

Invitation to Join the Fire Explorer Program

Are you interested in becoming a Firefighter? Do you know what Firefighters do? Do you think it is just riding around on a big truck and putting out fires? What education, training and experience is necessary to become a firefighter? How hard is the job? What is the work schedule? Will I like the job?

If you are interested in becoming a firefighter, you probably have these and dozens more questions about finding out what firefighters do. One way of learning about this career while you are a young adult is to become a Fire Explorer.

Think about becoming an Explorer with the Gainesville Fire Rescue Fire Explorer Post, "Post 972". Post 972 is open to young adults aged 14-21, from our area, who are interested in "exploring" the field of Fire / Rescue. Post 972 is a specialized Explorer Post dealing with Fire & Rescue that is sponsored by Gainesville Fire Rescue and chartered by the Boy Scouts of America. Exploring is a Coed Division of the Boy Scouts of America. The purpose of specialized Explorer Posts is to expose these young adults to a possible career field, and to let them learn about and participate in this selected field. This opportunity will help the Explorers to determine if this is an area they want to pursue as a career. Some of the Explorers may find that they would like to pursue this as a career while some may find that it is not what they expected. Some may find that although they do not want to go into the field as a career, they may still enjoy it as a hobby or volunteer work.

For further information, please contact Post Advisor Chief Tim Hayes at 352-334-5065.

General Information

1. Description:

The Gainesville Fire Rescue Fire Explorer Post is a youth organization sponsored by Gainesville Fire Rescue, and chartered by the Boy Scouts of America. Gainesville Fire Rescue is designated as the Chartered Organization. The Fire Department will manage the Fire Explorer program through the Explorer Post Committee.

2. Department Responsibilities:

As the sponsoring organization, the Fire Department will provide:

- a. Adult leadership
- b. Appropriate meeting place
- c. Training supplies, equipment and facilities
- d. Workers compensation coverage of fire personnel registered as advisors or associate advisors or other adult leader position, when involved in approved Explorer activities

3. Chartered Organization Representative:

The Chartered Organization Representative shall coordinate communications and activities

between the Fire Department Administration, the Boy Scouts of America, and the sponsored Explorer Post. It shall also be their responsibility to function as the Committee Chairperson

4. Explorer Post Committee:

A committee of adults is formed to oversee the operation of the explorer post. This is formed from organization representatives, Parents and/or other members of the community. Membership is approved by the Chartered Organization. The Post Committee's duties are to include, but are not limited to:

- a. Coordinate Overall Explorer Program
- b. Establish Explorer Rules and Regulations
- c. Approve Explorer Post Programs
- d. Select Post Advisors and approve requests for parent involvement in Post Leadership
- e. Provide guidelines for recruitment
- f. Approve special activities.

5. Post Advisors:

Adult leadership is provided by the Fire Department and other approved adults. These positions work directly with the explorers. These positions are designated as the Post Advisor and Associate Advisors. The lead advisor is the Post Advisor.

The Post advisor shall be responsible for:

- a. Providing direct adult leadership and training for the explorers;
- b. Supervising the performance and conduct of Explorers;
- c. Maintaining Post Records
- d. Guiding young adults who are the Post leaders in conducting routine operations, and the preparation of proposed unit programs for approval by the Post Committee.

6. Appropriate Meeting Place:

Fire stations, Lofton High School, and Kiwanis Safety City will be used for Post meetings. Such activities are not to interfere with Fire Company operations.

7. Training Supplies and Equipment:

Fire stations, reserve apparatus, front line apparatus, training supplies, safety equipment will be available when properly requested or scheduled for Post activities.

8. Firefighter Injury Protection:

The Fire Department will provide medical protection for volunteer adult leaders while they are participating in department authorized Explorer activities. Any injuries are to be reported and treated following Fire Department policies and procedures.

Fire Explorer Ranks, Requirements, Duties and Privileges

1. General:

The Fire Department Explorer Program is divided into three (3) progressive ranks: Fire Explorer Trainee, Fire Explorer and Fire Explorer Ride-Along Qualified.

2. Membership and Joining Requirements:

The Fire Department Explorer program has the following membership requirements:

- a. Be at least fourteen (14) but not yet twenty one (21) years of age.
- b. Submit completed Explorer application form.
- c. Submit completed Medical History form and BSA Medical Exam form.
- d. Submit evidence of Accident Insurance coverage
- e. Complete Parental Permission and Consent to Treat form.
- f. Complete Disaster Service Worker registration form and Oath of Loyalty
- g. Satisfactorily pass background investigation check.
- h. Satisfactorily complete a physical fitness test conducted by the Post Advisors or designated fire personnel.
- i. Receive a grade of 70% or higher on an entrance interview conducted by the Post Advisors.
- j. Pay the Post annual registration fee of \$25.00. This covers Explorer registration and insurance.

3. Fire Explorer Trainee:

This is the entry rank of the Fire Explorer Program. This rank is utilized as a probationary period. The new member is required to become fully aware of his/her responsibilities, be familiar with department organization, purchase the designated Explorer uniform, and demonstrate a sincere interest in the Fire Service.

4. Fire Explorer Trainee Restrictions:

Fire Explorer Trainees are restricted to activities involving the Post. The trainee shall not visit any fire station (exception: the post's meeting place may be visited by permission of a Post Advisor and then only when the Advisor is on duty).

5. Fire Explorer Requirements:

The requirements of this position must be met before receiving an explorer Shoulder Patch and Department safety equipment, or being allowed to visit Fire Stations other than during Post meetings. Upon the satisfactory completion of the following the trainee will be promoted to a Fire Explorer:

- a. Satisfactorily participate in Post activities for two months.
- b. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the Rules and Regulations by passing a written exam conducted by the Post Advisor.
- c. Explain why and when apparatus inventory is checked.

- d. Explain why how and when routine fire station maintenance is done.
- e. Present a drawing showing the Fire Department organization and explain the duties of each:

- 1. Division
- 2. Rank

f. Purchase the designated Explorer uniform.

6. Fire Explorer Activities:

During this period, the Fire Explorer prepares for and becomes Ride-Along Qualified. The Explorer may participate in limited and approved fire station activities including: maintenance activities for fire station, apparatus and equipment; and training. Such activities must be scheduled and approved by the Post Advisor and the Company Officer. These activities are for the Explorer's benefit to utilize the station library, study apparatus inventories, and practice basic fire fighting manipulative skills. Such visits shall be time limited by appointment agreement and for specific studies to become Ride-Along Qualified. In order that the station visits are coordinated, the Explorer must:

- a. Request & receive written permission from the Post Advisor,
- b. Make telephone contact with the Company Officer who will be on duty the day requested and make an appointment.
- c. Keep the appointment and be on time.
- d. Leave the permission slip with the Company Officer. The Company Officer will mail it through department mail to the Post Advisor.

7. Fire Explorer Duties:

As Fire Explorers, members are expected to

- a. Wear the full uniform with name tag and shoulder patch at all explorer functions, and during scheduled fire station activities.
- b. Maintain active participation in Post activities.
- c. Conduct themselves according to the rules and regulations at all times.
- d. Be eligible for Post participation at fires.
- e. Obtain necessary safety equipment.
- f. Become Ride-Along Qualified within eight (8) months

8. Ride-Along Qualified Fire Explorer Requirements:

The requirements of this position must be met before receiving authorization to Ride-Along with Fire Companies. Upon the satisfactory completion of the following the Explorer will be promoted to a Ride-Along Qualified Fire Explorer:

- a. Be currently registered as a Fire Department Fire Explorer.
- b. Satisfactorily participate in Post activities for four months.
- c. Explain and demonstrate a thorough knowledge of Firefighter safety equipment:

1. Explain how and why turnout boots and safety boots protect the wearer.
2. Describe the various materials used in the fire department safety clothing, and how they protect the wearer.
3. Describe the various ways a helmet protects the wearer.
4. Describe the conditions under which the various articles of safety equipment are to be worn.
5. Describe the safety procedures each member is to utilize while riding on or in fire apparatus.

d. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the Fire Department apparatus by describing the following equipment, including what each is used for and locations found:

1. SCBA.
2. Hurst Tool.
3. Cribbing.
4. Fire Extinguisher.
5. Forcible entry tools.
6. Fire Hose.
7. Generator.
8. Ventilation Fan.
9. First Aid kit.
10. Automatic Defibrillator.
11. Ladders.
12. Salvage Covers.

e. Study IFSTA Essentials Chapter 3, ropes and Knots. Within 10 minutes, tie and untie the following knots.

1. Bowline.
2. Square knot.
3. Becket Bend.
4. Chimney Hitch.
5. Figure 8.
6. Figure 8 on a bight.
7. Figure 8 bend.
8. Figure 8 follow through.

f. Study IFSTA Essentials Chapter 12, Salvage. Demonstrate Salvage techniques including:

1. Spreading Salvage covers.
2. Picking up a salvage cover that is spread over furniture.
3. Folding salvage cover for storage.
4. Utilizing Debris bag and hall runners.

g. Study IFSTA Essentials Chapter 11, Ventilation. Explain the importance of ventilation, diagram how ventilation is accomplished. Demonstrate setting up positive pressure ventilation

including:

1. Starting generator.
2. Using cord Reel and adaptors.
3. Positioning Blower.

h. Demonstrate setting up emergency scene lighting including:

1. Starting generator.
2. Using cord Reel and adaptors.
3. Positioning lights.

i. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of fire hose, fittings and adaptors.

1. Demonstrate proper procedure for loading hose.
2. Demonstrate proper methods of connecting and disconnecting hose couplings, both storz and threaded.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of location and use of hose fittings and adaptors.

j. Demonstrate a good knowledge of the characteristics and behavior of fire

1. Study IFSTA Essentials Chapter 1, Fire Behavior
2. Pass a written test on fire behavior

k. Be proficient in First aid.

1. Satisfactorily complete the requirements for Boy Scout First Aid Merit Badge, or obtain EMS agency certification as EMS First Responder or Higher
2. Demonstrate knowledge of location and use of first aid equipment carried on fire apparatus.
3. Satisfactorily complete the Fire Department CPR course

9. Ride-Along Qualified Fire Explorer Activities:

The purpose of the Ride-Along Explorer qualification is to provide the Fire Explorers an incentive to further their education and training. Explorers who have met the qualifications for Ride-Alongs have an opportunity to participate in, and experience actual firefighting duties including emergency responses, fire prevention inspections, public education, engine company training drills and exercises, and other misc. duties.

a. In order that the station Ride-Alongs are coordinated, the Explorer must:

1. Request & receive written permission from the Post Advisor,
2. Make telephone contact with the Company Officer who will be on duty the day requested and make an appointment.
3. Keep the appointment and be on time.
4. Leave the permission slip with the Company Officer. The Company Officer will mail it

through department mail to the Post Advisor.

10. Ride-Along Qualified Fire Explorer Duties:

Explorers may participate with engine companies, prevention personnel, and Chief Officers. All officers will ensure that Fire Explorers comply with all safety precautions and requirements of the Department.

While the explorer is assigned Ride-Along time, he should take part in all station activities, including station maintenance, fire prevention inspections, public education, training drills and limited emergency service. At no time shall the Explorer be exposed to any hazardous situations or engage in any restricted fire suppression activity.

a. As Fire Explorers, members are expected to

1. Have met the Ride-Along Certification requirements
2. Wear the full uniform with name tag and shoulder patch at all explorer functions, and during scheduled fire station activities.
3. Maintain active participation in Post activities.
4. Conduct themselves according to the rules and regulations at all times.
5. Have necessary safety equipment.
6. During emergency situations do not get involved in any restricted suppression activity or other situation that appears hazardous, even if approved by company officer or other supervisor.
7. On full callbacks Explorers are expected to report to the command post for duty assignments if they have not received other instructions.

11. Duties of Company Officers:

The company officer shall provide adequate supervision for the explorers during the hours of assignment.

- a. Instruct Explorer on duties while assigned.
- b. At no time use or involve the Explorer in any restricted fire suppression activity.
- c. Insure that while on apparatus or department vehicle that the Explorer remains seated wearing safety belt.
- d. Upon completion of the Ride-Along, forward the permission slip to the Post Advisor with appropriate comments.

12. Possible Injuries to Explorers:

Each Explorer must have accident insurance with an insurance company. The Fire Department is protected by a liability insurance policy provided by the Boy Scouts of America. In addition, each Explorer is registered as a Disaster Service Worker and thereby covered under Workmen's compensation under certain conditions.

In the event that an Explorer is injured and requires medical attention:

- a. Obtain medical aid immediately
- b. Notify parents and Post Advisor of the injury

c. The advisor will complete necessary injury forms as required by the Fire Department.