

Explore the Possibilities as an LACoFD Explorer!

County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Explorer Program
Virtual Recruitment Webinar





Meeting Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Learning for Life Partnership
- Explorer Posts
- Explorer Program Basic Requirements
- Explorer Program Overview
- Life as an Explorer
- Training Requirements
- Financial Commitment
- Application Process
- Contact Information
- Question and Answer





Learning for Life Partnership

- The County of Los Angeles Fire Department partners with Learning for Life to offer participants the opportunity to explore the career of a firefighter.
- Explorers train and work side by side with firefighters and administrative professionals while being mentored.
- Explorers are consistently supervised by firefighters and administrative professionals who are trained mentors in accordance with Learning for Life policies and procedures.

EXPLORING™



Twelve LACoFD Explorer Posts*



- 12 LACoFD Explorer Posts:*

- ❖ Fire Station 13 (Vernon)
- ❖ Fire Station 28 (Whittier)
- ❖ Fire Station 32 (Azusa)
- ❖ Fire Station 58 (Fairfax)
- ❖ Fire Station 82 (La Cañada)
- ❖ Fire Station 89 (Agoura Hills)
- ❖ Fire Station 116 (Carson)
- ❖ Fire Station 118 (Industry)
- ❖ Fire Station 129 (Lancaster)
- ❖ Fire Station 150 (Santa Clarita)
- ❖ Fire Station 166 (El Monte)
- ❖ Fire Station 187 (Pomona)

**30 Explorers per post.*



Explorer Program Basic Requirements

- 15-20 years of age.
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA in school.
- In good health and able to participate as determined by a doctor's physical.
- Willingness to be a team player.
- Participants 18-20 years of age are required to complete a background investigation (Livescan) conducted by Learning for Life.



Explorer Program Overview

- Gain a head start on a life-saving career.
- Learn life-enhancing skills.
- Mentorship by firefighters and administrative professionals.
- Discover the many career pathways available in the Fire Department and L.A. County.
- Community engagement and community service opportunities.
- Develop and maintain physical fitness.



Explorer Program Overview



- Explorers are required to invest in their development by meeting certain milestones.
- Not a hangout spot.
- We do not babysit.
- Not for the lazy.



Life as an Explorer

Commitment



Life as an Explorer

Participation Requirements:

- Attend bi-monthly meetings on the 1st Wednesday of each month (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) and the 3rd Saturday of each month (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) at your post location.
- Participate in mandatory quarterly training/testing sessions, CERT training, CPR training, Disaster Drill, Muster, and Banquet.
 - ❖ Quarterly training/testing sessions at the respective regional training center (typically held in lieu of the 3rd Saturday post meetings).
- Monthly ride-along requirement: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (note: no overnight ride-alongs)
- Be an active member of your post and participate in community events.
- Sign and agree to the Code of Conduct.
- Actively work to complete Task Book.
- Excessive tardiness and absences (three excused or unexcused absences within a one-year period) are grounds for dismissal from the Explorer Program.



Mandatory Two-Day Orientation Training Requirement



Mandatory Orientation Weekend for New Explorers

- Two days of training (Saturday & Sunday)
 - ❖ 6:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Held at a designated LACoFD Training Center.
- Explorers shall be hydrated, eat a nutritious breakfast, and bring healthy snacks and a lunch.
- At the start of the Orientation Weekend, Explorers will receive a Task Book.
- After successfully completing the Orientation Weekend, Explorers will have access to personal protective equipment (helmet, gloves, brush coat, and goggles) at their respective Explorer posts (fire stations).



Mandatory Two-Day Orientation Training Topics



- Station demeanor, attitude, behavior
- Rank structure
- Department organization
- Equipment location
- Emergency Operations: “Where you are during an emergency”
- Breathing apparatus
- Orientation to making a hydrant
- Orientation to pulling hose line
- Orientation to ladders
- Proper cleaning



Explorer Task Book Training Requirement



Explorer Task Book:

- The Task Book provides Explorers direction on the training they need to complete.
 - ❖ Explorers are provided with supplementary reading materials.
- Training topics are covered and practiced at post meetings and on ride-alongs.
- Explorers are assessed quarterly (written and hands-on skills testing).
- Upon completion of the Task Book, Explorers will undergo a final evaluation (written and hands-on skills testing).

Explorer Task Book Completion:

- Successful completion of final evaluation:
 - ❖ Issued certified Explorer patch, belt buckle, and turnouts.
- Earn the position of “Certified Explorer.”
- Allowed to participate in ride-alongs at all LACoFD fire stations.



Financial Commitment*



- The LACoFD will cover the cost of the following:
 - Uniform shirt and patches
 - Uniform pant
 - Name plate
 - Steel-toe boots
 - Belt
 - Personal protective equipment
- Financial Commitment (approximate):
 - \$75 (physical fitness uniform)
 - \$85 Annual Learning for Life Exploring Fee
- Optional Uniform items not covered:
 - Cold Weather Gear (i.e., sweatshirt, jacket)
 - Baseball cap
 - Beanie
 - Extra uniform pants and shirts
 - Duffle bag or backpack
- Additional costs may apply for banquet participation.

**All costs and fees are approximate.*



Application Process



- **Application Dates:**
 - ❖ Online applications only.
 - ❖ Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (PT) through Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (PT).
 - ❖ Approximate spots - 150
 - ❖ We anticipate the application process will be very competitive.
- Application link will be posted to the Fire Department’s website and social media platforms; applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - ❖ New for 2026 - applicants will be asked to include a short 250-word response to the following:
“Why do you want to join the LACoFD Explorer program, and what specific qualities or experiences do you have that will help you contribute to a team environment?”
- **Notification Emails (Selections and Regrets):**
 - ❖ End of May 2026



Application Process



When submitting the online application, all potential applicants must agree to the following:

- Must be 15-20 years of age at the time of application.
- Meet all Explorer Program requirements.
- If accepted to the Explorer Program, agree to:
 - Attend the mandatory uniform fitting (June 6, 2026).
 - Complete all required Department paperwork, the Learning for Life application, and the Learning for Life medical/physical form signed by a physician in advance of the Family Meeting (August 8, 2026).
 - If over 18, complete the online Safeguarding Youth Training in advance of the Family Meeting (August 8, 2026).
 - Attend the mandatory Family Meeting (Explorer and one family/legal guardian member) (August 8, 2026).
 - Attend and complete the mandatory Two-Day Orientation (August 22 and 23, 2026).
 - Attend bi-monthly post meetings, monthly ride-alongs, mandatory training, disaster drill, muster, and banquet. Explorer post meetings begin on September 2, 2026.
 - Agree to the Attendance Policy.



Key Dates



- Online Application Filing Dates: Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (PT) through Monday, May 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (PT).
- Selections and Regrets: Sent via email at the end of May 2026

If accepted to the Explorer Program, please note **ALL** dates below are mandatory; there are no make-up or alternate dates available (no exceptions will be made) - any missed dates are grounds for dismissal from the Explorer Program):

- All information, including paperwork, will be sent via email from the Fire-ExplorerProgram@fire.lacounty.gov email address.
- Mandatory Uniform Fitting: Saturday, June 6, 2026 (Explorer & one family member/legal guardian, if youth is under the age of 18)
- Family Day Meeting: Saturday, August 8, 2026 (Explorer & one family member/legal guardian, if youth is under the age of 18)

Note: Newly admitted Explorers shall complete and bring all required Department paperwork, the Learning for Life application and medical/physical form signed by a physician). Payment to Learning for Life shall be made in advance of the Family Day meeting. For youth over the age of 18, you must also bring with you the certificate showing completion of the online Safeguarding Youth Training.

- Two-Day Orientation: Saturday, August 22, and Sunday, August 23, 2026.
- Post Meetings: Begin on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

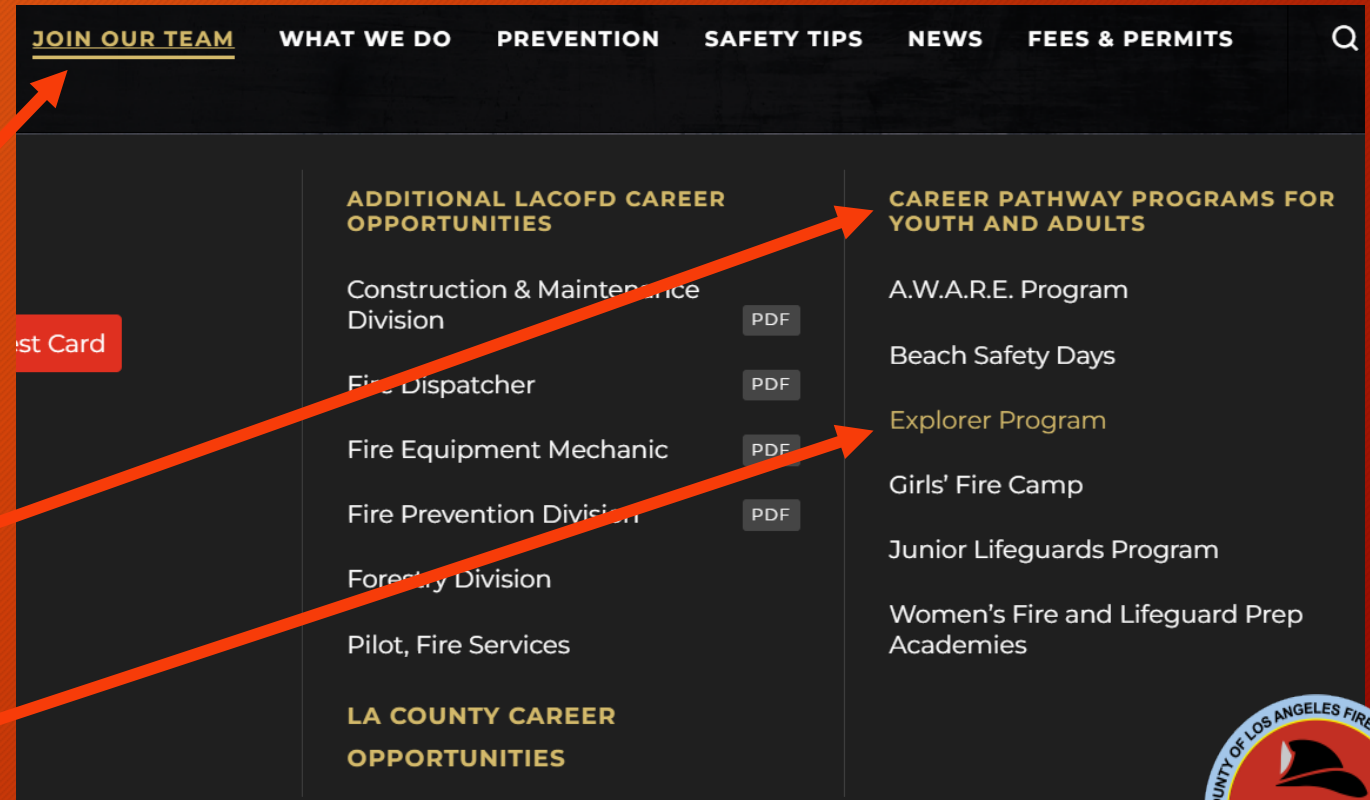


Explorer Webpage



Explorer Program Information:

1. Visit fire.lacounty.gov
2. In menu, click “Join Our Team”
3. Next, click “Career Pathway Programs for Youth and Adults”
4. Click on “Explorer Program”



Explorer Program Contact Information



County of Los Angeles Fire Department
www.fire.lacounty.gov/explorer-program

Follow us on social media

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Question and Answer





Thank you for joining!

