

Richland County Sheriff's Department

Explorer Post 601 Guide



Who are we?

The Richland County Sheriff's Department Explorer Post 601 is a law enforcement program geared towards young men and women with an interest in law enforcement. RCSD Explorer Post 601 is chartered under the Boy Scouts of America, and share all the benefits as a full fledged affiliate. Our goal is to help our explorers become future leaders with vision, goals, and ways to improve their quality of life.

What is our mission?

The mission of the Explorer Post 601 is to develop and shape our young people into becoming members of society and exposing them to the law enforcement field by teaching them discipline, leadership, and accountability. The mission will be accomplished by teaching explorers how to make ethical decisions, maintain physical and mental fitness, develop contacts for future employment opportunities, and applying policing and problem solving techniques to service their communities.

What do the Explorers do?

The explorer post is a very active division of the sheriff's department. Explorers meet every Tuesday and Thursday at Region 3 Headquarters, at 6429 Bishop Avenue Columbia, SC. At these meetings, explorers train in the following areas:

Law Enforcement Report Writing

Traffic Stops

Tactical Deployment and Building Team Entry

Public Speaking

Crime Scene

Conflict Resolution

TR310 Accident Report Writing and Investigation

Community Policing Services

Physical Fitness Training

Emergency Vehicle Operation (17 yoa only)

Warrant Search

Firearms Training(16yoa only)

Competition Training

Live Deputy Ride a Longs

Explorers are highly trained in the area of law enforcement, and training is taken very seriously. Explorers are also taught in the area of developing short and long term goals. These goals help to benefit themselves, the post and the community. Explorers are expected to attend no less than four meetings a month, and all absences must be excused.

What are the requirements?

-Explorer candidates must be between the age of 14 and 20 years old, and have completed the eighth grade. Those 14 to 12 years of age may join as a Junior Explorer (see below for further information).

-Explorer candidates must have at least a "C" average in classes at school, and must present a report card reflecting the fact. Report cards must be presented with application, and every three months thereafter.

-Any explorer candidate under 18 years of age must have their parents/guardian written permission and signature to participate in the program.

-Each explorer candidate must pass a rigorous background investigation.

-Must be free of any excessive disciplinary problems at school, home, and in community.

-Submit application along with a letter of intent with an interest in joining the program.

-Each explorer candidate must take an entry physical fitness test, and score satisfactory. Physician's physical wellness report must be presented in order to participate in Physical Fitness evaluations and training.

-Must have an interest in Law Enforcement or related field of study.

-Must pass an oral board interview with Advisor Staff and Leadership Explorer Team.

If all requirements are met, the explorer candidate will be issued a conditional offer of acceptance into the program. The explorer candidate will be put on a 60 day probationary status, in order to determine their commitment to the program. After the sixty days, the candidate will be considered a full fledged explorer with all rights and benefits granted. The explorer must join the Boy Scouts of America and be inducted under their charter.

RCSD Junior Explorer Program

The RCSD Junior Explorer Program is designed for youth 12-14 who have a strong desire to be in a law enforcement leadership program. Junior Explorers must go through all requirements that a full fledged explorer must go through, but will have limited involvement in certain areas. Some of these areas are firearms training, competition training, emergency vehicle operation, and deputy ride a longs. Junior Explorers will train and prepare for the next level of explorer initiation. Junior Explorers are only required to attend two trainings a month.

Explorer Post 601 Rank Structure

Fashioned after the Sheriff's Department, the Explorer Post also has a rank structure. The rank structure consists of the following ranks:

Captain

Lieutenant

Sergeant

Corporal

Senior Explorer

These ranks are given out at the discretion of the Head Advisor and the Advisor staff. These ranks make up the Explorer Post Leadership Team. This team helps in assisting the advisor staff with the everyday running of the post. Explorers who qualify for these ranks MUST demonstrate impeccable integrity and leadership ability. Other qualifications include time with the post, community services, academics, firm grasp of law enforcement concepts, outstanding integrity and aptitude, physical fitness, extracurricular activities outside the post, respect from fellow explorers and staff, and commitment and dedication to the post. Those wishing to be considered for advancement must do the following:

- Submit a letter of interest along with a two page essay on their qualifications
- MUST be in good academic standing
- Must pass an oral board with members of the advisor staff.

Explorers that are chosen to advance will be placed in the appropriate position at the discretion of the head advisor and advisor staff. Other explorers not chosen at this time will be placed on a list to await future explorer openings.

What are the benefits of being a RCSD Explorer?

Being a Richland County Sheriff's Department Explorer is a benefit in itself. But being a member has many other benefits as well. Some of these benefits are:

- Scholarship opportunities for College/Universities*
- Member and Access of all Boy Scout of America Events and Trainings*
- Local, State, and Federal Explorer Leadership Training*
- Exposure to real life Law Enforcement Training*
- Statewide and National Exposure through Competitions and Leadership Summits*
- Employment with RCSD upon turning 21 years of age*
- and many, many more!*

Explorer Code of Dress

Each explorer is a part of the Richland County Sheriff's Department family. Their very appearance and stature reflects directly on the department and our sheriff. It is of upmost importance to ensure that each explorer carries themselves in the upmost professional standard to reflect well on the department and the post.

With this in mind, we have three different types of uniform styles. Our first training uniform is the basic training uniform we utilize at regular training meetings. This consists of the approved RCSD explorer t-shirt with a pair of pants and shoes in good repair. Other clothing must not have any excessive markings or vulgar wording on it.

The second uniform is our community service uniform. This uniform is to be worn when we are doing such events such as community clean sweeps, car washes, youth events, or any event where comfort yet professionalism is required within the public eye. This uniform will consist of a dark blue or black explorer shirt, with matching color bdu pants and black boots. The uniform will be clean and in good repair, and what we like to call "media interview ready."

The third uniform is our Class A uniform. This uniform is black in color and resembles the RCSD deputy Class A uniform. This uniform should be worn with black polished shoes or boots, with military bearing in mind. All RCSD Explorer rank and insignia should be worn with this uniform and should be in excellent repair. These uniforms should only be worn to special events such as banquets, ceremonies, and special black tie events.

All explorers should maintain an excellent level of hygiene and grooming standards. Hair shall be groomed and not fall excessively over the ears, face, or neck. Mustaches should be trimmed to the edge of the lips, with no goatees or beards. The only exception is medically excused facial hair. Excessive hairstyles during training for male and female explorers will not be tolerated. Men should not have any ear rings in ears at anytime. Women must have stud earrings that do not dangle to prevent injury during training. Fingernails should be trimmed, cleaned, and not excessively long to ensure safety and hygiene.

Explorer Code of Conduct

As a Richland County Sheriff's Department Explorer, conduct is of the utmost importance!! How an explorer acts, dresses, speaks, and carries themselves is a DIRECT reflection of the sheriff's department. Each Explorer will adhere to and sign the Richland County Sheriff's Department Standard of Excellence Agreement. In addition:

-Explorers are to keep their life unsullied and free of any illegal or criminal activity. Explorers will be wise to choose the company of individuals who are not involved in criminal, illegal, or questionable activity.

-Explorers will not use any profane words or statements while in training or at any RCSD functions. Explorers will not engage in conversation of sexual activity, sexual orientation, or sexual statements towards male or female. Explorers will never make derogatory comments in reference to race, ethnic background, or individual religion or beliefs. Violation of this article may result in automatic termination from the program!

-Explorers will maintain good hygiene and overall physical wellness and fitness.

-Explorers will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate anyone that does. Explorers will carry themselves with the utmost integrity, respect, and honesty.

***-ELASTIC CLAUSE:** The elastic clause is put in place to cover any other issue not covered in this code of conduct. While every issue cannot be addressed, explorers should know what actions and events not to engage in. Every incident is judged on a case by case basis, and will be dictated by common sense practices of those in law enforcement.*