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. Suhr, 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, the City that works: Diverse, Vibrant and Progressive"
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
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
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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!
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?