

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

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SUBJECT

Highlight the Explorer Program from Fort Collins Police Services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to highlight and recognize the Fort Collins Police Services' Explorer Program for the volunteer services the members provide to Fort Collins Police Services and the community and to recognize the Explorers who recently participated in a national Explorer competition.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Fort Collins Police Services Explorer Program is a volunteer program for youth in our community ages 15 to 21. It allows youth interested in the criminal justice/law enforcement profession to learn and get exposure to the field's different aspects and career opportunities. The Explorer Program gives youth experience in the law enforcement field and the ability to develop their leadership, communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution skills and give back to the community through volunteer service opportunities.

The Explorers meet once a week, with two mandatory meetings and two voluntary meetings per month. During these meetings, the Explorers receive presentations and instruction from professionals in the criminal justice field. During many of these presentations, Explorers get hands-on experience with the skill or topic they learned about. In other meetings, the Explorers participate in scenario/decision-based training to continue learning about the profession and developing their skills. The Explorers also provide many volunteer services to Police Services and the community. The Explorer Program has provided over 1700 community service hours in the last two years. These hours have included assistance with Santa Cops, delivery of Council materials to Councilmembers, building tours of the Fort Collins Police Department, help with special events, and many other activities.

The program currently has 13 youth, ranging from 15 to 20 years of age, and is managed by 7 police officer advisors. The advisors guide and mentor the Explorer Leadership Team, which consists of one lieutenant, two sergeants, and two corporals. The Explorer Leadership Team gives the youth the ability to plan and facilitate their own meetings and training sessions. It also allows them to develop their leadership skills. The skills and experiences the participants have in this program help them become more successful in their pursuit of obtaining a position in the criminal justice field. Several previous Explorers have said the skills, knowledge, and experience they gained during their time as an Explorer were invaluable and helped

them be successful in getting positions in the profession. Fort Collins Police Services has several current officers and dispatchers who were previous Explorers.

Once a year, a group of Explorers participate in a national explorer competition with explorer programs from around the country. During this competition, the Explorers go through various scenarios in several different aspects of law enforcement and are scored based on their performance by current law enforcement professionals. This year, five of our Explorers traveled to Topeka, Kansas. They competed against fourteen teams from across the nation in many events to test their knowledge, skills, and abilities in law enforcement-related situations. The Explorer team did exceptionally well, finishing second overall in the competition. The rankings for each team exercise were:

- 1st in Crisis Negotiations
- 1st in Death Investigation
- 1st in Crime Scene Investigator
- 1st in Special Victim
- 2nd in Active Shooter
- 2nd in Dodgeball
- 3rd in Crisis Intervention
- 3rd in Suspicious Vehicle

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation