

Whatcom County Fire Protection District 4 Explorer Program Bylaws

Article One

Whatcom County Fire District 4, Explorer Post 4004, which is chartered to District 4 is a youth organization sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America and is comprised of young men and women between the ages of 14 to 18.

The objective of Explorer Post 4004 is to provide a learning center to the youths of the community and to provide trained individuals who may become paid or volunteer professionals later in life.

Explorers are subject to all of the rules and regulations of Fire District 4 as well as the rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America Fire Service Explorer Program.

Article Two

As an Explorer, you must uphold and understand the Explorer Code, which states:

- ***As an Explorer: I believe that America's strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength and traditions of our people.***
- ***I will, therefore, be faithful in my duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life.***
- ***I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it.***
- ***I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life.***
- ***I will acquire the Exploring attitude that seeks truth in all things and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world.***

There will be by no means a variation of this code.

Article Three

Membership Classification, Qualifications, Rights, Duties and Termination

Section One – Membership

Waiting List

An applicant will present to the Post a completed Boy Scouts of America Explorer membership application. When a position has become available, it will be offered to the applicant. When an applicant becomes a member, he or she will be placed into a probationary status. If there are more applicants than openings, a selection process, including an interview with the Explorer Post committee, will be utilized.

Probationary Member

During the probationary period, the new member will not have a Post election voting privileges and may not respond to calls when the Explorer Post is requested.

Probationary Requirements:

- A. Complete basic fire training.
- B. Attend 80% of all scheduled Explorer meetings.
- C. Have an understanding of ;
 1. Incident Management System.
 2. Fire Ground Operations.
 3. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
- D. The Explorer Post Board recommends active status and is approved by the Post advisor.

Failure to complete the probationary requirements will result in the extension of the probationary period for an additional six months only.

Active Member

An active member is one who has completed his or her probationary requirements and has been recommended by the Explorer Post Board and approved by the Post Advisor.

Section Two – Privileges

All members have the right to attend regular or special meetings, social functions, training and other activities pertaining to the Explorer Post and Fire District 4. Explorers may be permitted to function on the incident scene, at the

age of 16, in accordance with the BSA requirements and Fire District 4 guidelines.

Section Three – Leave of Absence

A leave of absence must be granted through the Post Advisor and/or the Post officers. A reason for the request shall be given.

Section Four – Training

Explorers are highly encouraged to seek and complete all training that is offered to the Post by Fire District 4, in addition to the Explorer Post training sessions. This training includes, fire prevention and suppression, rescue, CPR, first aid, emergency medical care, station equipment and area familiarization, vehicle operations, hazardous materials, public awareness and education programs, safety and infectious disease control.

Section Five – School

Explorers must maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5, while attending high school or college. If the Explorer drops below this average, they shall be placed on probation and re-evaluated after the next progress report period. If the Explorer's GPA remains below the minimum, he/she will lose their status as a member will be terminated. Each explorer shall provide the post advisor a copy of their grades within one week of receiving them.

Section Six – Disciplinary Action

Acts which may provide a basis for disciplinary action include:

1. Failure to meet the Explorer Code.
2. Failure to meet or maintain the requirements for membership.
3. Failure to perform assigned duties without just cause.
4. Gross or willful negligence or abuse of equipment.
5. Use of any controlled substance, alcoholic beverages, or tobacco.
6. Misrepresentation of information on membership application, training records, or other Post or District 4 documents.
7. Any act that tends to bring discredit or malign to District 4 or the Post.
8. Any violation of any traffic laws while driving to or during Post activities.
9. Failure to wear proper protective equipment as required by the SOG's of Fire District 4.
10. Leaving a Post activity without advising an adult leader.
11. Failure to follow the chain-of-command.
12. Inappropriate activity in the station.

13. Inappropriate use of emergency warning devices. This includes, but is not limited to lights and sirens.
14. Fighting.
15. Failure to uphold the uniform rules and regulations of District 4 and the BS of A.
16. GPA below 2.5 or truancy.

A Fire District 4 member may request the Post Board to initiate disciplinary action. Such a request must be submitted in writing, and provide sufficient information to justify further investigation or disciplinary action.

The Post Board will provide written and verbal notification to the Explorer against whom disciplinary action has been initiated, and will provide reasonable opportunity for that member to appear before the Post Board and to present information in his/her behalf prior to any Post Board determination of action will be taken.

Disciplinary action against a Post member will be directed and enforced by the Post Board in coordination with the Post Advisor. The Post Advisor will inform the Fire Chief of any and all disciplinary problems or actions.

The final authority on disciplinary actions will be the Fire Chief and the Board of Commissioners of Fire District 4.

Article Four **Officers, Duties, and Qualifications for the Post Board of Officers**

The Post Board, composed of Post Officers, will coordinate interaction of the Post with Fire District 4 Fire Chief and staff through the Post Advisor. The Board will recommend and enforce the Post policies and procedures, solicit and supervise membership, and oversee financial management.

Officers

The elected officers shall be a president, vice president, and a secretary/treasurer. The president, with the approval of the Post Advisor, shall appoint an activity chairman, and other assignments as needed. The duties of the officers shall be as outlined in the Explorer Leader Handbook.

The Post officers shall be appointed by the Post Advisor or elected by the members of the Post. The term will last until January 31st of the next year. Elections will be held in January.

Members cannot serve more than two successive full terms in the same office.

The president shall appoint a nominating committee, which shall consist of three members. The committee shall interview and present a complete slate of candidates who have agreed, if elected, to serve to the best of their abilities.

The election format will consist of:

1. Nominations may be presented from the floor by any member.
2. If the nomination is seconded, and the candidate agrees to serve, he or she must be included in the ballot.

All contested ballots shall be secret.

Method of amending the bylaws

Amendments of the bylaws may be made at any regularly scheduled business meeting, and will require at least two-thirds of the attending voting membership, by secret ballot. Any such amendment must be approved by the Fire District 4 Fire Chief, before taking effect.