

Fire Exploring is a hands on learning program that exposes young people to fire and emergency services. It offers those with an interest an opportunity to serve their friends and neighbors while learning about a possible career in the fire service.

You will get both classroom instruction and hands on training with fire equipment to gain a background in what firefighters do to help others.

After your training and some proficiency testing you will be allowed to respond to fire calls on fire trucks with firefighters and put your skills to use helping others.

The experience, discipline, and knowledge you will gain will benefit you in your future whether you decide to become a firefighter or not. You will benefit even more from the program if you do decide to become a firefighter. In the end, it will benefit you and the decisions you make in your lifetime.

So, if you think you're ready to better yourself, help people, have fun, experience things you have never experienced, and meet new people...then come join us.

Pictured below: Former Fire Explorers that are now members of the RCFD push in a wall at a training burn. Explorers are permitted to assist at fire scenes once they have proper training.



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RCFD Established in 1870
Protecting 310 square miles of
Richland County

RICHLAND CENTER FIRE EXPLORERS

*Sponsored by the Richland
Center Fire Department*



RICHLAND CENTERS FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS

You will gain hands on training and real life experience in one of life's most noble professions, while helping others in their time of need. RCFD Fire Explorers are serving others here in their hometown while a member of the troop, and have gained insight into the Emergency Services Field, where former Explorers have gone on to serve others both locally and across the United States.

Youth serving the community
since 1987. Open to youth aged
15 to 21.



RCFD Fire Explorers receive much of the same training as the firefighters do. Explorers are exposed to a wealth of information that will help them to succeed in both the Public Safety and Fire Service fields. First-hand experience will be gained that will allow you to help your friends, neighbors, total strangers, and the community in times of need, either as a member of the RCFD or as a full time career.

In the Explorer program, Explorers participate in a wide variety of extensive firefighting training. Some of the things you will learn as Fire Explorer include fire safety, CPR, fire extinguisher use, ladder safety, hand tool use, teamwork, SCBA use and maintenance, fire hose use, safety around large vehicles, fires suppression and prevention, building construction, plus much, much more.

You will be able to work and network with firefighters, EMT's, law enforcement officers, and other public safety responders.

After training to a Level 3 Explorer you will be permitted to ride on fire trucks to a scene and work alongside firefighter's fire scenes. There are some limits however as Explorers are not permitted to drive department apparatus, operate pumps, the Aerial Truck, or Jaws of Life equipment. Also prohibited is response to medical calls or vehicle accidents, and while they may work close to, Explorers will not enter into a burning structure.

Applicants under the age of 18 will need a parent or guardians approval to participate in Exploring. This will be verified by the RCFD. Explorers are issued and must use protective gear just as firefighters have for their safety.

Opportunities that have been opened for past Explorers are many and not limited to the fire service but all aspects of public safety and include the following: Law Enforcement Officer, 911 Dispatcher, Prison Guard, Paramedic, Medical Flight Nurse, EMT, Fire Instructor, and of course **FIREFIGHTER!**

TEAMWORK & LEADERSHIP

Both of the above are skills that College and Employment Applicants need to be successful in the development of for their future. The Fire Explorer program will give you these benefits along with assisting to improve your self-confidence, develop your social network, give you the path to a career opportunity, and allow you to serve your community. You also get the satisfaction of helping others when they may be having the worst day of their lives.

You will learn to follow oral and written directions quickly, sometimes while under stress and pressure. You will work hard and efficiently to accomplish all tasks that are given to you, to their full extent and beyond. In the fire service the expectation of success is high with no or little room for error. You will learn to work professionally as a team for success.



Most importantly you will establish and maintain courteous and cooperative relationships with your associates and the public. You will develop a loyalty towards your fellow Explorers and RCFD members, as part of the brotherhood of firefighting.

The RCFD Fire Explorers meet at the Richland Center Fire Station twice a month on the Second and Fourth Thursdays from 7-9pm. All training is overseen by members of the Fire Department. Training is held at the station and at other locations in and around town.

There is no financial cost to the Explorer to participate in the program, only the commitment of your time. Explorers are also invited to regular fire meetings, and are welcome to respond to the fire station for calls. After training requirements are satisfied Explorers are permitted to ride on select fire trucks to respond to and assist at fire calls.

Are you interested in joining the Fire Explorer Program? If so please contact us by one of the following methods:

- *Do you know a RCFD Firefighter or Explorer, they may be a friend, neighbor, relative, of co-worker, talk to them about Explorers*
- *Call the RCFD Station and leave us a message anytime 608-647-4556*
- *Visit the RCFD website and use the contact us tab at rcfdwi.com*

We look forward from hearing from you!