

# Learning for Life

Volume 3; Issue 4

April 2009

*Des Plaines Valley Council, Learning for Life and Exploring*



## Spring Recruitment!!!

Over the last few years, many posts have had issues with recruiting. Usually this problem occurs after a very successful time period when you did not have to really “recruit”, there was just something clicking and working for your post. Then, all of a sudden, your Explorers are graduating from high school and the younger ones just stop showing up.

Every spring, each post should perform an annual “post checkup”. Just like a person takes care of their physical health, the post should take care of its program health. Some things to consider:

-how often are you meeting?

-what is your attendance at each meeting?

-what are you covering? Does your program include the five areas of emphasis?

-what are the ages of all of you members?

-How many adults are helping you support the post?

-Have you touched base with your Exploring executive in the last few months?

These are just a few things that can help you gauge where you might need some help.

Remember that as soon as teens graduate the eighth grad they are eligible to join

your post and then stay with you until they turn 21. Try to touch base with local middle schools so that teens know who you are, what you do and how to join your post. Hold a spring “firstnighter” to invite new members to. This will give your post a chance to revive its program and bring in new energy. It may also help the problem that seems to come up all too often when seems the post membership is growing up too fast and moving on sooner than you planned.

Remember to touch base with the Exploring executive before its too late. He/she can only help those who are willing to do what needs to be done.

## DPVC Explorer accepted to FBI Academy

The Willowbrook Police Depart Exploring Post #500 is known for producing several recognitions at conferences and several success stories from their former Explorers, and now they have another one. Victoria Sargis, an Explorer from post #500, has been accepted to attend the National Law Enforcement

Exploring Leadership Academy for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sargis is one of 150 Explorers in the Nation to be accepted to be included in one of five academies this summer. She took the extra steps to complete all paperwork necessary and was endorsed by her ad-

visors and the local council office.

Sargis is an outstanding Explorer who will bring back a lot of knowledge from this week long experience.

Congratulations Tori!!

*“Yesterday I dared to struggle. Today I dare to win.”*

*~Bernadette Devlin~*

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# April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## Schedule of Events

- 4/13—Explorer Safety Conference Planning meeting (Mt. Prospect, IL)
- 4/30 — Explorer Leadership Team nomination due
- 4/30 — Committee Meeting 6:30 pm, (Council Service Center)
- 4/4-5/23 — Dupage County Explorer Training Academy (Westmont Fire Department)
- 5/4 — Youth Leadership Team meeting 6: 30 pm (Council Service Center)
- 5/28 — Committee Meeting 6:30 pm (Council Service Center)

## Setting the bar high...



**2008 Centennial  
Quality Council  
Award**

The Des Plaines Valley Council has a lot of work to do in 2009 and it is already April! This year the DPVC Exploring program has set out to expand it's available opportunities for youth to experience a range of careers.

Currently there are four clusters offered to students through Exploring Posts that include: law enforcement, fire and emergency services, communication, and medical. It is this year's goal to broaden the program to the clusters of: law and government, science, business, engineering, aviation, arts and humanities, skilled trades and social services. These career clusters can include such programs as culinary, veterinarian services, dentistry, flying clubs, business clubs and the list could go on.

If you know of anyone within these career clusters who is willing to start an Exploring Post or become a speaker/host for a general Exploring Post please contact Jessica Dillon. Help grow Exploring this year and get more teens the opportunities they need to succeed.

Remember, Exploring is "Growing Tomorrow's Workforce". Beyond beginning new posts, we are asking all current posts to recruit a committee member for our Exploring and Learning for Life Committee. These people can be members at large, or work on a subcommittee to begin and mentor new posts, work on fundraising, or help develop programs and activities. Please contact Exploring Executive [Jessica Dillon](#) or Committee Chairman [Steve Bradley](#) for more information.

## Exploring Youth Leadership Committee

As program is developed and recruitment efforts are set forth, who really is the target audience being reached out to? That's right, teenagers. As growth continues in the Des Plaines Valley Council it is vital to have youth/Explorers as part of the planning process.

To make this effort a success it is being asked of every post to nominate 1-3 Explorers to participate on a council level committee. It is also requested that if any adults from a post are interested in these efforts to come join us as well. Maybe there is



an adult/parent already within the post that does not have a solid role with the post. This would be the perfect place for them.

Some of the goals of this committee will be:

- creating a coordinated recruitment

effort between all posts

- assisting in communications of all available programming options (ie state conference, ESC, national and local seminars and meetings)

- developing program for entire council post participation.

This group will also be asked to nominate a chairperson(s) to sit on a regional youth committee. Please let Exploring Executive Jessica Dillon know who you wish to nominate by **April 30th**.

## Explorer Safety Conference 2009

Coming this August, back by popular demand is the 2009 Explorer Safety Conference. This event has been the highlight of many fire and law enforcement posts the last two years. To make sure that 2009 is the same, the planning committee needs help!!!

The next meeting will be held Monday, April 13th at 6:30pm, at the Northwest Suburban Council office in Mt. Prospect, IL (600 Wheeling Rd.).

Please feel free to send any youth or adults that would be interested in making this year's program be the best yet!



## Welcome Steve!!!

Next month we will be featuring a story on our new Exploring and Learning for Life Committee Chairman, Steven Bradley.

Steve is currently an advisor to Post #17, Western Springs Fire Department. He is very excited and energetic about the possibilities this year with Exploring.

Please welcome Steve to the team and show him your support!

## State Conference



This year's conference is August 3-8th at the Springfield, IL Hilton. The cost is \$225.00 per youth and adult (+hotel accommodations).

Explorers from across our great state gather to learn, grow, and compete with one another. But most importantly, they come to have fun. The Explorer conference is a growing evolution. Advisors and Explorers have spoken and new competitions are geared up and ready to roll this August. Nine months from now, the greatest and best minds of the future of law enforcement will once again join together in what will prove to be the best Illinois Law Enforcement Explorer Conference yet! Look in your email that this newsletter was attached in and look for the files about the State Conference. If you have any issues opening these files please call Jessica. For those who would like to coordinate travel plans please attend the next advisor meeting.

# Learning for Life

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*“Building tomorrow’s workforce.”*

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[WWW.LEARNINGFORLIFE.ORG](http://WWW.LEARNINGFORLIFE.ORG)

## Mission Statement

*It is the mission of Learning for Life to enable young people to become responsible individuals by teaching positive character traits, career development, leadership, and life skills so they can make ethical choices and achieve their full potential.*

## Vision Statement

*Learning for Life strives to be the foremost co-educational youth program for character and career development.*

## Word of the Month: COURAGE

**Definition: the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery**

**Quote: “Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live.”**  
~Dorothy Thompson~



## Sample Lesson Plans: Courage

Here a couple of lesson plans for this month’s theme: Courage.

In the first grade book-Seekers:

**Title:** Building My Courage

**Summary:** courage is something inside all of us that allows us to face difficult situations

**P.** 217

**Methods:** arts and craft activity, teacher lead class discussion

**Subject:** language arts, health

In the third grade book-Discoverers:

**Title:** Sticking to What’s Right

**Summary:** learn acceptance of

themselves that can lead to patience and tolerance of others.

**P.** 241

**Methods:** individual project, individual reading or writing, teacher lead class discussion

**Subject:** Social Studies

In the fifth grade book– Challengers:

**Title:** Accepting Consequences

**Summary:** how to be accountable for our actions

**P.** 247

**Methods:** Group discussion and report, group project, Teacher lead class discussion.

**Subject:** Health: p 391

In the 7th grade Builders book there are lesson plans that relate to teaching the trait of courage:

-Decision Making: What Should I Do Now? Page 27

-Self Awareness: Honestly, Why Am I? Page 63

If you have any questions or wish to learn more about Learning for Life contact: [jedillon@bsamail.org](mailto:jedillon@bsamail.org).

**NEW—CHECK OUT  
[WWW.LEARNINGFORLIFE.ORG](http://WWW.LEARNINGFORLIFE.ORG)  
FOR THEIR NEW TEACHER  
ONLINE TRAINING!!!**