

Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department
Explorer Post 952
20 Shepard Road
Norfolk, Connecticut 06058
By-Laws

Revised: August 2, 2005, November 17, 2006, February 22, 2008

There are some issues and hazards specific to Fire and Emergency Services Explorer programs that must be considered when operating a post. These issues are fairly unique compared with other types of Explorer posts, being a direct result of the post's affiliation with the fire department and the potential for hazards.

The following are a set of by-laws for Explorer Post 952 members approved by the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department for the safety and well being of post members ages 14-18.

In the context of these rules and conduct orders the term "member" will mean Explorer post member.

Exploring purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

The Explorer Motto is: Our Best Today for a Better Tomorrow.

Membership

Participation shall be open to all young adults of high school age who live in the surrounding area and are in senior high school or at least 14 years of age. No prospective participant shall be disqualified because of race, color, creed, or sex. All participants must be enrolled as Explorers and agree to the post code and bylaws.

Attendance at monthly meetings and activities is encouraged. Absence from more than three monthly meetings in a row shall result in a review of that member's record by the Explorer Chief and Post Advisors. If it is found that a members' lack of attendance is not properly excusable, that member will be turned over to the Post Advisor for action. Work, organized sports, sickness, family, and school activities are all valid excuses.

Member participants under the age of 18 must have a form signed by a parent or guardian stating the member meets the health and physical fitness required by fire emergency services. It is suggested the members obtain a school physical.

Upon reaching the age of 18, a member may, with the recommendation of the advisors, apply to the department for active membership.

Officers

The elected officers shall be Chief, Assistant Chief, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chief, with the approval of the Advisor, shall appoint activity chairs and make other assignments as needed.

The duties of the officers shall be as prescribed in the Explorer Leader Handbook. Other duties are: Chief shall be responsible for informing members of all meeting, drills and fire department activities. Assistant Chief shall assume the duties of the Chief in his/her absence. Secretary shall be responsible for taking the minutes at all meetings and keep accurate attendance records of all Post activities. Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of all Post fundraising activities and shall be able to report current balance of funds at request.

The normal term of office shall be for one year. At the request of any member, the post advisor will conduct a review of the above positions. If deemed appropriate, a new election will be held.

No participant shall serve more than two successive terms in the same office.

The Post Advisor may remove any member from an office at any time if he/she deems necessary.

The Chief shall appoint a nominating committee, which shall consist of three participants. The committee shall interview and present a complete slate of candidates who have agreed, if elected, to serve to the best of their abilities.

On the night of the election, any member may present nominations from the floor. If the nomination is seconded and the candidate agrees to serve, he or she must be included on the ballot.

All contested ballots shall be secret.

Post Business

Post business will be conducted under the principles outlined in Robert's Rules of Order. Voting on all issues will be by simple majority, with the exception of changes or amendments to the By-Laws, which will require a two-thirds vote of the total participants. A quorum shall consist of one more than the majority of participants for votes on routine business.

General meetings will be held during the first Monday of the month. If the first Monday is a holiday the meeting will be held on the following Monday.

Officer's meeting will be held when deemed necessary by the Post Advisor or Post Chief.

Money-earning projects must be approved by a majority vote of post participants. All money-earning projects must be approved by the Advisor.

House Rules

Members are not allowed to be in the firehouse without an advisor or fire department member.

Members shall not be allowed to bring guests to the firehouse except a prospective applicant.

General Rules and Conduct Orders

Upon application to the post, a copy of these by-laws will be given to the new member and a copy mailed to the applicant's parent or legal guardian.

At the request of a parent or guardian, members receiving a failing grade average in schoolwork may be suspended from activities until the grade average is passing.

Curfew for all members attending classes, training and drills is 9:30 PM. Explorers under the age of 16 are unable to respond to incidents before 6 AM or after 7 PM and remain on scene no later than 10 PM. Upon written consent from a parent or legal guardian, Explorers over the age of 16 may respond to calls after 6 AM and remain on scene until 12 AM.

The status of training and capabilities of each post member will be reported to the line officers of the department by the post advisors on a regular basis.

Post members will not attend regular monthly meeting of the Norfolk Fire Department. If the post has business to present to the department, they may request attendance prior to the monthly meeting.

Members are encouraged to attend, when possible, regular department drills and practices for more intensive training.

For their safety members will not respond from their residence, or present location, until the siren has completed its alarm cycle (approximately two minutes). The exception to the rule is if the member is responding with a firefighter.

A member is not permitted to respond to an alarm on a motorcycle or after dark on a bicycle. Only vehicles suitable for legal operation on a highway shall be used.

No blue light permits will be issued to post members. Members will not operate emergency lighting in any private motor vehicle. If the post member has a drivers license and responds to an alarm in a motor vehicle, ALL MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS WILL BE FOLLOWED. The post member will not impede the progress of a regular department member or obstruct the passage of any motor vehicle or fire apparatus.

Members will respond to the firehouse for assignment. No member will respond directly to the scene of an emergency, unless riding with a member of the regular department or with prior permission obtained from a Line Officer of the department.

SAFETY POLICY

Explorers must be equipped with personal protective equipment that is appropriate for the activity being done. Explorers are issued a readily identifiable orange helmet. Members responding to an emergency scene will wear full turnout gear at all times.

Explorers may be mobilized only as a post, with required leadership. Explorers are not on call as individuals. Explorers may not be substituted for trained personnel.

Explorers who ride on apparatus or other department vehicles must be seated and must wear a seat belt. Prior indoctrination, training, and approval is required before a member will be eligible to ride the apparatus. This approval will only come from a line officer or driver. Members must ride in the enclosed cab of an apparatus to the scene of any emergency. No member shall be allowed on either the rear step or in the jump seats in an emergency situation. In non-emergency situations (i.e. Musters, parades, drills, etc.) a member must obtain permission from the line officer or driver before riding in the jump seats.

During an alarm, no member will approach or request to ride on an apparatus. The officer or driver in charge will determine the need for a member's response.

Explorers may not drive department vehicles.

Explorers may not perform interior fire suppression involving structures, vehicles, or woodland fires, **except grass fires**. Explorers may not enter or perform ventilation procedures on a burning structure. No member will enter a fire ground building or vehicle. Approach to any emergency area will be made under the direction of the Incident Commander.

Explorers may not respond to hazardous materials fires, spills or other events which may expose the minor to a toxic and/or hazardous material exceeding a threshold limit value listed in the tables of section 1910.1000 of subpart Z of 29CFR 1910. (**Allows for small motor vehicle fuel leaks**)

Explorers may not perform any activity involving the use of self contained breathing apparatus or enter a confined space.

Explorers may not perform “off shore” ice rescue activities.

Explorers may not climb or operate aerial ladders.

Explorers may not perform any duty, which involves the risk of falling a distance of six (6) feet or more (including the use of ladders).

Explorers may not use any dielectric tools or gloves on energized electrical equipment.

Explorers may not operate power hydraulic rescue tools or equipment.

Explorers may not fill (SCBA) air bottles.

Explorers may not perform any duties involving the use of charged lines greater than 2 1/2”, except suction lines during drafting operations.

Explorers may not operate acetylene cutting torches.

Explorers may not handle life nets.

At the scene of an emergency, Explorer officers and members are under the control of any Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department Officer or Firefighter. Their function is to provide support services necessary for the mitigation of an emergency. The Post Chief is in direct charge of Explorers. Explorers have the obligation to follow directions quickly and efficiently for their safety and the safety of others.

Disciplinary Action

Any felony or misdemeanor outside the department will be subject to review by the department's officers for possible action.

Any suspension or expulsion from school will result in disciplinary action.

Any member who has been charged with arson, false alarms, or bomb threats shall be suspended from service. Conviction of the same will mean automatic expulsion from Explorer Post 952.

Disciplinary action consists of the following: First offense – verbal warning, Second offense – suspension from all post activities for three months, Third offence – Expulsion from Post 952.

The Fire Department Line Officers will conduct any and all disciplinary action. Parents of the member will be notified of any action taken by the line officers.