



## WADING RIVER FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

### *1.11 Youth Education Policy*

The Board of Fire Commissioners in conjunction with the Chief's Office is providing this explanation and implementation procedure of our Youth Education Policy.

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

The Wading River Fire District recognizes the need and importance of a Youth Education Program as defined under the N.Y.S. General Municipal Law to the volunteer fire service. Two recognized organizations under the youth education program are the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America. The Explorer Program (Learning for Life) is an existing youth education program developed under the Boy Scouts of America. The Fire District sets forth a policy to address our youth education program policy with reference to the Explorer Program:

#### **POLICY:**

From the Boy Scout of America Explorer Handbook with modifications from Wading River Fire District:

Minimum Age to Join: 14

All appropriate membership forms filed with the Boy Scouts of America. Only approved applicants allowed into Fire District youth education program.

Parental/Guardian permission must be kept on file with the Fire District.

All Fire District issued gear/equipment shall be returned to the Fire District upon an Explorer's resignation or suspension.

#### **Fire and Emergency Services Exploring: Safety Issues**

There are some issues and hazards specific to Fire and Emergency Services Explorer programs that must be considered when organizing 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 department and the potential for hazards.

Before engaging in any training activity or direct operational activities with the department, Exploring

and/or department officials should investigate the legalities of Explorers participating in such activities. Most states have child labor laws that define what minors under the age of 18 may and may not participate in. Even though the individual may not be an actual member or employee of the department, these regulations may still apply. The following is a general list of guidelines that should be used for the formation of a post Explorer safety policy. As with any program, extremes of temperature, humidity, and other atmospheric conditions should be considered during any activity.

- 1) With Advisors present, Explorers may participate in Classroom Training; Truck Checks; Fund Raising Activities, Parades, Work Details, Field Trips and Meetings.
- 2) With Advisors present and prior Board of Fire Commissioners approval, Explorers may participate in Drills (Explorer-Function Drills do not need to be pre-approved by Board as long as Advisors are present, for example Explorer Day at the Training Center)
- 3) If the event is not listed, Explorers may not participate in it.
- 4) Explorers may not participate in Calls.

All policies must fit with departmental regulations, Learning for Life regulations, and state laws. All of these issues should be resolved in the post bylaws before Fire and Emergency Services Explorer activities begin. If you have any questions about the safety of an activity not listed, contact your local BSA, Learning for Life office.

- Explorers may not be substituted for trained personnel.
- Explorers must be equipped with personal protective equipment that is appropriate for the activity being done.
- Explorers may be mobilized only as a post, with required leadership. Explorers are not on call as individuals.
- Explorers who ride on apparatus or other department vehicles must be seated and must wear a seat belt.
- Explorers may not drive department vehicles.
- Explorers may not climb aerial ladders.
- Explorers may not climb ground ladders that exceed 35 feet in length, or not supported against a structure.
- Explorers may not enter or perform ventilation procedures on a burning structure.
- Explorers may not use any tools or gloves on energized electrical equipment.
- Explorers may not operate cutting torches
- Explorers may not operate hydraulic rescue tools or equipment.
- Explorers may not handle life nets.

**Any Explorer Training that does not conform or is not permitted onsite or offsite of the Fire District must be approved by the BSA Learning for Life Office and submitted via written correspondence to the Wading River Board of Fire Commissioners for review and approval.**

If there is an injury requiring Medical Treatment, the Family's Medical Insurance will be billed first, then the Boy Scout of America's Policy, then the Fire District's Policy. The Fire District should be notified of any and all injuries.

## RELATED POLICIES

- 1.2 Whistle Blower Policy
- 1.12 Disciplinary Procedure Policy

Adopted by the Wading River Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners on Monday, 09/26/11.

Edward Frost, Chairman  
Timothy Deveny, Commissioner  
Michael Harrigan, Commissioner  
Thomas Lateulere, Commissioner  
James Meier, Commissioner