

San Antonio Fire Department Explorer Program



New Members Booklet

New Member,

As the Advisors of the SAFD Explorer program, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome you as an Explorer member of the San Antonio Fire Department! For many, this program will be the first step in the career to the fire service, whether volunteer or paid. We honestly believe that you as an active participant in this program are the future of this Fire Department, and a hero of tomorrow.

When people do not know where to turn for help, quite often their response is to call the local fire department. They expect us to fix their emergency, or to at least make things better for them. Therefore, the firefighter has traditionally performed many tasks other than just fighting actual fires and is held in high esteem by many people. As a member of the Explorer Program, people will look to you as a representative of this department. Therefore, it is important to follow the code of conduct and to be courteous and respectful to all, especially when wearing your uniform.

As a new member of the Explorer Program, you will be required to participate in trainings, meetings, drills, fundraising, volunteer events, and station projects. There are also many other activities and opportunities available to you, that I hope you will take advantage of.

As a member of this department, we take a great deal of pride in it and the community that surrounds it. You will be expected to do the same. As a member, strive for excellence; be the best that you can; be proud of what you are doing it for; promote department pride by example; and most of all have fun and be safe. Again, from the staff, the Chief, and the entire Department we Welcome you.

Sincerely,

SAFD Explorer Advisors

Mission and Values

The *San Antonio Fire Department* and its *Explorer Program* work in cooperation to **Educate, Protect and Serve** the youth of San Antonio and surrounding communities.

The following statements are upheld by the San Antonio Fire Department:

MISSION STATEMENT

The San Antonio Fire Department Explorer Program is dedicated to inspiring, educating, and preparing the next generation of firefighters and community leaders. Through hands-on training, mentorship, and community service, we provide young individuals with the knowledge, skills, and values essential to the fire service. Our program fosters teamwork, discipline, and a strong work ethic while emphasizing safety, leadership, and civic responsibility. By engaging with experienced firefighters and participating in real-world scenarios, our explorers gain invaluable experience that empowers them to pursue careers in emergency services and make a lasting impact on their communities.

CORE VALUES

Recognizing the dedication and skill and value of all members, we will create and maintain an environment of individual safety, well-being, and trust. We are guided by: ***Service to Others, Teamwork, Compassion, Integrity, Safety, Honesty, Accountability, Professionalism and Respect.***

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

The members of the San Antonio Fire Department Explorer Program demonstrate commitment to our community through:

- Providing an opportunity for youth to serve the community.
- Respectful and courteous treatment of all people.
- Accountability for our actions.
- Open honest communications.
- Educating peers about fire safety and prevention.
- Providing a safe environment for youth activity within the community.

Battalions

Battalions are groupings of members for organizational purposes. Each new member of the Explorer Program will be assigned a Battalion to be a part of by the membership committee. The Battalion that you are placed in will be the group that you will train with. You will also work different Explorer functions.

Generally, once you are assigned to a Battalion, you remain a member of that Battalion throughout your time as an Explorer. However, there are times when you may need to participate in training or some other activity as a member of another Battalion. At times, the Advisors may also need to reorganize battalions, and you will be assigned to a new battalion by the Advisor should this become necessary.

Each battalion has an Explorer Captain and Lieutenant to lead. If either one of these officers is not present, then another officer or member will be assigned to lead the Battalion for that event. The Captain and Lieutenant in charge of your Battalion and/or team is also your contact person should you have questions regarding dates, locations, times or any other general information.

The rank structure of our explorer group is as follows:

Chief – Person in charge of Explorer battalions. Chief will answer questions regarding dates, locations, times and any other general information. Chief will also handle any issues an Explorer/Battalion may have but will NOT issue any disciplinary actions.
ONLY the Advisors will have that ability.

Captain – Person in charge of a Battalion. This person is ultimately responsible for all personnel in his/her Battalion.

Lieutenant – Person in charge of his/her team within the Battalion. This person oversees his/her team in the Battalion.

Fire Explorers – Persons who are assigned to Battalions.

Training

Trainings are held every Tuesday of every month from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, unless otherwise stated. *Ensure your ride is waiting for you after training.*

Meetings are generally conducted by the Explorer Advisors. There may be times when Fire companies will conduct the training for the day.

The training program for the Explorer's is structured to introduce Explorer members to the fire service. Explorer members that join the regular department are at an advantage since the Explorer Program introduces them to the tools and skills that are used in firefighting and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). During training, you will learn about firefighting, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the use of tools, and related skills. You will also learn how to work as a team and HAVE FUN!

Quite often the training will include physical hands-on activities. At times, an educational field trip may be substituted for the regularly scheduled training.

Hydration is a must and is provided by the Explorer.

The following is the uniform that **MUST** be worn during Explorer Trainings:

- Navy blue uniform pants or shorts
- Explorer issued Tee Shirt
- Black closed toe footwear or tennis shoes

In addition, any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that has been issued to you must be brought to each training.

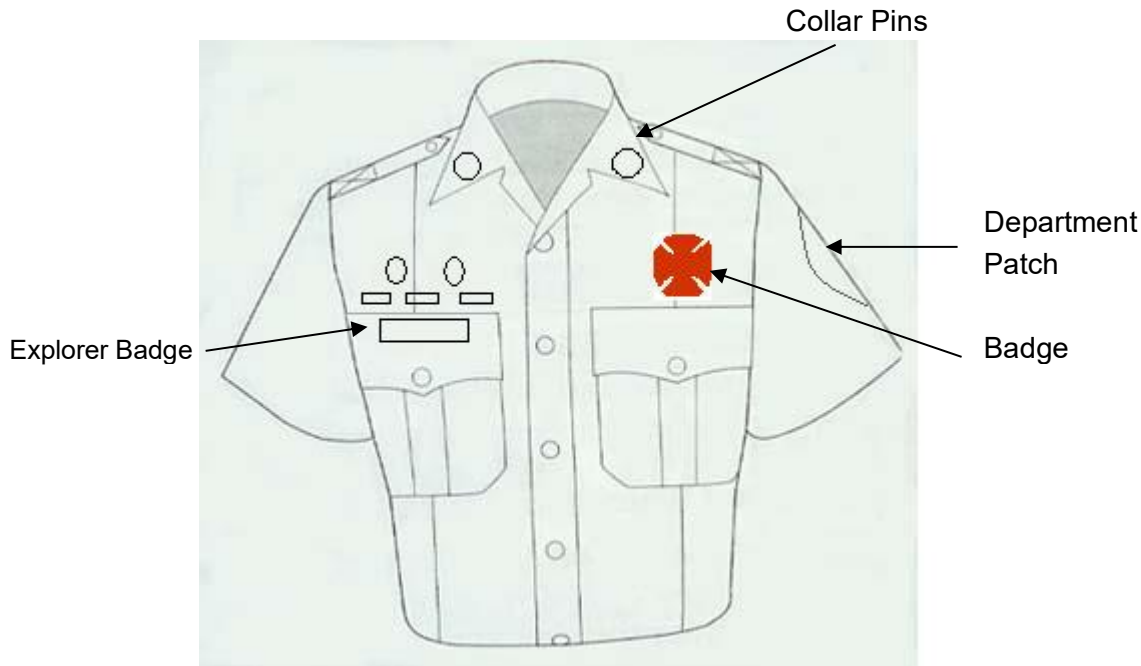
No jewelry is to be worn while in uniform

No sandals or crocks are to be worn on the training grounds

No outside equipment is to be used unless authorized by an Advisor

A Conex box is provided to store all gear for Explorers.

Uniforms & Protective Equipment



Uniforms and Protective Equipment are issued to Explorer members by the Explorer quartermaster. All issued items remain the property of the San Antonio Fire Dept. and must be surrendered upon leaving our membership.

Uniform items issued includes:

- Grey shirt (for parades/public functions)
- Explorer Patch (affixed to the above shirt)
- Collar Pins

Explorer bars are issued at the annual dinner.

Red Explorer T-shirt, Blue Explorer shorts, Red Explorer hoodie, Black hard toe footwear and Black tactical must be purchased by the Explorer.

You are responsible for the care and maintenance of your uniforms.

Uniforms are to be worn when participating in any departmental function or activity where you will have contact with members of the public. Uniforms are also required to be worn during training, unless told otherwise by an Explorer Advisor.

This uniform is not for your daily wear. **It is not to be worn while off duty except when directed by the Explorer Advisors**

Personal Protective Equipment will also be provided for you. The Personal Protective Equipment consists of the following:

- Safety Glasses
- Hearing Protection
- Protective Gloves
- Fire Helmet
- Turn-Out Pants
- Turn-Out Coat
- Boots
- Gloves
- Hood

You are responsible for the care and upkeep of your safety equipment. All equipment **MUST** be kept in the Explorer connex.

Code of Conduct

As a member of the San Antonio Fire Explorer program, you are expected and required to:

- Conduct yourself in a professional and courteous manner that will reflect well upon you and the entire department, especially when in uniform.
- Demonstrate honesty, fairness, and integrity.
- Treat all people with courtesy and respect.
- Recognize the value and worth of everyone
- Refrain from cussing, cursing or using otherwise foul language while in uniform, at the station, and while participating in department functions.
- Refrain from all types of harassment.
- Must Participate in training, meetings, and fundraisers.
- Obey the chain of command.
- Wear your uniform when at training and any department functions that you help with.
- Do not wear your uniform or any other department issued gear for general use outside of the station or department functions.
- Always bring required gear to trainings.
- Notify an advisor upon arrival and departure from the station and department functions.
- Immediately report problems to an Advisor or your chain of command in charge (if assigned).
- Absolutely no Tabaco use, vaping, e-cigarette or nicotine on City of San Antonio premises and/or while in uniform.

Acknowledgement Form

I, _____ hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Fire Explorer Packet. I understand that it is my responsibility to review the contents of this packet and adhere to any guidelines, policies or instructions outlined within. By signing below, I confirm that I have received the packet and understand its contents. If I have any questions or require further clarification, I will reach out to one of the SAFD Explorer Advisors.

Explorers under the age of 18 will require a guardian signature

Explorer signature

Date

Print Explorer name

Parent or guardian signature

Date

Print Parent or guardian name