



Newsletter



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Exploring Alumni Association Being Launched This Year

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of Exploring. It's fitting to celebrate this 60th Anniversary by launching a nationwide search for former Explorers; the search will result in the development of an Exploring Alumni Association (EAA). To this end, we have compiled a list of Exploring posts with 10 years or more tenure to begin the process of building the alumni database. A total of 1,600 posts have been identified. A letter was recently sent to all Scout executives about these 1,600 posts. We're asking councils to contact these posts and asked them to identify 10 or more former Explorers who were successful participants in their posts and who are now successful members of communities across the country. We will also work with the BSA to identify individuals in their alumni database who were Explorers. Former Explorers are asked to go to the Linked In website (<http://www.linkedin.com/e/vgh/192898/>) and join the EAA directory. This directory will serve as the database collection site.

Development of the EAA will help us help your council in many ways, from providing potential contributors, committee members, strengthening/enhancing collaborations, and much, much more. The Exploring Alumni Association (EAA) is designed to:

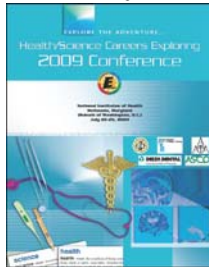
- Reconnect former Explorers with friends, advisors and local councils
- Rekindle enthusiasm for Exploring
- Re-engage alumni to become post advisors or volunteers
- Provide an avenue for alumni to make donations to the local councils or to LFL
- Provide an opportunity for alumni to fully understand Learning for Life programs
- Discover alumni who are now leaders in communities throughout the country

We encourage LFL/Exploring professionals to spread the word about the EAA at community meetings and civic associations. Also, contact former Explorer youth leaders, ask them to register and request they spread the word to friends.

For more information about the EAA, contact Peggy Chestnutt, Director, Workforce Development, 972-580-2428, pchestnu@lflmail.org.

2009 Health/Science Career Conference National Institutes of Health Bethesda, Maryland, July 22—25, 2009

This year, the National Health Careers Exploring Committee and the National Science Careers Exploring Committee join forces to conduct a National Health/Science Conference at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland (a suburb of Washington, D.C.), July 22—25. All Exploring posts are invited to attend the event regardless of their career focus.



Conference attendees will participate in interactive, hands-on seminars, tour medical/science research labs, and talk with world-renowned scientists and doctors. In addition, participants can sign-up to tour Washington, D.C., and all of its historic monuments. Promotional information and registration material for the conference was mailed to all councils and all health/science posts in January.

For more information, please contact Peggy Chestnutt, Director, Workforce Development at 972-580-2428 or pchestnu@lflmail.org.

2010 National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference

The 2010 National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference will host thousands of participants for the 17th biennial National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference. Reasons for the success of the conference have been the Advisors' active support and participation and the opportunity to network with adult and youth participants from all over the U.S.A.



DATES: July 19 — 24, 2010

LOCATION: Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia

COST: The cost is \$400.00 per person plus a one-time nonrefundable post registration fee of \$100.00.

PROGRAM: The program is several days of exciting competitions and events:

Team competitions: Arrest and Search, Bomb Threat Response, Crime Prevention, Crime Scene Search, Domestic Crisis Intervention, Shoot/Don't Shoot, Hostage Negotiation, Burglary in Progress, Traffic Accident Investigation, Traffic Stop, White Collar Crime, Emergency Field First Aid.

Individual events: Police Physical Performance Testing, Air Pistol Competition, Pistol Competition (9mm), Sample Written Examination, Drill Competition, BeamHit, Bike Policing, Non-Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (NEVO).

Seminars: Bomb Investigations, Combating Terrorism in America, Executive Protection, Exploring Leadership Development, Fugitive Investigations, Gang Recognition and

Identification, Hate Crimes & Terrorism on the Internet, Narcotics Trafficking and Interdiction, Protecting Our National Borders, Protect Yourself: Self-Defense, Psychological Profiling, Surveillance Methods and Technology

Exhibits and Exploring USA: Features displays that promote many successful post programs

WHO CAN REGISTER: The conference is open to registered law enforcement Exploring posts. This conference is a sellout so pay attention to the "Advisor Checklist."

HOW TO REGISTER: Look for the 2010 conference guidebook and reservation form in the summer of 2009 at www.learningforlife.org/exploring/lawenforcement.



American University in Washington, DC will serve as host of The 2009 National Mock Trial Competition for Law Explorers on July 22nd—26th.

The participation fee is \$375. This will cover housing and most meals for the 4 day stay. Dorm rooms will serve as housing and the meals will be in the university cafeteria or by special arrangements. Meals were great last year and should be even better in 2009.



All Explorer Posts and High School Mock Trial teams are invited to enter this most exciting competition. Awards will be given for 4 team placements and for individual competition such as prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, and for all witnesses. This year's case will be emailed to you when your application has been processed with the deposit. Go to the Learning for Life website www.learningforlife.org/exploring to get more information on this year's competition.

The Mock Trial serves as a college experience and a chance to see the nation's capital. Sight seeing tours will take place and some will experience a Washington Nationals baseball game. It is challenging, fun and a great opportunity to make new friends with other Explorers from other parts of the country. Get hands-on insight into the world of Law and Government careers.

You may wish to reserve your place now by mailing your deposit of \$375. Make your checks payable to the National Mock Trial Competition, account #62057-1780, 1329 W. Walnut Hill Ln., P.O. Box 152225, Irving, TX 75015-2225. For more information, contact Cliff Takawana, ctakawan@lflmail.org or call 972-580-2437.

Learning for Life and Exploring Folders Now Supply Items

Learning for Life has now placed Learning for Life and Exploring folders on the supply item form as a cost item. New numbers for these former bin items are Exploring (30674) and Learning for Life (30675). The costs of these folders are \$43.99 for a package of 50; \$24.99 for a package of 25; or \$1.19 for each folder if sold separately.

A new supply order form has been placed on mybsa.org under <http://info.netbsa.org/dsi/lfl/pdf/order-ndc.pdf> you have any further questions please contact the Learning for Life National Office or the National Distribution Center at 1-800-323-0732.

Exploring Program Celebrates 60 Years

Contributed by: [Brenda Bradford](#) on 4/20/2009

The Learning for Life Career Exploring program is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2009. Exploring is a career education program for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years old. Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences that help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.



Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and the organizations in their communities. Local community organizations initiate a specific Explorer post by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, and develop. Exploring programs are based on five areas of emphasis: career opportunities; life skills; citizenship; character education; and leadership experience.

Though Exploring is best known for its programs in Law Enforcement and Fire Service, Explorer posts can specialize in a variety of career skills. In the San Fernando Valley there are Explorer posts in many career fields including Aviation, Law & Government, Medical, Journalism and Military.

In celebration of our 60th Anniversary we are looking for Exploring Alumni to share their stories. If you were an Explorer, or just want more information about this amazing program, please contact Brenda Bradford, Learning for Life Director, at 818-933-0121.

Cultivation Event

The Cultivation Event (formally known as an Impact Luncheon for Exploring) is designed to identify and sell businesses, schools, industries, professional institutions and community groups on Learning for Life Programs. It is designed to sell both School Based Programs as well as Explorer Posts. It is a step by step approach to gain an understanding of these groups and their commitment to organizing Learning for Life groups and posts.

A Cultivation Event can be a formal dinner at a country club, in the organization's boardroom or an informal breakfast or luncheon. Let the host determine the site due to his knowledge of the organizations that will be invited. If you have the right person, the invitees will find it hard not to attend. They will find it hard to send someone else in the organization but to attend themselves, which is what you want because they are the decision makers.

The process involves identifying prospective participants for Learning for Life/Exploring programs then recruiting an event chair to serve as host. The host is someone of stature that prospective participating organizations will feel an obligation to attend when invited. It is the responsibility of the host to invite, the participants to a site that he or she selects and fund the meal or event at a time that will attract the best attendance. The host can serve as MC for the event and endorse the program by requesting all attendees to consider starting a program in their organizations.

It is the responsibility of the Learning for Life staff person to make all the arrangements for the meal (breakfast, lunch, or dinner) and to plan the program that will be present informing the attendees of the aspects of the Learning for Life programs and how it can serve youth and meet the organizations needs in community service and in other needed areas. The Learning for Life website found on MYBSA contains all necessary helps for staging a Cultivation Event. You will find a complete guide for this important event under the Group/Post Organization (registration) heading then click Exploring Post Organization/Renewal. The cultivation event can influence top key leaders in your community who can support Learning for Life/Exploring programs and provide volunteers to serve. For more information contact Cliff Takawana at 972-580-2437 or ctakawan@lflmail.org.



Law Enforcement Exploring Update

Law Enforcement Exploring has added a new all inclusive listing on our web site. Please take a moment to visit www.learningforlife.org/exploring/lawenforcement and review the items under the "Law Enforcement Exploring Program Guidelines" heading. This new area includes all major programs, policy statements, and Safety First Guidelines for Law Enforcement Exploring. The all inclusive listing should make it easier to find information and resources to conduct a quality and safe program for your Explorers.

Please note the revised policies and requirements for the Ride-Along program. In Section 3.3, it refers that all law enforcement officers participating in the Ride-Along program must take Youth Protection training. The On-Line training can be found on www.learningforlife.org web site. Simply, click the word "Exploring" and then click on "Youth Protection." The training session will be the first one listed. Also in Section 3.3, it states all Explorers must review the Personal Safety Awareness DVD (AV-09DVD27). In addition, Section 4.0 states that all Ride-Along programs must be certified in order to be covered by the Learning for Life insurance plan. Programs are certified by the National Law Enforcement Exploring Ride-Along Committee. For assistance, call your local Learning for Life office or contact Bill Taylor, 972-580-2241, at the National Learning for Life office.

Learning for Life Joins America's Promise Alliance

Every 26 seconds, a student drops out of school in this country. That's nearly 7,000 every school day. And of those who do graduate, far too many are poorly prepared for college and work.

The America's Promise Alliance has invited all 50 states and 55 cities to hold dropout prevention leadership summits in the next two years to address these alarming statistics. The invited cities were identified through research as having the highest concentration of low-performing high schools. These summits are intended to drive policy and program action to help strengthen schools and provide wraparound supports to the young people who need them most. The Alliance will provide modest funding, technical assistance, and other basic planning supports to help every summit team hold a quality event and develop a post-summit action plan.

These dropout prevention summits are the leading edge of the Alliance's 5-year campaign to improve the lives of 15 million young people, particularly those most disadvantaged, by providing them more of the Five Promises (i.e. caring adults,

safe places, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others). This 5-year plan, starting with the summits, is being pursued jointly by more than 230 national organizations in the America's Promise Alliance, including [partner name].

America's Promise Alliance, in partnership with the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, has released an online curriculum titled *Saving Our Futures: A Financial Responsibility Program for Young People* to teach youth in middle and early high school about financial responsibility, and to advocate for smarter money management in their homes, communities and from elected officials. Designed as a companion to the critically acclaimed documentary about problems with the U.S. economy, I.O.U.S.A., *Saving Our Futures* can be used in or after school and provides many opportunities for quality service-learning projects.

The curriculum contains six chapters, an extensive resources section, and 26 modules that can be used in whole or in part. Four core chapters – Budget, Savings, Trade and Leadership – align with the movie's introduction of these same topics. The purpose and urgency of the lessons are outlined in an Introduction chapter, and an Action chapter provides young people with a blueprint to design their own action and advocacy plans.

"We are thrilled to be able to make this curriculum available to schools and youth community organizations at such a critical time in our country's economic history," said Marguerite W. Kondracke, president and CEO, America's Promise Alliance. "The *Saving Our Futures* curriculum will give young people an important opportunity to practice and advocate for sound fiscal decisions in their families, communities and in our country."

Saving Our Futures is available for free at www.americaspromise.org/financialresponsibility. An abbreviated version of I.O.U.S.A. is available to accompany the curriculum, as well as promotional tools for those that want to share it with others.

The America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest partnership alliance comprised of corporations, nonprofit organizations, foundations, policymakers, advocacy and faith groups committed to ensuring that children receive the fundamental academic, health and life resources they need to lead successful, productive lives and build a stronger society.



Alyssa Fry Receives the 2008-2009 Career Based Intervention Partnership of the Year for Region 11

Congratulations to Alyssa Fry for receiving the 2008-2009 Career Based Intervention Partnership of the Year for Region 11 at the Career Based Intervention Spring Professional Development Conference.

What is CBI-CC? CBI-CC is a work/study program that encourages students to explore various careers, both in the classroom and in the field. It assists "at-risk" students

who have academic problems, attendance & behavioral issues, and/or economic hardships. The purpose of the program is to work with the students to help them stabilize their academic program, remediate- where necessary, show the students career options they might have, prepare them for independent living, and see them from high school to graduation and possibly beyond.

For more info on her conference, visit www.Cbi-cc.org.



Ohio's Career Based Intervention and Career Connections Division

Learning for Life: ADA nets highest honor for youth career work

By Karen Fox

San Diego—The national organization that provides hands-on opportunities for youth to explore career interests on March 10 bestowed its highest honor for career education on the American Dental Association.

[Learning for Life](#) presented the William H. Spurgeon III Award to the ADA, the Council on Dental Education and Licensure and staff member Beverly Skoog for close association and collaboration with its Health Careers Exploring program, which provides a variety of ways for students age 14-20 to shadow professionals and learn about careers in health care.



Honors: At right, Beverly Skoog, ADA career guidance programs liaison, and Dr. James R. Hupp, a member of the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure and chair of CDEL's Career Guidance and Diversity Activities Committee, display the William H. Spurgeon III Award that the national organization Learning For Life awarded to the ADA in March.

The ADA has collaborated with Learning for Life to promote dentistry as a profession to youth, with an emphasis on students from diverse backgrounds. One result of that collaboration is the Dental Explorer Posts around the country that are coordinated by component and constituent dental

societies and individual dentists. Explorer Posts provide opportunities for students to attend workshops on dental career options, career guidance, dental education and dental specialties, establish mentor contacts and even participate in hands-on activities such as suturing pig mandibles, which takes place at the Metro Denver Dental Society's award-winning Explorer Post.

"Learning for Life reaches out to youth at a time in their lives when they are most amenable to guiding their education and career choices," said Dr. Frederick Eichmiller, chair of the Learning for Life Health Careers Exploring Committee, and vice president and dental director of Delta Dental of Wisconsin. "These are bright, young, inquisitive minds that only require a little mentoring to guide them into a future in dentistry and health care," said Dr. Eichmiller. "The ADA is molding the future of the dental profession by participating in this program."

Ms. Skoog, ADA career guidance programs liaison, attended the National Learning for Life Conference and accepted the ADA award. Ms. Skoog also presented a seminar on behalf of the ADA titled, "Strategies to Accelerate Collaborative Outreach Activities" at the conference.

For more information on creating a local Explorer post or other dental career resources, contact Ms. Skoog at Ext. 2390 or skoogb@ada.org. The ADA Web site has a wealth of information on careers, too, at www.ada.org/goto/careers.

Former Explorer receives valor medal

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Published: April 26, 2009

A Loudoun County Sheriff's deputy and former Culpeper County Law Enforcement Explorer program participant recently received a Medal of Valor for his role in saving a baby's life.

Sean McCormack, a 2001 Culpeper County High School graduate, received the award April 14 for an incident that happened nearly a year earlier.

McCormack encountered a disabled vehicle along Route 28 in Loudoun County on April 25, 2008. Inside the vehicle, an infant appeared to be having a seizure, according to information from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

McCormack repositioned the baby and performed a finger sweep of its mouth and a rescue breath, which helped the infant to begin breathing again on its own.

McCormack joined the Culpeper County Explorers program when he was 13 and volunteered for five years.

[Gulfstream Aerospace Hosts Flight Lab Event for Explorer Post Students](#)

(Savannah, Georgia) On Thursday, March 19, 2009, Gulfstream Aerospace, a wholly owned subsidiary of General Dynamics, provided an exciting, hands-on activity for local students participating in its Explorer Post program. The event included tours of the Company's Savannah-based labs as well as an opportunity to use the jet-maker's flight simulator. In the



Stereolithography lab, students were able to see the latest technology in action as models and parts were being created using 3-D computer imagery.

Following the tour, students received a training session in the flight simulator. A joint effort among Gulfstream Aerospace, Learning for Life program and the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, the



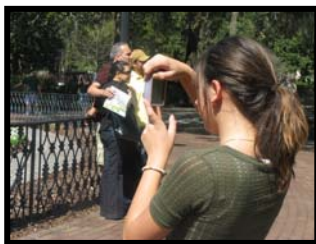
Explorer Post program gives students firsthand information about aerospace career options and the opportunity to learn about the skills and educational preparation necessary to achieve their professional goals.

Exploring strives to be the foremost co-educational youth program for character and career development. For a gallery of local Learning for Life and Exploring photos, visit:

<http://spotted.savannahnow.com/users/explorerpost/>.

[Digital Communications Explorers Cover Historic Ceremony](#)

(Savannah, Georgia) On Friday, March 6, 2009, the Digital Communications Explorers attended the 'Greening of the Fountain' at Forsyth Park to cover this historic event. Under the tutelage of their Savannah Morning News Explorer Post Advisor, Liberty Powers, the students photographed and videotaped the action. They also had the opportunity to observe a team of Savannah Morning News photographers and videographers photographing and creating a live streaming video of the ceremony. Following the ceremony, the Explorers went to Savannah Morning News to upload their photos onto the Savannahnow.com 'Spotted' photo gallery website. They also went into the studio and recorded the introduction to a video compilation of the day's events to be posted online. Here is a link to their video:



<http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid4779087001/bclid1409013980/bctid15410944001>

Special thanks are extended to Liberty Powers, Savannahnow.com's Online Community Coordinator, for organizing this hands-on multi-media activity and to Gayle Tremble, Savannah-Chatham Public School's



Youth Apprenticeship & Work-based Learning Coordinator, for her assistance in organizing this new Explorer Post. To view the Digital Explorers' gallery of photos and a video of 'The Greening of the Fountain', visit

<http://spotted.savannahnow.com/galleries/index.php?id=361088> and

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/link/bcpid4779087001/bclid1409013980/bctid15410944001>.

The Digital Communications Explorer Post is sponsored by Savannah Morning News. Exploring strives to be the foremost co-educational youth program for character and career development. For a gallery of local Learning for Life and Exploring photos, visit:

<http://spotted.savannahnow.com/users/explorerpost/>.

[Engineering Explorer Post 614 of Uniontown, PA](#)

(Uniontown, PA) On April 8th, 2009, the Engineering Explorer Post 614 of Uniontown, PA, sponsored by McMillen Engineering took a day trip to NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, OH. The trip was partially funded by a grant from the Milt Garland / Jose Reig



Student Challenge Fund in ASHRAE Region III. Highlights of the trip included the mechanical room for the world's largest wind tunnel for icing studies, the mechanical room (shown in the photo) that supports the high altitude wind tunnel, and the 500 ft deep zero-g drop tower for weightless experiments. When operating, the room shown uses enough electricity to be considered the fifth largest city in Ohio. The group included a mixture of ASHRAE student members, college students studying engineering and high school students who are considering engineering as their college major.

Other activities during the year included local tours of Dynamic Materials Corporation, which is a world center for explosive bonding of metals, Johnson Matthey, a new facility to make catalytic converters for diesel trucks, Sensus Technology, the world's leading producer of water meters, and for National Engineers Week, Louis Grubmyer from Westinghouse Nuclear talked about the growing demand for engineers and technicians.

For more information contact David Meredith, dxm15@psu.edu or phone 724-430-4268.

THE MORNING READ

By VIK JOLLY

SAN CLEMENTE-He was doing homework on the couch when he heard the screams.

Oscar Gutierrez rushed out to the balcony of his third-floor apartment to find 9-foot flames lapping at a neighboring apartment complex. He didn't know who was in trouble; he just knew someone needed help.

The 17-year-old grabbed a fire extinguisher and scrambled down the steps. His sister Carla, 15, followed with blankets. The fire department had not gotten there yet when Oscar began walking around the building, asking people if anyone was trapped inside.

Then he spotted the elderly woman in the wheelchair and her husband. Their room, located above a garage, was filling with smoke. The only way down was the stairs. She was worried about her cat when Oscar arrived. Her husband, a frail man, couldn't move his wife. The couple panicked. Oscar was shaking too. But he knew the woman had to get out of there. Fast.

He asked a passer-by to help. Oscar took the front of the wheelchair and strained to lower it down 18 steps with the other man holding the back.

Sheriff's deputies securing the area noticed what Oscar was doing. The deputies know Oscar's cousins – who live not far from his San Clemente neighborhood – but for all the wrong reasons. They know Oscar, too. He has been in the Orange County Sheriff's Department's Explorer program for 3½ years. The rescue was a moment that turned a humble teenager, with a painful past and hopes of climbing out of poverty, into a reluctant hero.

Born in San Clemente to immigrant parents from the Mexican state of Guanajuato, Oscar grew up in a family of meager means. Money got even tighter when his parents separated when he was an eighth-grader.

He, his sister and mom, Maria, moved to an apartment on Calle del Comercio, a street that Oscar says used to be known as "crack alley."

Maria had little command of English, but she volunteered at her children's schools to make sure they would stay interested in studying. She was particularly concerned about Oscar, because many of his cousins were already tangled in the juvenile legal system.

Then the children were dealt a stunning blow: Their father, Jose Luis Gutierrez, 33, was killed in Tijuana.

Oscar, who wants to be a police officer, harbors anger over the slaying, and she doesn't want to fuel that. Oscar's grades plummeted after his dad's death.

"It did change me," he said. "It was just not the same in school." Maria was worried about him and Carla. Despite cleaning homes, baby-sitting, cooking at a restaurant and selling clothes, Maria volunteered more hours at her kids' schools.

"I work very hard and make very little money," said Maria, 39. "I want (my children) to be better. I don't want them to be working like I am working now."

Something clicked in him, said Oscar; he doesn't quite know what. He began thinking about how his mom makes the \$1,350 monthly rent on their apartment. The family sublets one of their two bedrooms. He also felt that he had to take his father's place for his sister. He began working weekends, mowing lawns at the homes where his mother worked, and used his earnings to buy things for his mother and sister.

"Nobody would believe he was 13 years old," Maria said. In high school, Oscar got into the AVID program, which prepares students for four-year colleges. He played varsity football and joined the Explorer program because of his interest in becoming a police officer.

He has been accepted at three universities, including Cal State San Marcos, where he will study criminal justice in the fall. Oscar will be the first in the Gutierrez family to go to college. "This is cloud nine for him," said Tiffany George, AVID coordinator at San Clemente High. "He wants to break the cycle of poverty, and he wants to be the first one to do it." Deputy Rod Valdez, the school resource officer and Explorer adviser, told school officials about Oscar's effort in the fire rescue. Recognition followed.

Oscar has been praised at school, honored by a county supervisor, a state legislator and the Sheriff's Department.

"After the incident, I felt relieved that I was able to help and everyone was safe," he writes in an essay submitted to the Boy Scouts. "I don't think of myself as a hero. I'm just glad I was able to help and I was home when this happened."

Oscar recently walked over to the empty and partially gutted building next door, with bougainvillea overgrown near the steps he used to bring the woman to safety. She and her husband thanked him the next day. He doesn't know where the couple lives now.

He moved on because, the way he sees it, anyone would have done the same thing.