EXPLORING THE FUTURE
EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES

Our Explorers are the Department’s tomorrow. With every new Explorer, we glimpse our Department’s future. Through our Explorer Program, we strive to ensure that each young person who enters our Program walks away skilled, confident, and successful in achieving any career goal they wish to pursue.

Our Explorer Program empowers young people to fully delve into the fire service and experience what our brave, hard-working firefighters go through every single day in the communities we serve. Participants who truly aspire to earn the badge take it a step further and enter the more rigorous Explorer Academy to become Certified Explorers.

As shown in the video below (http://bit.ly/2HPXWG4), the Explorer Academy is an intensive, rigorous six-weekend training that physically and mentally prepares participants who come from the Department’s 22 battalions located throughout Los Angeles County. Earning the distinction as a Certified Explorer allows participants to go on 24-hour ride-alongs at any of our 175 fire stations as well as assist firefighters with fire station tasks and various community events. The experience is hands-on and invaluable in introducing them to the many career possibilities available with the Department and Countywide. Participants are also partnered with mentors who guide and help them cultivate a solid set of core values that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

One thing is certain; Certified Explorers are focused and passionate individuals in pursuit of their goals, and we are eager to help them achieve those goals as best we can. Their success is our success which is why we are so invested in them and in the Explorer Program.

Under the leadership of Deputy Fire Chief Anthony Marrone and Acting Assistant Fire Chief Henry Rodriguez and in partnership with the Learning for Life Program, we are committed to revamping and enhancing the Explorer Program so we may build on its strengths with renewed focus. We look forward to what lies ahead in ensuring we are staying current on ever-evolving trends and Department needs. Progress and
growth are undoubtedly impeded by resistance to change. To avoid stagnation and complacency with the same-old, we must move ahead of the tide and shape our future – the Department’s future.

The 60th Explorer Academy will graduate on Saturday, March 24. We are fortunate to have over 70 Explorers in the current Academy who are working toward graduation and becoming part of the elite group of Certified Explorers who preceded them.

Please join me in congratulating the graduates and thanking the mentors who volunteered their time and effort to ensure the success of the participants and the program itself. Our Explorer Program is flourishing and thriving because of the teamwork from all those involved.

Truly, our Explorers are tomorrow’s leaders and change-makers. They are the new and future faces of the fire service and will be instrumental in its continued growth. With our renewed efforts to enhance the Explorer Program, I am certain we will offer participants every opportunity to explore the endless possibilities ahead and ensure their success.

For those interested in the Department’s Explorer Program, please visit:

FIRE.LACOUNTY.GOV/EXPLORER

FEATURED EXPLORER — JOEY NAPOLI

Honored as the North Regional Operations Bureau Explorer of the Year, Joey Napoli serves as the Post Leader for Battalion 6. He also attends College of the Canyons and is a student worker for the Department’s Public Information Office. Joey aspires to become a firefighter and encourages others to join the Department’s Explorer Program.

I LIKE THE EXPLORER PROGRAM BECAUSE YOU GET THE TRUE PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT IT’S LIKE BEING A FIREFIGHTER WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT – THE DISCIPLINE AND THE PROFESSIONALISM... WHAT YOU PUT INTO THE PROGRAM IS WHAT YOU GET OUT OF IT. BEING AN EXPLORER IS LIKE BEING PART OF A FAMILY. WE ARE ALL CHASING THE SAME GOAL AND THE SAME DREAM. ”

JOEY NAPOLI
Certified Fire Explorer, Battalion 6

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The Fire Chief’s Message is a monthly communication from the Fire Chief of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.