



Police Foundation: Youth Programs by Tom Murphy

One of several youth programs supported by the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation is Police Exploring. A subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America, Exploring allows boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 20 to learn more about careers that interest them while at the same time providing an ideal link between the academic environment and the real world. Exploring programs exist in Police, Fire, Aviation, Health Care and several other career fields.

Under the Boy Scouts Gulfstream Council, our Palm Beach Gardens Police Explorer Post 704 is comprised of some 20 young adults who aspire to a career in law enforcement. The Police Community Involvement Unit, headed by Sergeant Jack Schnur, manages the program.

In a recent competition, some 200 Police Explorers from 14 Posts in neighboring Florida counties demonstrated skills taught to them by sworn Police Officers during weekly training sessions. The competition included scenario based incidents which involve law enforcement response and techniques in areas such as search and arrest, traffic enforcement, traffic crash investigation, active shooter, emergency vehicle operations, crime scene processing, court testimony, honor guard, crisis intervention and physical agility.

Our Palm Beach Gardens Police Department Explorer Post was awarded 2nd place overall amongst the other competing posts and placed first in the Assailant Control category and second in the Bike Course, High Risk Traffic Stops, and Standardized Field Sobriety Test categories.

Palm Beach Gardens Police Explorer Lieutenant Robert Artola was named Police Explorer of the Year for the entire Gulf Stream Council and was recognized for his dedication to the post, leadership skills, organizational skills and assistance during many Police Department related events.

Post Advisor, Police Officer Tara Marchisello, received the Council's *William H. Spurgeon III Award* which is the highest recognition for individuals and organizations contributing significant leadership to the Exploring program.

The Police Explorer program receives its primary funding from the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation's annual golf tournament. This year's tournament is scheduled for October 12, 2013 at the PGA National Resort and Spa. Play will be on both the Fazio Course and the Champion Course - home of the PGA TOUR's Honda Classic. Some 150 golfers will compete for awards and trophies in the four person scramble. A post-tournament luncheon and awards ceremony will include a silent auction for dozens of valuable sports memorabilia items donated by local individuals and businesses.

Various different tournament sponsorship opportunities are still available for individuals and corporations who wish to help support the event and be recognized as a Police Foundation sponsor. Interested parties should contact either Sergeant Jack Schnur at 799-4565 or the Police Foundation office at 799-4400. More information is available at www.pbgpolicefoundation.org

Tom Murphy has been president of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation, Inc. since its inception in 2007. Before helping to form the foundation he was a marketing executive with the IBM Corporation and earlier a member of the Nassau County (NY) Police Department.