

PORT HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURAL ORDER

			ORDER NO: 16-04
SUBJECT: Explorer Program			
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 21, 1995	DISTRIBUTION: A	REVIEWED: REVISED:	Annual
REQUIREMENTS: None			
ISSUED BY: Chief Joseph A. Platzer		FORMS: None	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for the Law Enforcement Explorer Program.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to sponsor a Law Enforcement Explorer Post affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America. The program will place an emphasis on character building and will familiarize the explorers with the law enforcement profession by providing first-hand knowledge.

III. DEFINITION

- A. Law Enforcement Explorer - A civilian volunteer, who has an interest in law enforcement, affiliated with the Department in a volunteer, non-sworn capacity.
- B. Post Advisor - The Post Advisor will be a sworn officer with the responsibility of supervising, training, scheduling, and advising the members of the Post.
- C. Assistant Advisor - A sworn police officer who assists the Post Advisor with instruction at meetings, supervising the state competition, and explorer academy.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Must be a student in good standing.
- B. Must be between 14 and 20 years of age.
- C. Must be of good moral character with little or no formal contact with the criminal justice system.

- D. The final decision on whether a youth will/will not be a member of the Post lies with the Post Advisor.
- E. Explorers must follow all post rules and policies of the Port Huron Police Department that apply to the explorer program

V. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

A. Law Enforcement Explorers are non-sworn volunteers, affiliated with the Department and the Boy Scouts of America, and as such, have no legal authority, beyond that of any normal citizen, to enforce the law or make arrests. Therefore, Law Enforcement Explorers are never to be assigned to duties requiring sworn officer status.

B. Meetings

The Explorer Post will hold meetings. Meetings will be utilized for the discussion of Post business, training on law enforcement topics, or physical training.

C. Duties

1. The Law Enforcement Explorers have no specific duties or assignments within the Department.
2. At times Explorers may be utilized for public events such as parades. If the Explorers are assigned to these events, they will receive the necessary training specific to those duties.
3. At no time will an Explorer be assigned to an event unless they are under supervision.

D. Uniform

1. The uniform of the Explorer shall clearly distinguish them from sworn officers.
2. Each Explorer will be issued a light blue shirt (Elbeco, Tex-Trop, 100% polyester) with Department "EXPLORER" rocker and patches on each sleeve. The patches and rocker will be placed on the sleeve in the same manner as a Police Cadet's.
3. Each Explorer will be issued the French blue.
4. Explorers will wear a black belt.
5. Explorers will wear black shoes.
6. Instead of a breast badge, Explorers will wear a patch that resembles a badge and is the size and shape of a breast badge. The patch will have the word

“EXPLORER” sewn into it. The patch will be sewn onto the uniform shirt where the breast badge is normally worn.

7. Explorers will be issued a cold weather jacket or they may choose to purchase the Blauer soft shell bike jacket (#4660) in dark blue as authorized as an optional jacket during mild weather with an Explorer rocker patch on their own.
8. Once Explorers are issue their uniform, they will be expected to be in full uniform at any explorer meeting, ride-along, or work detail. The uniform of the day may be changed at the advisor’s discretion based on the meeting (i.e. physical training, range, etc.).
9. First year Explorers will be required to be dressed in business casual attire (i.e. collared shirt, no jeans) at all meetings and official functions unless changed by an advisor.

E. Michigan Law Enforcement Youth Training Academy

1. The MLEYTA is a week long academy put on by the MLEYAC (Advisory Committee). The Explorers are taught the skills they will need at the state competition in the spring. Each Explorer will be required to attend the academy in the summer each year. An excused absence will be granted on a case by case basis as approved by the Post Advisor.
2. Each Explorer will be required to pay for half of the tuition to attend the academy. The City of Port Huron Police Department will cover the other half. If an Explorer is a Drop on Request (DOR) they will be required to reimburse the City of Port Huron the half paid by the Police Department.
3. The Port Huron Police Department will provide transportation for the Explorers to the Academy. It will be the responsibility of the families of the Explorer to arrange a return ride home.

F. Governor’s Cup

1. The Explorer post will send up to two teams of four Explorers to compete in the State competition for the Governor’s Cup if there is interest. Additional Explorers may attend and observe for the experience and knowledge for upcoming years.
2. Priority will be given to seniority and years of attendance to the MLEYTA.

G. Ride-along

1. First Year – First year Explorers will not be permitted to do ride-along as an Explorer their first year. They will attend meetings to gain knowledge of the program and what will be expected of them.
2. Second Year – After attending the MLEYTA one time, an Explorer will be able to work one four hour shift a month in the Lieutenant's office with a cadet or with Central Dispatch Authority as an observer. Explorers will be expected to sign up for their work shift at the first meeting of the month. If an Explorer cannot attend the meeting they will need to contact their post Sergeant to arrange for confidentiality form prior to any dispatch or ride along shifts.
3. Third Year – After an Explorer has attended the MLEYTA twice and is sixteen years of age or older, they will be encouraged to do one eight hour shift a month with the Port Huron Police road patrol. Explorers will not be allowed to ride after midnight unless they are 18 years of age or older. Explorers should sign up for their shift at the first meeting of the month with their post Sergeant. If an Explorer cannot attend the meeting, they will need to contact their post Sergeant to arrange for an open slot.
4. Exceptions – Explorers may be able to do a ride-along before they have attended to MLEYTA two times if the Post Advisor gives his/her approval.
5. The Post Sergeants will submit the ride-along schedule to the Post Advisor as soon as possible after the first meeting of the month.
6. Explorers should keep in mind a ride-along can be cancelled at any time if the On-Duty Supervisor deems necessary. The Explorer should try and reschedule for a different day.

#