

SCOUTS-L

EXPLORING

Date: Thu, 5 Oct 1995 07:59:41 -0600
From: George Crowl <WILLIAMM@ZIAVMS.ENMU.EDU>
Subject: Re: New Explorer Gold Award

Andrew Heath and others: Request for Explorer Gold Award and Exploring Leadership Award requirements:

GOLD AWARD REQUIREMENTS

- A. The candidate must have been an active, registered Explorer for at least 12 months tenure before final qualification.**

- B. The candidate must have been an active member of the Explorer post, and served in one or a combination of leadership roles within the past 12 months (roles may be concurrent as follows: (paraphrased) Post officer, EPA member, post activities chairman; church or school elected youth officer, elected or appointed team leader.**

- C. The candidate must have participated in a district/Exploring division, council, area, region, or national Explorer event.**

- D. The candidate must, in consultation with the post Advisor or a member of the post committee, set one personal growth goal related to each of the six experience areas of Exploring, in which the Explorer certifies completion of the goals. (See previous EAA examples)**

- E. The candidate must plan, prepare for, and lead to completion two or more post activity projects that relate to at least two of the six experience areas; suggested post activity projects are listed separately below. The action should involve at least five Explorers, and it should require a minimum of 4 to 6 months from inception to completion; the project should be approved and the goals of the project set by the post Advisor and/or a member of the post committee and the Explorer candidate. Both parties should certify the completion of the projects(s). Activities should be arranged to fit into normal post programming. Qualifying activities . . . (see previous EAA examples).**

- F. The candidate must be able to recite the Explorer Code.**

G. The candidate must submit three letters of recommendation to the post Advisor that confirms he or she lives in accordance with the principles of the Explorer Code. The letters should come from adults outside the post, such as school or church leaders, employers, or community leaders.

H. After completing all other requirements, the candidate should prepare evidence of completion of the work and submit it to the post Advisor. The post president, in conjunction with the post Advisor, should then appoint a review committee of four to six people including Explorers and adults. The committee should interview the candidate to determine whether that person grew as a result of the pursuit of the Gold Award.

I. Finally, the candidate must have qualified for the Gold Award before his or her 21st birthday.

Significant differences from the Explorer Achievement Award to the Gold Award: Tenure now 12 months, vice 18. Personal growth goals in all six experience areas, vice two. Must recite the Explorer Code. Review committee is youth and adult, can be from the post, vice district/council Exploring committee.

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP AWARD

Presented by councils, areas/regions, and national to Explorers and adults who have made exceptional contributions to Exploring and who exemplify the Explorer Code.

Qualifications:

- a. Be registered and involved in Exploring as an Explorer or an adult for at least one year.**
- b. Hold a leadership position or office on the unit, district, council, area, regional or national level (as appropriate for the level of award presented).**
- c. Show exceptional dedication and give outstanding leadership and service to Exploring and to Explorers on the level appropriate for the award.**

Quota: Two youth and two adults per year, up to fifty posts/ships, one additional each for each 25 additional units.

Regions: 12/12. National: 6/6.

Replaces youth only award, don't remember that there was a specific quota at council level.

NEW EXPLORING TRAINING LITERATURE

Our council had fallen behind on current Explorer literature. With help from the National Exploring Division, this is my best shot at an update, sent to my district training chairmen:

The "Explorer Leader Handbook," #34637, is the basic Exploring document for both adult leaders and youth leaders. All Advisors (or posts), Explorer Service Team and Explorer training team members should have one.

As of 1 Sep 95, the following seems to be the current Explorer training literature. This information can be used by Explorer training teams and experienced Explorer leaders to train new leaders and Explorer officers.

CAT#	DATE	TITLE
23-254	1995	Exploring's Leadership Training Plan
23-878	4/95	New Posts Start-Up Orientation
34633	10/93	Adult Explorer Leader Basic Training
23-314	1995	Adult Explorer Leader Basic Training-Self Study Course
AV-03G006	1993	Exploring Advanced Leadership Development Workshop - Leader Guide
23-268	1995	Exploring Service Team Training Conference - Instructor's Guide
23-876	1994	Council and District Exploring Committee Workshop - Instructor's Guide, Exploring Leadership Training
S-210	1995	Training Team Workshop - Instructor's Guide
S-210	1995	Exploring Styles of Training Profile (w/above)
S-210	1995	Council Exploring Sales Team Marketing Workshop - Instructor's Guide
23-277	1995	Post Leader Workshop - Instructor Guide
23-273	8/94	Explorer Officers' Association - Training Guide

There is an "Exploring Council/District Operations Manual," #33630. This has sections on delivery/structure, sales, service, training, program, public relations/finance, the Explorer Officers' Association, and an appendix. It is designed for

regular updating of individual pieces of literature.

The following additional information (flyers) may be useful:

23-200 1995 Exploring Literature and Resources
23-884 1995 National Exploring Awards and Recognition
Program
23-877 1995 Gold Award (Eagle equivalent for Explorers)
23-203 1995 Exploring Leadership Award (for youth and
adults)

Date: Sat, 21 Oct 1995 23:42:53 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: Darby Crouch <darbyc@efn.org>
Subject: Re: Howdy

Darby,

Forgive me for not getting back to you sooner. I've been down with pneumonia for a bit, but am on the mend.

Check with your Council Training Chair for information on whether any local council courses are available. Almost every Council puts on Basic and Advanced Exploring Advisor Courses as part of their University of Scouting program or separately in larger Councils. If you are in one of the few that does not, ask that chair for contacts at the next nearest Council and invite yourself. The other thing is that each Council gets a package at least once a year for the Regional Exploring Chair asking for nominations for Exploring Training at the Regional Level for those who will serve in Council or District Exploring capacities. This is a must for someone in your shoes. You may have to go to the Scout Executive, if your DE and/or Training Chair are unaware of this opportunity. These courses are by invitation and approval of the Scout Exec. in any case. Hope this is helpful. Also you can get training materials from the Exploring Division at National, if Council has none. There are at least 15 to 20 publications and 20-30 forms you should be getting your hands on too. You might want to see if anyone on Explorer Net has a listing of all of them - send an e-mail to explorer-net-request@erd.rl.af.mil to subscribe and then ask away. Also ask about regional training there too. Wish I had an electronic list of all the explorer pubs., but don't.

Oh also try http://www.thoughtport.com/Boy_Scouts/Exploring/index.html

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG**

**From mfbowman@CapAccess.org Wed Dec 6 12:39:01 1995
Subject: Re: Explorer Service Team Patches**

Mike Walton wrote that he was encouraging the use of District Commissioner patches for those heading up Explorer Services teams. I have to disagree with this concept. BSA experimented with having separate patches for District Cub Scout Commissioner, District Boy Scout Commissioer, etc. awhile back in some Councils and determined that it didn't work as well as expected.

In a district you only have One District Commissioner. And you don't need the confusion of two people wearing the same patch.

Exploring has a "Exploring Service Team" patch for all of the members of the Team, whether they work for the District Exploring Chair or a Council Exploring Division. This is the proper patch. However, in some Councils and Districts where service to Exploring is integrated into the commissioner service, these folks wear either ADC or UC patches, just like anyone else servicing units. Seems simple enough to me.

Sometimes I wonder whether some folks worry too much about the patch and not as much as the quality of service rendered. As Mike mentioned, BSA had to give up on two colors of SM, ASM, etc. patches based on training, because folks started paying too much attention to the patch and trying to get one.

Maybe what we need to do is to use high tech resources to create a special position patch like a commissioner patch, but with the words "Look at Me I'm Important" embedded in the patch using LEDs that flash dazzling gold light. Maybe we could just make the whole thing a base for LEDs and have the whole thing flash off and on.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG**

**Date: Fri, 8 Dec 1995 13:25:52 -0600
From: "Settummanque, the blackeagle (MAJ) Mike Walton"
<blackeagle@HCC-UKY.CAMPUS.MCI.NET>**

Subject: Re: Exploring

Professor Beaver (Mike Bowman) wrote:

**>Mike Walton wrote of his recollections of Exploring in NCAC and poised a few
>questons. Times are a changing for Exploring here and perhaps elsewhere.
>Because some of the answers may be of general value, I've posted to the list.**

I'm glad you did, Mike...thanks! I wasn't aware that NCAC followed two other Councils (Chicago Area and Seattle Area) in "merging" their Exploring operations into the general program, making many of its Districts "full-service" Districts.

**>NCAC used to have three geographically based Council run Exploring
>Divisions. This has been replaced by a single Exploring Division for Sea
>Exploring and Career Exploring. For Districts outside of the District of
>Columbia Exploring is back squarely in the hands of the District.**

>

**>How'd we handle it? We integrated service to Exploring into the
>Commissioner Service. The commissioner in charge of Exploring service is
>known as a Deputy District Commissioner for Exploring and in reality is
>registered as an Assistant District Commissioner. We did not create an
>Exploring chair as Mike described, because our District is organized a
>little differently than the model he likes to use. What we did was to
>pick an organization that worked for our needs. (And Mike yes I do know
>about this and what you are talking about - I was the DDC-Exploring and
>on the Council Coordinated Exporing Committee).**

This is the way it SHOULD have been from the start, in ALL local Councils. I have really disliked Exploring "demanding" a separate organization for everything except Career Awareness Exploring (CAE). To me, Exploring is a part of a District Executive or Senior District Executive's professional development and NOT a "specialized area, demanding a specialist (the Exploring Executive or Senior Exploring Executive) in a Council to manage it.

>As to patches - well the position titles probably say it all.

>

**>Is this the only right way? Is Mike Walton's description the only right
>way? The answer is that almost every District is organized a little
>differently because of its geography, the number of active volunteers,
>the number and types of units, etc. BSA has some models of how to
>organize large, medium and smaller districts that serve as guides, but
>only just that. The District has a lot of leeway in deciding how to
>perform the services delegated to it by the Council. When it comes to
>Exploring, the variety of organizational approaches seems to be endless.
>Here we tried at least half a dozen varients before settling on what we
>have, mostly because there was a lot of negotiation between the Council**

>and Districts as to how best to serve the program.

No. Walton's way (the way the Exploring literature recommends) is NOT the only way, and there are many local Councils that have variations on what your Council is doing. In some Councils, for instance, the New York Councils, the Exploring Division is divided by speciality, with the Exploring professional (career) staff concentrating on Law Enforcement, or Law and Government, or Medical or Outdoor Exploring programs. In this way, units all over the Council with the same speciality are allowed to be "grouped together" for service and support.

In other localities, its a matter of the District handling EVERYTHING the BSA has in it's inventory. This required the career executive to learn and be familiar with ALL programs...most importantly, to be able to work with and advise ALL of the chartered partners in his or her geographic area, instead of "handing off" "things I'm not comfortable with" to someone that does not even live within that area.

>This is to say that, if you are involved in Exploring, there is growing
>room for creativity and more acceptance of the notion that Explorer
>service team members can also be commissioners. As the old saying goes,
>"The rigidity is built in, the flexibility is all yours."

As part of a group of Exploring leaders advocating that the entire Exploring "Service Team" concept be finally put to rest in favor of the tried-and-true Commissioner concept, complete with an "Exploring component" to the existing Commissioner Basic Training, and yes, the wearing of the Commissioner insignia as opposed to some "generic Exploring program patch", I applaude the National Capitol Area Council and others that have taken such a great step for their Exploring program and for the Explorers living within their Councils.

Thanks for keeping me (and everyone else) up to date, Mike!

Settummanque!

Date: Wed, 14 Feb 1996 11:25:43 -0700
From: Amick Robert <amick@SPOT.COLORADO.EDU>
Subject: Re: National Explorer Conference and other ??'s (fwd)
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

The following is a response posted on Explorer-Net which may be of interest to subscribers for Scouts-L who are not on Explorer Net regarding the 1996 National Exploring Leadership Conference and the National Law Enforcement Explorer Conference at Northern Arizona

University-Flagstaff on June 24-28, 1996. It would be a great experience for any Explorer and Advisor, and an excellent chance to get to meet Explorers from all over the country. It would be great if any Explorers/Venturers/Rovers from International countries could consider attending. Most of all it is FUN, FUN, FUN! Enjoy.

Jim:

Although we are closer to Flagstaff than your council, we are planning a three-day pre-conference driving tour. The itinerary is attached. You may want to consider flying out on "supersaver" fares and then initiating a tour prior to or after the conference. Our tentative itinerary is as follows:

Friday, June 21

Depart Denver via I-25 south to Walsenburg, then west to Ft. Garland, then south to Bandolier National Monument, New Mexico.

Saturday, June 22

Breakfast, then tour Bandolier n.m.; Depart to Akima (sp?) then tour El Moro, national monument, then tour Zuni Pueblo (about 30 miles away) for two hours. Then west to Arizona via New Mexico hwy 53 to AZ hwy 61 to AZ

191 to I-40 then back to AZ 191 to Ganado, stop at Hubbell Trading post, then on to tour Canyon De Chelle and second mesa Hopi Village. Stay overnight at Canyon De Chelle.

Sunday June 23

Depart AZ 191 to I-40 west to "Painted Desert" (exit 311) for two hours then tour Petrified Forest N.Mon.; Then depart south to AZ 180 to I-40 to Flagstaff. Drop off staff members at N.A.U. for assignments, and rest of group goes to Grand Canyon via AZ 89 to AZ 64. Stay overnight at campground at Grand Canyon, tour , then return to Flagstaff to register for Conference on Monday.

Monday, June 24

Depart Grand Canyon for Flagstaff, N.A.U.

Arrive N.A.U., register for conference,

5:00 PM opening barbeque, and Opening ceremonies in auditorium.

Tuesday June 25 thru Thursday June 27, Conference Competitions, events, elections, etc.

Thursday June 27

Optional Tours of Grand Canyon, Painted desert, petrified forest etc. for those not opting for pre-tour.

Friday, June 28:

Leave for Four Corners area to Mesa Verde National Park. Tour ruins, camp or stay at motel

Saturday June 29, Ride Durango and Silverton Narrow gauge railroad from Durango to Silverton, tour Silverton, then board buses to return home via either I-70 or east through Ft. Garland to I-25. Option if Silverton railroad is booked, is to ride Cumbres & Toltec Railroad at Chama

This tour will be a suggested route. Posts are free to either follow it or to branch off and do other side trips of their liking. They may "caravan" with the group, providing their own transportation or abbreviate the tour and select only certain parts of the tour itinerary. We are currently looking at hiring buses or renting 15 passenger vans for those posts wanting to use that service, otherwise, each post will be responsible for their own transportation.

ELECTIONS FOR NATIONAL EXPLORER PRESIDENT/REGIONAL CHAIR

As far as elections for Regional and National Officers, Each Council was sent a letter from the National Exploring Division/Regional Office indicating that candidates wishing to run for National Explorer President or Regional Chair would need to be nominated by March 1st in a letter to the Regional Office. If you have not seen that letter, you may wish to contact your Exploring Executive or Scout Executive to get a copy. If they do not have it, ask them to contact the Regional Office as soon as possible to get one. The Regional Office will then select candidates from among the nominees to compete for the National Explorer President and/or Regional Chair positions. Elections for the National Explorer President will be conducted on Wednesday, June 26 at the Exploring Leadership Conference.

COUNCIL CONFERENCE CONTINGENTS AND EVENTS AT THE CONFERENCE

The National Exploring Division sent out a booklet describing how to organize a Council Contingent. As you note in your posting, time is short and registrations are due by March 1. Bill Evans, National Exploring Leadership Conference Director has indicated that he has already received about 350 registrations. So interest is very high this year. They are offering some very good prizes for competitions in a variety of areas from Aviation to Health/Medical to outdoor High adventure, which have been donated by various businesses. In 1994, one

post won three prizes in outdoor high adventure competition alone, and there are many more this year. Additionally, the Exploring Leadership Conference is being conducted concurrently with the Law Enforcement Explorer Conference, so there will be opportunities to observe some of the competitions and seminars for law enforcement exploring.

ALso, don't forget about "star night" where top notch entertainment will be present. Previously, there have been entertainers such as Blackstone the Magician, Jay Leno, Harry Connick, Jr., In 1994 the emphasis was on some less well known musicians and entertainers, who were very good and appealed to the Explorers just as much if not more than some of the better known entertainers at previous conferences.

The opening and closing shows are always spectacular and very motivational. And of course, every night is a theme dance which is a "hoot." Other fun events include a talent show, murder-mystery drama where the Explorers are invited to help solve the "crime" by interrogating the actors, the Explorer Extravaganza where posts show their specialities in booths or demonstrations, seminars, field trips, and much more. Law Enforcement had the U.S. Marshal Service "Red October" COMMUNICATIONS Van which is very interesting to Explorers. So I think you will not be wanting for things to do...it is hard to see it all. There are also staff positions available for those Explorers and Adults who are interested. Contact your Exploring Executive for staff applications as well, or have him get them from the Regional or National Office, as soon as possible.

If you have further questions, you may wish to contact the National Exploring Division in Irving, TX at (214)580-2000

Sorry for the long post, but I thought that this might be useful to Explorer Posts and Advisors who may not be aware of the many advantages

and attractions of the conferences. We hosted the 1990 Conferences here at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and it was a great time. A number of our Explorers have attended every Conference since then , at University of South Carolina and Indiana University and have expressed a lot of enthusiasm for their experiences.

Bob Amick, Council Exploring Training Chair,
and Arapahoe District Exploring Chair, Longs Peak Council, Boulder, CO

Date: Sat, 18 May 1996 20:47:59 -0700

From: David Conner <dconner@UTKUX.UTCC.UTK.EDU>
Subject: Re: Civil War Explorer post, Looking for others

This is not a scout related page but it might be of help to your new post.

<http://cobweb.utcc.utk.edu/~hoemann/warweb.html>

yis David Conner Troop 285 Maryville TN.

Date: Sun, 19 May 1996 01:58:39 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: Jack Redel <JackRCP@AOL.COM>
cc: bartosik@cais.com, dpraeger@vriffx.com
Subject: Re: Civil War Explorer post, Looking for others

Jack,

In your posting you mentioned that your Troop was in the process of starting up an Explorer Post focusing on Civil War history similar to the one in Scouting Magazine. If you are successful, I suspect that this Post would enjoy attending our Fall Camporee with a Civil War theme and perhaps helping in some of the reenactments.

The George Washington District Camporee will be October 11-13 at New Market, VA. We plan to have about 1000 Scouts participating in a Regimental size mock battle. We also plan to have a Civil War Unit Drill, reenactor demonstrations, battlefield hike, a battle reenactment, Civil War period cooking contests, etc. The point of contacts are:

Harry Bartosik bartosik@cais.com and Dirck Praeger dpraeger@vriffx.com

Please get in touch with Harry or Dirck and see what opportunities there may be for your Explorers.

Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training, G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org

Date: Tue, 17 Dec 1996 14:15:21 -0700
From: Amick Robert <amick@SPOT.COLORADO.EDU>
Subject: Re: Jumping from Scout to 1st Class (Explorer Post incentives)

The issue of trying to keep older Scouts interested and active in the program especially after having achieved Eagle is traditionally a problem;

however, it is inappropriate to use rank advancement time restrictions to intentionally "slow down" their progress just so they will stay with the unit longer. While the motives are good, the methods are not, and may result in the youth becoming discouraged and possibly even leaving the program and/or losing interest in advancement.

As an Eagle Scout project Counselor and Board of Review Representative for many years, I have seen the whole range of candidates from very young Eagle Scouts to those who are pushing 18. Each one is a unique individual; some are very qualified at a young age, and some probably should have had more opportunities to develop; but this is also true of some of the older Scouts as well, so you cannot use age as a "standard" to predict success because there are just too many variables in maturity and leadership development for each one.

It goes against national policy to set locally imposed time limits on lower rank advancement, but most of all, it just doesn't work. What needs to be done is to deal with some of the real problems, which includes providing a well-rounded and active program for the younger Scouts; and keeping the older Scouts interested as resources for the younger Scouts, by providing them a different venue to hold their interest.

We have found that if you provide a challenging, multifaceted, and interesting program for the Scouts through a variety of experiences such as participation in National Scout Jamborees, mini adventures, rec center nights/lockins, monthly summer and winter camping experiences, etc., they are so busy, they naturally don't concentrate on just rapid advancement. We also try to provide for as many leadership opportunities as possible from training seminars, J.L.T.'s to actual leadership roles in the unit, which again is time consuming and helps develop their leadership skills so they can rise to the occasion of senior leadership roles effectively.

Our Scouts do participate in our Merit Badge University and Summer Camp and through that venue are able to obtain not only required but unusual merit badges that are sometimes otherwise difficult to get through normal counseling. It is my observation that getting qualified counselors in many merit badge fields is becoming increasingly difficult, which is one of the reasons we helped start the Merit Badge University several years ago. It is a quality program and Scouts must fully earn their awards or receive partial completions if they do not finish requirements or

prerequisites. Our district advancement has improved dramatically because of the MBU, and many smaller troops rely on it almost exclusively for merit badge counseling since they have difficulty getting their own counselors or obtaining district counselors in many fields.

To keep the interest of older Scouts, Exploring offers a great program. As I have mentioned in earlier posts, we have had very good results with an associated Explorer Post specializing in High Adventure/Outdoor activities, which we started in 1980. The post works closely with the troop, and members serve in senior leadership capacities; but one of the reasons they stay involved is because they have the post to plan and conduct their own activities which are more challenging and of greater interest to teenagers, and which younger Scouts would not be able to participate in.

The post has only one business meeting per month and one major outdoor/high adventure activity per month usually on a weekend; they also do one or more superactivities on Spring Break and/or during Summer vacation. These are timed to not interfere with troop events except on rare or unavoidable occasions where national event participation is occurring.

Another significant advantage is that youth can remain as youth members until they turn 21 which covers a void that the traditional Boy Scout and Venture programs cannot accommodate. Those Scouts between 18 and 21 are often still interested in the youth aspect of the programs but are only eligible to serve in "adult" leadership roles which is a very awkward situation for them. They are much happier remaining as youth members in the Explorer program. Also they are great resources; many of our 18 year olds who attend the University remain active with the troop and post, and help with counseling, trips, and activities, etc.

The post also serves as an incentive for younger Scouts who see and hear about some of the exciting high adventure activities the Explorers get to participate in (SCUBA diving in Cozumel, rock climbing, peak climbs, canyonlands high adventures, National Exploring Leadership Conferences, First Responder first aid training, etc.) For the younger Scouts, the Explorers are "ten feet tall" and serve as excellent role models. Our Explorers wear the dark green explorer shirts which distinguishes them at

troop meetings, and again serves as an incentive for younger Scouts to join the post when they are old enough. They are particularly impressed that the Explorers take the time to work with them as troop guides, instructors, and to treat them as friends and fellow Scouts.

Most of our Explorers earn their Eagle, and the Explorer Gold Award, and many have attended the National Conferences. Our immediate past post president also served as Council Explorer Officer's Association Chair; he also is the Western Region Explorer Youth Chairman and sits on the National Explorer Cabinet.

Although it is possible to earn the Eagle Rank in Exploring if you already have First Class earned in a Troop, our Explorers usually receive their Eagle through the Troop and earn their Exploring Gold Award through the Post.

Another major advantage of Exploring over Venture program is that Explorers can have registered female members and youth officers, where Venture units can only have them as "guests" on trips. Explorers can also belong to multiple posts, and some of our Explorers also find time to be in one or more additional posts such as those specializing in Emergency Management, Law Enforcement and Division of Wildlife Management.

Our Explorers very much appreciate these advantages; we recently recruited a number of Girl Scouts as Explorers who participate regularly with us on post activities. We have also attracted Scouts from other troops who join the post but also remain active with their troop. Our bylaws specify that support of the troop is a primary function of the Post.

I know of several other Troops with associated Explorer Posts who have had similar success; it is certainly worth considering as a significant aid to retaining teenagers in the program.

I have written more detailed posts about this topic earlier in the year and would be happy to send those privately to anyone interested.

Best wishes...

Bob Amick, Explorer Advisor, High Adventure Explorer Post 72 Boulder, CO

Date: Mon, 26 May 1997 13:20:45 -0500

**From: "settummanque, or blackeagle (Mike Walton)"
<blkeagle@DYNASTY.NET>
Subject: Re: Exploring the National Guard**

Michael Paccerelli asked about "exploring the National Guard".

First, a little cautionary advice (free of course, but cautionary anyway): In this era of "state militias", be firmly aware of three big facts: the largest is that you CANNOT WEAR ANY MILITARY-STYLE UNIFORMS while serving as members of the BSA (Exploring is a division of the BSA just like Lincoln-Mercury is a division of Ford or Buick a division of General Motors). The other two facts are that many Councils are trying to "distance" themselves from "military education programs" and are leaving it to programs like Junior ROTC and National Guard state camps to provide that kind of programming, so PLEASE, PLEASE check with your Exploring professional or your District Executive to insure that they ARE AWARE of your Explorer Post's intent; and finally, make sure that you are dealing with and working through your state's National Guard, which sounds like a simple process, but it isn't....we've had a instance in central Indiana recently whereby a member of that state's Guard was also a member of a "State Guard" and they did charter an Explorer Post...he was photographed and interviewed by two newspapers in his "unit's uniform", which displayed a higher military grade than the one that he was in the Guard. When the lawyers finally sorted everything out, the mess was really unmanageable and the State of Indiana is now asking Guardsmen to clear any participation with Scouting/youth programs and the Guard through the State.

Now, that I've scared you into dropping the entire thing, let me also say that there are very successful military-career Explorer Posts out there. While they do not wear a military-style uniform, they do participate in seminars with career fulltime and parttime soldiers, go to military museums, participate and play military-related role games, and participate in military reenactments during the year. It does not have the same "impact" that participating in high school Junior ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) does, but then the idea is to introduce various aspects of military

life to those Explorers participating (JROTC is first and foremost a citizenship and character-building program, then a "gentle introduction" to the military).

How to do this the safe, right way, Mike?? Have your Advisor to write to your State Adjutant General's office and request assistance in working together within the Exploring program. Provide a copy to your Exploring professional or District Executive, and encourage someone from the local Guard armory to contact the professional FIRST, before he or she contacts your advisor....this is so if there's any conflicts between the Council and the State National Guard, those can be resolved BEFORE your Post gets in the middle and feelings are hurt.

There's no books or materials from the Exploring side which would help a military-career oriented Post.....the best advice there would be to find other Explorer Posts out there doing a similar thing (your Exploring/District professional can help you in that regards; or write to the National Exploring Division, BSA, at the National Office and request a contact from another Explorer Post that matches your proposed speciality or interest area) and get some ideas and sample documents from them.

The "paperwork" is all taken care of by the professional staff.....

Hopefully, this information would be of help to you and others that are looking to do a similiar-type program!

Settummanque!

(c) 1997 Mike Walton ("no such thing as strong coffee,...") (502) 827-9201
(settummanque, the blackeagle) <http://www.vhm.com/~uscardnl/>
241 Fairview Dr., Henderson, KY 42420-4339 blkeagle@dynasty.net
kyblkeagle@aol.com or waltonm@hq.21taacom.army.mil

---- FORWARD in service to youth ----