

# AUBURN PD EXPLORER POST # 903

In late 2014, The Auburn Police Department started the process of hosting an Explorer Post. To accomplish this endeavor, the department had to coordinate the administrative paperwork and fees with the Boy Scouts of America which is the oversight organization, write a rules and regulations manual, design a uniform, set a schedule, designate a curriculum, and recruit for members.

The police department's explorer program, POST # 903, officially started in May of 2015 and at that time we had 6 explorers, two of which are still with the POST three years later. We currently have 6 explorers, but at one time we had 8, which is the highest number of members we have ever had. Over the years, we lose explorers and gain some due to many reasons, but one former member left to attend college and another former member left to attend a police academy.

Recently in December of 2018, one of our explorers left after three and a half years with the Auburn Police Department's Explorer Post, because he was hired by the Placer County Sheriff's Office as a Correctional Officer. It should be mentioned that he was hired at 18 years old, which is a testament to his character and maturity.

In April of 2016, the department sent four members to compete in the CHP explorer competition after the post had only been in existence for one year. The competition consisted of 14 events which included scenarios such as conducting a traffic stop, conducting a domestic violence investigation, or investigating a crime scene. Auburn PD's team final overall score placed them 37<sup>th</sup> out of 41 teams.

In May of 2017, four members returned to the CHP Explorer Competition, and they finished with an overall score that placed them 18<sup>th</sup> out of 43 teams. The team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in two individual events, shooting skills and crime scene investigation.

In April of 2018, 6 members competed at the Explorer Competition and placed 26<sup>th</sup> out of 43 teams, but placed 1<sup>st</sup> in written exam and 3<sup>rd</sup> in shooting skills. Regarding this competition over the past three years, Auburn PD's Post competed with 4-6 members while most teams competed with 10-20 members.

Some of the explorers assisted at the countywide PLEA awards in 2016, and 2017.

Regarding the 2014 Shop with a Cop Program, there was a Placer High School junior, who was an underprivileged student, and he was selected to participate in the program. This meant he got to shop with an officer from the department and spend 250.00 of donated money on gifts for himself or his family. This same student joined the explorer POST in May of 2015 and returned as an explorer to assist the police department in the 2015 and 2017 Shop with a Cop Program. He went from being a recipient in the Shop with a Cop Program to being a participant in the Shop with a Cop Program.

In December of 2016, another Placer High underprivileged student was a recipient in the Shop with a Cop program. This student then joined Auburn PD's Explorer Post in 2017 and she too returned as a participant to assist Auburn PD in the 2017 Shop with a Cop Program.

Explorers also participate in the Shop with a Cop Program, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, the Festival of Lights parade, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks event.

It should also be mentioned that some of the department's explorers have been used by the Alcohol Beverage Control Agents when they are conducting minor decoy/shoulder tap investigations. These young men and women are chosen as they are underage, which helps the agents enforce the sales to minor laws, but moreover they are mature, responsible young people. These operations provide the participating explorers the satisfaction of being directly involved in actual law enforcement investigations.