



Venice Police Explorers
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Dear Explorers and Parents,

This year the Explorers of Post #86 have given approx 786 hours of their time to better themselves and aid the community. During weekly meetings, in excess of 350 hours, the Explorers gained confidence and discipline while learning law enforcement skills including how to direct traffic, search a building, and effectively talk to people. The Explorers were then able to practice their newly acquired skills at details ranging from night security at the Women's Sertoma Sun Fiesta, parking cars at the first annual Cirquesa event, and presenting the colors at the annual Do the Right Thing Banquet. Many of the details are compensated by a monetary contribution to the post, though the Venice Police Explorers also donated their time and services to the community by assisting in the US Postal Service's annual food drive, participating in the Challenger Baseball program, and registering free bikes given away at a Christmas party for families in need. No matter the detail, all participating Explorers gained a greater sense of what it means to serve their community.

The Explorer program is also an outlet for fun and safe youth events. The Explorers were able to participate in a Florida-wide Explorer function, quarterly Delegates meetings, and enjoyed the overnight stay. During the delegates meetings the Explorers receive scenario based training and have free time to associate with other youth interested in law enforcement. This year they also had training in different law enforcement and corrections positions available. The Explorers were able to tour a large county jail to learn about careers within the corrections system and they heard bailiffs discuss a harrowing day in which there was a gun man in the courthouse. Explorers also heard from a member of a Sheriff's department aviation unit and were able to tour a law enforcement helicopter as well as a crime lab.

The annual awards banquet was held on December 15th, 2009. Though the Explorer Post was much smaller this year than in past years, we had the highest percentage of participation in years! All of the eligible Explorers received the Unit Service award for attending at least 75% of the weekly meetings. Also, three quarters of eligible Explorers received the Community Service award for participating in at least 65% of the program details throughout the year. At the ceremony, Explorers were acknowledged for their commitment to their community and for self growth. Explorer First Class Hajroja was awarded a plaque for the most service hours. She worked a total of 140.5 hours in 2009. This year, she also earned top honors and was given the Leadership Award for the actions she has taken throughout the year. EFC. Hajroja is dedicated, hard working, and has exemplified the terms "Step up." She leads by example and has been a line of communication between explorers and advisors, making reminder

calls and keeping track of those attending details. Hajroja rarely misses weekly Explorer meetings. At meetings she is often asked to take the lead in scenarios and also, as the most senior explorer, she is asked to explain past experiences that new explorers have not yet had. She has written many of the post Thank You letters to guest speakers and has also voluntarily written up some training materials for Post #86. Post Chaplain Danny Gordon should also be recognized as he had a near perfect attendance record, missing only two of the weekly meetings during his time with the Post. Explorers Alison Fussell and Zach Carpenter are new to the post, joining in the summer of 2009. They have brought humor and new life to the post. Even the two most recent additions, joining in late fall, have shown their dedication. Exp Nick Laterza has attended every detail Post #86 has worked since he joined, and Exp. Anthony Inzetta has attended every meeting since joining the post.

All of the above named Explorers exemplify the purpose for Venice Police Explorers Post #86. They are learning life skills that will not only prepare them for jobs in law enforcement or the military, but will also provide them the confidence and knowledge to run a board meeting, or perform under pressure in a medical emergency situation. Along with the life experience they are gaining, the Explorers are also learning to be socially responsible citizens involved in their communities by giving back to the public and acquiring an understanding of service to others. They learn professionalism while directing impatient traffic, or simply how to compose oneself while in a uniform and in public. They learn compassion and kindness as they deal with a wiggling child afraid of the ink pad or an elderly person intent on registering their bike. Also, as budgets have been cut and fund raising efforts increased, the Explorers are learning financial responsibility and that one must work for the things he wants.

The Explorers mature mentally and emotionally in the post and leave having gained a better ability to work amongst peers, with the strength to make good decisions, and a pride in themselves. Explorer Advisors Sgt. Whitehead, Det. Kolodgy, Ofc. McGee, and Ofc. Woodworth have provided countless hours of their own time for the achievement of these goals. We thank all who have supported Post #86 this year. We hope to continue bettering the lives of area youth and serving the community and we appreciate the opportunity to serve as good will ambassadors for the Venice Police Department and the City of Venice.

Det. J. Kolodgy #274
Explorer Post #86 Senior Advisor

Sgt. Whitehead #157
Training and Youth Sergeant

Ofc. McGee #319
Associate Advisor

Ofc. Woodworth #325
Associate Advisor