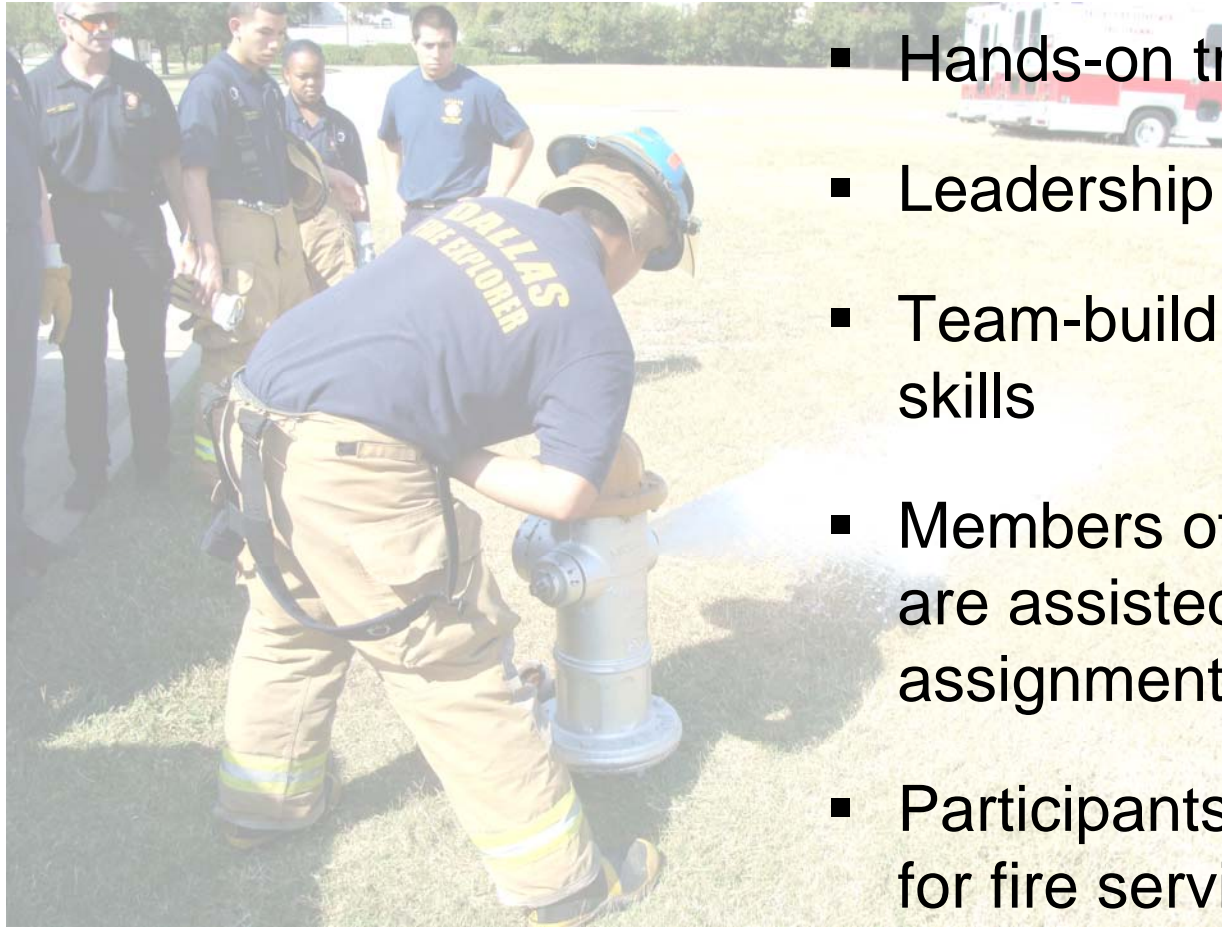
Training as an Explorer

- Orientation/Entry
- Classroom instruction
- Hands-on activities
- Community service
- Ride-outs
- Safety emphasized

5 Fundamental Opportunities

- Career opportunities
- Leadership experience
- Life skills
- Character education
- Citizenship

Benefits of Exploring



- Hands-on training
- Leadership skills
- Team-building and social skills
- Members of our Department are assisted with tasks and assignments
- Participants have an avenue for fire service training

Program Requirements

- Open to all those meeting the following criteria:
 - Maintain a “C” average
 - No criminal history
 - Age: 14-20

Explorer Activities

- Station level:
 - Assist with daily duties
- EMS runs:
 - Assist Paramedics with simple patient care
 - Learn to work as a team
 - Learn by observation
- Fire ground events:
 - NO active firefighting activities at structure fires



Explorer Ride-Outs

- To participate in Ride-Outs, requirements are as follows:
 - 6 months of active participation
 - CPR/AED/First Aid certification
 - Display appropriate maturity level
 - Sufficient training to assist at emergency scenes
 - Demonstrate an understanding of safety rules
 - Obtain an ID card

Explorer Etiquette

- Explorers are expected to act in a manner that befits 'rookie' status, with due respect for our members:
 - Show maturity and respect in every way
 - Work hard to achieve goals
 - Be first to offer assistance
 - Encouraged to ask questions for understanding

Explorer Safety Rules

- Blue helmets distinguish Explorers from DFR Firefighters
- No teenagers after 10:00 pm at fire stations
- Close supervision at fire scenes
- No activity in the “hot” or danger zone
- Communication is paramount:
 - Radios for location, listening skills, and immediate response



Mentoring Relationships

- Dallas Firefighters and Paramedics develop mentoring relationships and serve as role models for the Explorers
- Requirements for our members serving as mentors:
 - Certified Firefighter/Paramedic
 - Complete Adult Protection Course; module completed online at www.LearningForLife.org
 - Pay yearly dues of \$10.00 to Boy Scouts of America
 - Possess the necessary attitude and leadership attributes

Success Stories!

- 5 current DFR members started with Explorers
- 6-10 Explorers apply each year to become Firefighters with fire departments in the area, including Dallas Fire-Rescue!



Explorer Information

- To learn more about DFR's Explorer program, please go to www.dallasfirerescue.com and click on the Explorer link
- Information about 'Learning for Life' can be found at www.learningforlife.org

Questions?

