



LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPLORER PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FAQ



1. What are the requirements needed to become an LACoFD Explorer (Explorer)?

- *Be at least 15 years of age at time of application.*
- *Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher in all schoolwork.*
- *Have no record of arrest convictions.*
- *Meet all the program requirements (i.e., physical, fees, etc.).*
- *Maintain good moral character.*
- *Register with and complete a "Learning for Life (Greater Los Angeles Area Council, BSA)" application.*
- *Demonstrate a willingness to participate in Explorer Program activities.*
- *Attend a Parent/Explorer Information Session and complete a two-day Explorer Program Orientation.*
- *For everyone's health and safety and pursuant to LA County policies, all Explorer Program participants will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination; no exemptions.*

2. What do Explorers do?

Under close supervision, Explorers participate in non-hazardous activities that familiarize participants with the nature and demands of the fire service. In addition to learning about the fire service, the main goal of the Explorer Program is to provide young adults with a sense of responsibility to their community through ongoing community-based activities. Explorers stay busy throughout the year and are very active in Los Angeles County communities.

Five Areas of Training Development:

- *Career*
- *Character*
- *Service*
- *Life Skills*
- *Leadership Experience*

3. Can I choose the Explorer Post I want to participate in, or do I have to go to the Post closest to my residence?

Participants can request to be admitted to the Explorer Post most convenient to their school or living situation. Explorer Post assignments will be made during the application and selection process on a first-come, first-serve basis.



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4. What is the entry/selection process for the Explorer Program?

Explorer Program recruitment is conducted twice per year. Individuals interested in learning more about the Explorer Program are encouraged to submit an [Interest Card](#). After submitting their interest card, individuals should monitor their email and LACoFD social media platforms for the application and selection process.

Explorer Program Application and Selection Process:

- *When the Explorer Program application period opens, individuals may apply via a link posted to social media, and distributed via email to individuals who submitted Interest Cards, and to those who participated in the Explorer Program virtual recruitment open house events.*
- *Each individual who applies will have the opportunity to select their Explorer Post choice(s) in order of preference (maximum of three Posts).*
- *Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.*

Individuals selected to participate in the Explorer Program will be notified via email and required to:

- *Complete a “Learning for Life” application.*
- *Attend a Parent/Explorer Information Session and complete a two-day Explorer Program Orientation.*
- *Meet all the program requirements (i.e., physical, fees, etc.).*
- *Submit a memo of interest to their assigned Explorer Post and interview with an Explorer Advisor.*

5. How often and when does the Explorer Post meet and how many hours of community service do I have to commit to?

Explorer Posts meet twice a month – on the first and third Wednesday for three hours (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) at the Post fire station. Explorers must work on their “TASK BOOK,” hands-on training, commit to volunteering at community events, and meet the monthly ride along requirement (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.).

We recognize circumstances may prevent LACoFD Explorers from attending all monthly meetings; however, excessive absences may result in removal from the Explorer Program.



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6. What are the duties required as an Explorer?

Duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *Participate in drills and training in firefighting techniques.*
- *Set up and use fire hose, ladders, and other firefighting equipment.*
- *Learn pre-fire planning and fire prevention.*
- *Participate in public education and community outreach.*
- *Participate in the Explorer Ride-Along Program to learn about firefighters duties at a fire station.*
- *Perform various other duties as assigned.*
- *Participate in leadership workshops.*

7. What type of environment will Explorers be exposed to?

Work is performed both inside and outside in seasonal climate and weather conditions. Elevated heights, slippery surfaces, oily conditions, dust, dirt, smoke, heat, hazardous substances, chemicals, and odors are conditions frequently encountered. Physical demands include lifting (minimum of 20 lbs.) and carrying of fire equipment while wearing protective clothing. Work requires manual dexterity to assemble fittings and perform hose and ladder placement evolutions. Bending, stooping, running, squatting, pulling, and climbing are also required.

8. What are the grooming requirements to becoming an Explorer?

The grooming standards are the same as the Los Angeles County Fire Department Professional Appearance in the Workplace policy (Volume 2, Chapter 4, Subject 26).

There is no height or weight requirement, but LACoFD Explorers shall provide a medical release establishing the ability to participate in drills and basic training.

9. What are the benefits of becoming an Explorer?

Explorers may be able to use the hours they commit to the Explorer Program to gain high school/college credit through your school's outside credit program. Explorers may also be able to use the information and experience they gain from the Explorer Program toward aspirations to achieve a career in the fire service.



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10. Will the Explorer Program uniform and equipment be provided?

Explorers are responsible for purchasing a blue shirt, blue dickies, leather boots, and a leather belt. For a list of uniform items, please see Appendix A. For leather boots, please see Appendix B.

The LACoFD will cover the cost of the personal protective equipment, physical fitness gear, ball cap, academy patches, belt buckle, and name plate for the uniform shirt.

11. What is the cost of the Explorer Program?

The Explorer Program is a joint venture with “Learning for Life.” Explorer Program costs are as follows:

- *\$60 payable to “Learning for Life” annually (includes registration, insurance, and program fee)*
- *\$170 estimated cost for uniform (shirt, pant, belt, and boots)*

Uniforms may be purchased through Galls or another department store. Explorers who lack the ability to purchase a uniform should contact the Explorer Post Advisor to determine what assistance may be available.

Please note there may be extracurricular activities such as the Disaster Drill, Muster, and Banquet which may incur additional costs. “Learning for Life” and the Explorer Program may assist with fundraising for these events.

12. Can an Explorer join more than one Explorer Post?

An Explorer may join more than one Post with “Learning for Life” without having to pay additional National Exploring Fees. There may be additional costs for training, safety equipment, training materials, and/or additional uniforms for the second Explorer Post.



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Appendix A

2022 Required Explorer Uniform



Dickies S535
Industrial Light Blue
Short Sleeve Shirt

(\$20 – \$45)



Dickies Original 874
Work Pant Dark Navy

(\$25.00 – \$50.00)

Suggested Retailers:

Galls

Walmart

Amazon

511

LA Police Gear

Toms Uniforms

The Fire Store

Firefighters Safety Center



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Appendix B

2022 Required Explorer Uniform – Work Boots

Fire Department Station Boots like those pictured below (no specific brand). Boots do not need to have zippers, but zippers will help!

(\$150 – \$300)

Required: Steel or Composite Toe and 8” in height.

