

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT REESTABLISHING EXPLORER POST PROGRAM

SUFFOLK, VA (February 25, 2020) The Suffolk Police Department is reestablishing their Explorer Post Program designed to help youth make a more informed decision about a potential career in law enforcement or related criminal justice field and to help them determine if such a career is right for them.

Law Enforcement Exploring, commonly referred to as "Police Explorers", is a hands-on Program open to young men and women ages 14 (entering 9th grade), through 21 years of age (must leave the Post by 21st birthday). The Program also helps youth explore their interests alongside experienced professionals and promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship, and patriotism. These objectives are further developed through training, group collaboration and teamwork, practical experiences, competition, and other exciting activities.

Exploring provides one-on-one mentorship for youth looking to discover their future. Through Exploring, young citizens also gain an understanding of procedural justice and leadership skills through decision making and problem solving within their communities, while members of law enforcement gain a better understanding of the communities they serve.

Each Explorer applicant will complete an application process consisting of a written application, background check, and oral interview with members of the Suffolk Police Department. The application process is competitive and the Post is limited to 10 members.

Applicants must be a Suffolk resident and provide proof of active enrollment in school and maintain a 2.0 or higher GPA while in the Program, provide written parental (legal guardian) approval, be drug free, and have no criminal or gang background or involvement. The application process will take place beginning March 2, 2020 through April 1, 2020, with selected members of Explorer Post 124 notified of their acceptance and the program officially beginning in mid-April 2020.

The Program is also part of the Suffolk Police Department's commitment to National Night Out and this year's chosen Project 365 theme of "*Creating Community Connections*". National Night Out will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 4th, and we look forward to continuing our 14-year tradition of ranking in the Top 5 in the entire nation in our population category in this "going away party for crime".

For questions and to begin the application process, please contact Sgt. H. Kee at Police Headquarters located at 111 Henley Place, via phone at 757.268.2425, or via email at Hkee@suffolkva.us.

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