



Real-World Career Experiences  
**Exploring**<sup>®</sup>

# What is Exploring?

Exploring is Learning for Life's career education program for young men and women who are at least 14 (and have completed 8th grade) and not yet 21 years old. Adults are selected by the participating organization for involvement in the program. Color, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status and citizenship are not criteria for participation.

Exploring is all about helping young adults make a more informed decision about future careers and determine if a particular career is the right one for them. Typically, a young adult will either:

1) get involved, learn about a career, and decide to pursue it;  
OR 2) learn enough about the career to determine it's not the right fit for them. It's better to learn as a young adult that a career is not for you, than after spending lots of money on an education only to THEN discover you don't like the career!

Exploring leaders volunteer their time to provide real-world career experiences for young adults. Exploring is not about lectures and slide shows – it's about gaining practical experience in a career field. The result is a program of activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, and develop.

## FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE

Fire & Emergency Service Exploring is a hands-on program that exposes participants to many career experiences, leadership opportunities, and community service activities. The primary goals of the program are to help young adults choose a career path within fire and emergency services and to challenge them to become responsible citizens of their communities and country.

### Popular Exploring careers include:

- Firefighters
- Paramedics
- Emergency Technicians
- Ambulance Corps
- Search & Rescue Services
- Forest Firefighters

Explorers get to experience firsthand what it's like to be a volunteer or full-time Firefighter & Emergency Service Provider through firefighting training and ride-alongs during actual fire calls.

### Explorers will:

- Learn important leadership skills
- Gain respect for firefighters
- Participate in hands-on projects to give them a real feel for whether this career is the right one for them
- Network with professionals who work in these careers daily – who use the latest technology, are aware of emerging trends and know what it takes to get into college for their specific career
- Learn about the educational requirements for a career in Fire & Emergency Service and receive tangible advice on steps they can take now to prepare and position for a successful career in the field of Fire & Emergency Service



Learn More. Experience More. Participate in Exploring.  
View the career webpage for more information.



## Everyone Wins With Exploring!

Exploring will be one of the best opportunities you offer your company, your employees, and the youth of your community.

### COMPANY BENEFITS

- Cultivate future employees
- Impact on the education process of youth
- Prepare young adults for transition from school to work
- Develop future responsible and caring adults
- Improve staff teamwork working on common goals outside of normal work
- Visible commitment to the welfare of the community

### EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Increased realization that we are ALL responsible for molding today's youth and tomorrow's leaders
- Greater job awareness
- Opportunity for greater community involvement
- Enhanced communication, planning, and program development skills
- Increased initiative of employees

### YOUTH BENEFITS

- Practical, real-world career experiences and insight
- Stimulated interest in continual education
- Building of leadership, self-confidence, and problem-solving skills
- Cooperative relationship between adults and youth
- Community service to others

## Testimonials

**"... brings together all areas of our operation for training."**

— Gene Coleman, Battalion Chief,  
Center Point Fire/Rescue; Captain,  
Birmingham Fire and Rescue

**"... brings fire and emergency services to life for teens."**

— Rodney Robertson, Lieutenant  
Martin County Fire Rescue

**"... is a consistent recruiting tool for new firefighters."**

— Chief Timothy S. Wall, Chief North  
Farms Volunteer Fire Department;  
Chairman, VCOS of International  
Association of Fire Chiefs

**"Fire Exploring gave me valuable insight into the fire service profession by offering hands-on career activities."**

— Ken S., Explorer

**FIRE & EMERGENCY**



## VISION STATEMENT

"To provide positive and meaningful real-world career experiences and leadership development opportunities for all teenagers and young adults in their chosen field of interest."

## SCHOLARSHIP

- International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation Explorer Scholarship

Learn more at [exploring.learningforlife.org/services/resources/scholarships](http://exploring.learningforlife.org/services/resources/scholarships).



# Exploring's 5 Areas of Emphasis

## 1 Career Opportunities

REAL-WORLD CAREER SKILLS

## 2 Leadership Experience

LEADERSHIP SKILLS EMPLOYERS CRAVE

## 3 Life Skills

CONFLICT-RESOLUTION, PROBLEM-SOLVING, RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

## 4 Citizenship

LEARN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS

## 5 Character Education

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

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