

# Memorandum

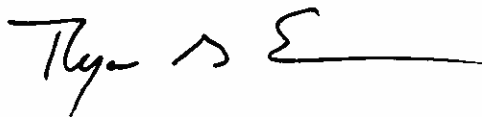


Date: September 3, 2009

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



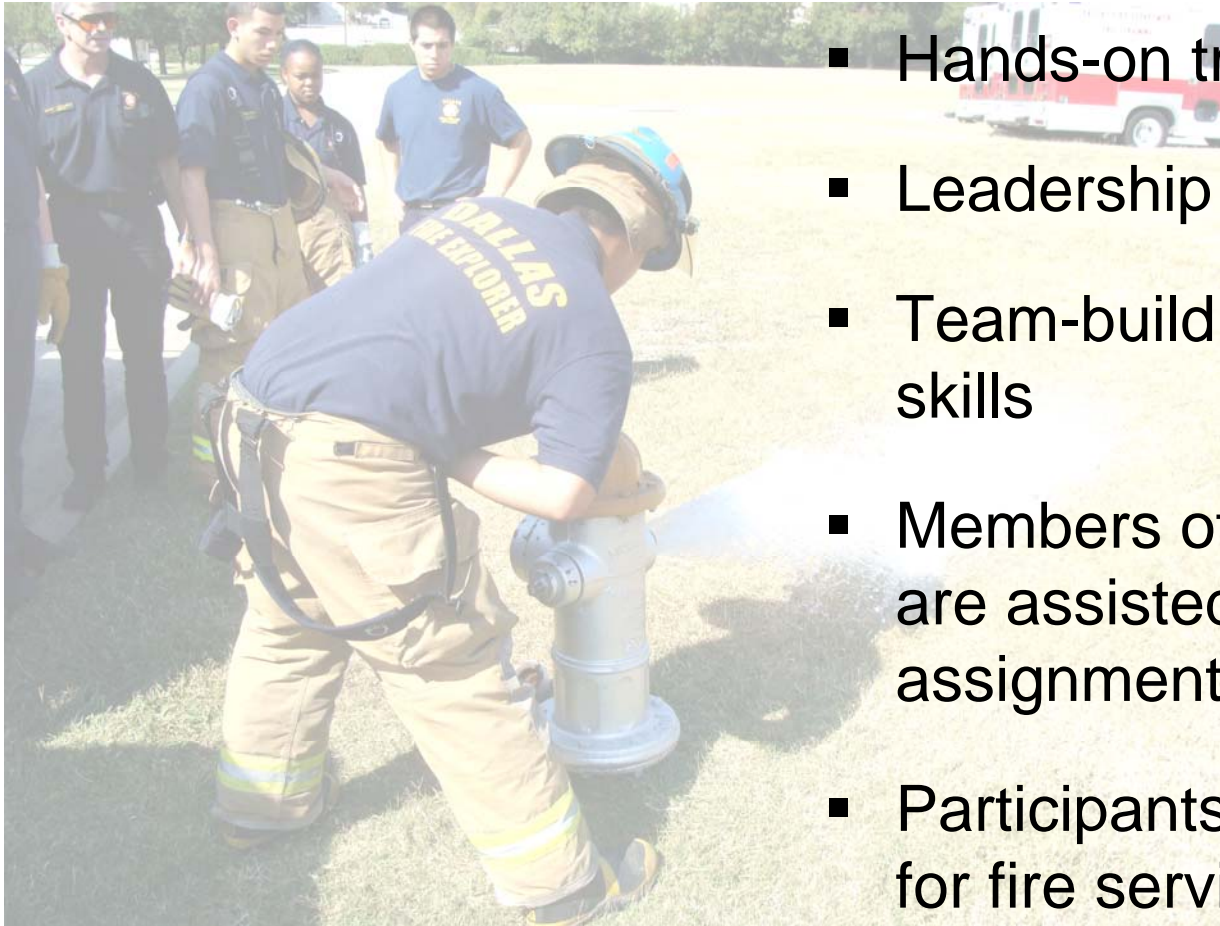
# Training as an Explorer

- 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](http://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](http://www.dallasfirerescue.com) and click on the Explorer link
- Information about 'Learning for Life' can be found at [www.learningforlife.org](http://www.learningforlife.org)

# Questions?

