



Riverdale Fire-Rescue Department

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Emergency Medical Services
Special Operations
Training/Recruitment
Fire Prevention
Inspectional Services
Arson Investigations

DEPARTMENT EXPLORER POST PROGRAM



The Explorer Program is the Boy Scout's Learning for Life career education program for young men and women who are between the ages of 14 and 18 years. The Explorer Program is designed to provide experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults, and is based on five (5) simple principles:

- Career Opportunities
- Citizenship
- Leadership Experience
- Life Skills
- Character Education

The Riverdale Fire-Rescue Department is committed to the Boy Scout Learning for Life Explorer Program as it provides a unique and dynamic relationship between the youths of Riverdale and the fire service, allowing for youths to pursue their special interests, to grow and develop, and to provide them with a positive future outlook and potential career path, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, or economic status. It is supported by the International Fire Chiefs Association as well as the United States Fire Administration.



Working in conjunction with area schools, the Riverdale Fire-Rescue Explorer Program will work with area youths to enable them the opportunity to expand beyond their means to reach further towards their full potential. In addition, the Explorer Program offers unique scholarship opportunities ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

Mission Statement:

“Only through education and commitment to ourselves and our community, can we become a creative, highly motivated group, while establishing ourselves as respectable and dignified individuals, as we work towards the objectives of an organization devoted to serve the common good”.

With respect to the local residents of Riverdale and the fire service:

- We shall strive to learn about the fire service and better ourselves through education, while supporting the Riverdale Fire-Rescue Department in the most efficient, productive and effective manner possible;
- And promote the principles of democracy through good citizenship and participation in worthwhile civic and community activities.

With respect to the people and community of Riverdale which we serve:

- We shall conduct ourselves and our business in the highest traditions of the American Fire Service and the Riverdale Fire-Rescue Department;
- Treat those we serve, fairly, with compassion and respect, regardless of their rank, lifestyle, race, color, creed, sex, national origin or economic status;
- And within the community of Riverdale, be a good example and role model in every respect.

With respect to the fire service profession:

- We shall embrace the principles of professionalism, using personal initiatives to achieve success and work diligently to see that the fire service standards and ethics are never compromised or lowered;
- And invest our own time and talent for the well-being and advancement of the fire service.

With respect to the organization of the Riverdale Fire-Rescue Department and ourselves:

- We shall exercise our individual talent and energy to reduce injuries, death and property loss from fire, domestic terrorism, hazardous materials and other related emergencies;
- For each of us to be a leader, motivating those above us and below us by quality time and spirit in our actions;
- And to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem, and support the organization and its mission, through personal commitments, professionalism, good character, pride, and team work.

We recognize the essential qualities of a cadet firefighter as:

- The desire to serve, the ability to perform, and the courage to act.

Purpose:

To give the youth of the community interested in the fire service, an opportunity to learn about the fire service through classroom and hands-on activities, to gain knowledge from this experience, to become role models for younger peers, and to become better citizens throughout the community.

Target Group:

Youths between the age of 14 and 18 who live in the Village of Riverdale or nearby surrounding communities.

Goals:

The goals of the Riverdale Fire-Rescue Department Explorer Program are:

1. To instill a positive self-image.
2. To teach individuals to work in a group setting.
3. To develop leadership skills.
4. To raise awareness of the fire service and its position in the community.
5. To create the future firefighters of our community.
6. To provide a possibility of a brighter future for the youth of the community.

Group Leader:

The Explorer Group Leader will be the Program Coordinator, who will report directly to the Fire Chief or his designee.

Meeting Time and Days:

Classroom and practical meetings shall be on Wednesdays of the month from 6pm to 8:30pm. Actual meeting dates may be rescheduled or canceled due to holidays, or other reasons, as necessary.

Uniforms:

The participant will be responsible for obtaining portions of their own duty uniforms. Duty uniform shirts shall be supplied by the department. Turnout gear will be issued by the department. The color orange has been established as the color to identify the participant as an Explorer/Cadet, as to distinguish them from firefighters.

- The duty uniform shall consist of:
 - An orange polo-shirt with the Riverdale Fire-Rescue Department Scramble logo on the front with the word "EXPLORER" on the back. The lettering shall be in bold, white letters.
 - Navy Dickie-style or BDU-style pants, with a black belt.
 - Black work boots (no gym shoes).
- The turnout gear shall consist of:
 - A Cairns 880 helmet with reflective orange tetrahedrons and the word "EXPLORER" in reflective lettering clearly along each side.
 - A turnout coat with the word "EXPLORER" marked along the back.
 - Turnout pants and boots.
 - Firefighting gloves and Nomex hood.

Lesson Plan:

The Explorers shall learn the different aspects of the fire service from classroom and hands-on evolutions, following the standards established by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) towards future certification as a Basic Firefighter and First Responder.

At NO TIME will an Explorer go into an uncontrolled live fire.

Explorers will also be taken on several field trips to aid in developing an understanding of the fire service. These field trips may consist of, but not be limited to:

- Local 911 Centers:
 - E-Com Dispatch
 - Orland Dispatch

- Area Fire Departments
- Area Fire Academies:
 - Orland Fire Academy
 - Tinley Park Fire Academy
 - Chicago Fire Academy

Community Service:

Explorers of the Riverdale Fire-Rescue Department shall take part in, but not be limited to the following:

- Local Fests and Other Such Public Events
- Blood Drives
- Blood Pressure Checks