



Venice Police Explorers
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Dear Supporters,

This year the Venice Police Explorers of Post 86 have given approximately 2,553 hours to better themselves and aid the community. During weekly meetings, in excess of 1,000 hours, the Explorers gained confidence and discipline while learning law enforcement skills including how to direct traffic, search a building, and effectively talk to people. The Explorers practiced their newly acquired skills at details ranging from night security at the Women's Sertoma Sun Fiesta, parking cars at the annual Jewish Community Center Ethnic Festival, and registering more than 100 bikes for the residents of Country Club Estates. Many of the details are compensated by a monetary contribution to the post, although the Explorers donated time and services to the community by fingerprinting children at the Goodwill Back to School Fair and working the YMCA Bike Rodeo. No matter the detail, all participating Explorers gained a greater sense of what it means to serve their community. The Explorer program is also an outlet for fun and safe youth events.

Thanks to multiple carwashes and donation drives at Publix, the Explorers participated in the Northeast Florida Law Enforcement Explorers Academy and Florida-wide Explorer functions, like the quarterly delegates meetings. During the delegates meetings and academy, the Explorers receive scenario-based training and had free time to associate with other youth interested in law enforcement. During the academy the Explorers learned search and rescue diving techniques and practiced with gear in a local swimming pool. They also learned verbal judo, rappelled from a four-story building, and received certification in CPR. Post 86 shined at these multi-post events and brought home several awards from the Explorer Academy including Best First-Time Shooter and Most Likely to Succeed – Phase 1, won by Explorer Stephanie Selevitch. Chief Theresa Lynn received the award for Most Likely to Succeed in Phase 3, scored second in her phase for academics, and her warrior like qualities compelled academy staff to create and award her with the Hard Core Award. All nine Venice Explorers in attendance passed their respective academy phase, some with academic honors. Our three senior Explorers, Capt. Michael Boice, Capt. Kyle Youmans and Chief Lynn, graduated from the academy completing all three phases during at least three different summers. Among the three of them they served more than 10 years in the post.

As the year came to an end, we prepared and held our annual awards banquet. At the ceremony, many Explorers were acknowledged for commitment to their community and self growth. Chief Lynn received a plaque for the most service hours, for the second year. She worked a total of 374.25 hours in 2008. Sgt. Nick Hertel and Explorer Drita Hajroja were the next two with 242.5 and 230.5 hours, respectively. This year top honors

went to Efc. April Boice for Achievement, Sgt. Nick Hertel for Explorer of the Year, and to Chief Lynn for Staff of the Year. These three teens earned their awards by improving themselves and working to improve Explorer Post 86 through exemplary behavior. Efc. Boice proved herself to be a tough cookie throughout the two weeks of the academy, overcoming dehydration, hospitalization and a sprained ankle. She never quit though, and near the end of the two weeks she wrestled and beat several girls in the defensive tactics challenge, earning her the nickname of Secret Ninja. April attended many different functions and is active in the classroom. Sgt. Hertel was named by his peers as Explorer of the Year for his level of involvement in the post meetings and details. He assists with drill training and was appointed to the honor and color guards where he picked up the skills naturally. He also counsels others on how to better their own performance. Sgt. Hertel is a warm and caring young man and instantly liked by those who meet him. Chief Lynn is a consistent leader. She is dedicated, hard working, and has shown our explorers that once you get to the top you don't sit back and let others work for you. She leads by example and has been to 45 of 51 work details in the past two years, providing over 500 hours of community service. Chief Lynn does not miss weekly Explorer meetings and holds the highest attendance record for meetings in the past two years. She regularly transports Explorers to ensure they are also able to attend post functions and will assist Advisors and Explorers alike in any manner necessary.

All of the above named Explorers exemplify the purpose for Venice Police Explorers Post 86. They are learning life skills that will not only prepare them for jobs in law enforcement or the military, but will also provide them the confidence and knowledge to run a board meeting, or perform under pressure in a medical emergency situation. Along with the life experience they are gaining, the Explorers are learning to be socially responsible citizens involved in their communities by giving back to the public and acquiring an understanding of service to others. They learn professionalism while directing impatient traffic, or simply how to compose oneself while in a uniform and in public. They learn compassion and kindness as they deal with a wiggling child afraid of the ink pad or an elderly person intent on registering their bike. As budgets are cut and fundraising efforts increased, the Explorers are learning financial responsibility and that they must work for the things they want.

The Explorers mature mentally and emotionally in the post and leave having gained a better ability to work among peers, with the strength to make good decisions, and a pride in themselves. Explorer Advisors Sgt. Whitehead, Det. Kolodgy, Officer McGee, and Officer Woodworth provided countless hours of their own time for the achievement of these goals. We thank all who supported Post 86 this year. We hope to continue bettering the lives of area youth and serving the community. We appreciate the opportunity to serve as good will ambassadors for the Venice Police Department and the City of Venice.

Det. J. Kolodgy #274
Explorer Post #86 Senior Advisor

Sgt. Whitehead #157
Training and Youth Sergeant

Officer McGee #319
Associate Advisor

Officer Woodworth #325
Associate Advisor