



The Explorer Spotlight!

Issue 4, Spring 2023



by [Ann Marie Peckham](#)- on March 15

Welcome to our Newsletter. Keeping you up with the latest training and events with the Westport Fire Explorers. Below are the various activities and training that Post members get to experience as they learn and grow in the program.

About the program

Fire Service Exploring is a Scouting based program designed to provide exciting training and ongoing mentorship for youth looking to discover a future career in the Fire Service. The program is designed for young adults 14-18 with an interest in the Fire Service and helps to give them the foundation needed to pursue a career in the fire service while learning leadership and life skills to help them succeed.



Since its establishment in 2016, the Westport Explorer program has been very successful, helping graduating members take the first step towards a career in Fire and Emergency Services. The program consists of volunteer leaders who are experienced members in the fire service. The program relies on funding through fundraisers and sponsorships. Many of the explorers and adult leaders volunteer their time at special community events and have donated countless community service hours. Since fall of 2021 the Post has provided 541 community service hours at various events in the community whether it is assisting with parking, running games and activities at a community event, picking trash on the side of the road or spreading mulch at the local parks. These explorers work tirelessly and are committed to their community and environment.

It's been a while since we have been able to put out a publication. So please view the latest youtube video to see what we have been up over the course of the last year:

<https://youtu.be/0Ge8cSXGBLE>  2022 Fire Explorer Year



2022 Awards Banquet

Our Annual Awards Banquet was held at the Dartmouth Grange on November 9th, 2022. This is the time that we celebrate the achievements of the Fire Explorers and recognize their time with the Post. Many of the Explorers participated in community service and career awareness and achieved recognition by completing the necessary requirements.



The evening commenced with opening prayer from our Department Fire Chaplain Pastor Kate Galop.

Explorers received their Post badge after one year of service to the Post. During the pinning ceremony, Explorer asked their parents to pin their badge onto their uniform. An honorable and important part of our ceremony.



Officer Installments

Because of the growth in the program, it became necessary to promote additional post members in the program to the rank of Lieutenant and Captain.



Lt. Austin MacKay, Lt. Skylhla Vaillancourt and Captain Nicholas DAttelo presenting the helmet shields to the newly promoted officers.



Evan Nickelson (from left) was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Brady Arrington (center), promoted to Captain. Katelyn Arrington (right), promoted to Lieutenant.

Explorers received various awards and recognitions from tenure with the post to career awareness, First Responder certified to attending the annual fire camp.





From left, first row: Meaghan Priest, Evan Nickelson, Skyhla Vaillancourt, Katelyn Arrington, Benjamin Bernier, Cameron Zeller, Aiden Desrosiers

Second Row: Gabriel Booth, Zane Moriarty, Ethan Booth, Amelia Van Saun, Nicholas DAttelo, Samuel Van Saun,

Third row: Austin MacKay, Brady Arrington, Brady Silva, Vanessa Chaves and Morgan Duhon (Missing from photo: Abby Kryzysztan and Amya Mooney)

Explorer of the year

Explorer of the year is one of the highest achievements in the program and is one of the most difficult awards for the adult staff to select. It recognizes individuals in the program to have gone above and beyond, are often humble but provide an incredible amount of support and stability to the program. This year, Lt. Skyhla Vaillancourt was selected for her incredible dedication and quiet guidance of her fellow peers. She is always ready to help lend a hand and is often the “Mom” of the group. She is an excellent role model to the other explorers and always has a cheerful disposition, making her a joy to be around.



2022 Explorer of the Year

Lt. Skylha Vaillancourt



Westport Fire Explorer Camp 2022



For the past 6 years, the Westport Fire Explorers have hosted a Fire Explorer Camp each July. The Explorers experience different facets to the Fire Service, and the focus changes from year to year. Whether it is traditional firefighting skills, technical rescue skills, outdoor leadership and team building challenges. Tours of the Fire Academy and Boston Med life and other Fire service related agencies. These Explorers have the opportunity of exposure and hands-on training. Last year, they focused on some traditional firefighting skills at the Fall River Fire Academy and were joined by the Bristol County Technical Rescue Team who put on an exceptional Rappelling training for them.



Sponsorships

Our program would not be possible without the help of our generous sponsors. Not only does it help support the Westport Explorers Annual Camp, but also helps to support the program throughout the year.

Make Checks payable to: Westport Fire Explorers Post 774

Mail contributions to Attn. Westport Fire Explorers, 54 Hixbridge Rd, Westport, Ma 02790



Westport Fire Explorers

@westportfireexplorers774



venmo

Scan this code to pay

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Facebook: facebook.com/FireExplorersPost774

Instagram: [westport_fire_explorers_post_774](https://instagram.com/westport_fire_explorers_post_774)