
Hanover County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 606 Earns High Honors at National Conference in Colorado



Front row: (left to right) Capt. Michael Mason, Lt. Stephanie Pegram, Amanda Sanderson, PJ Calhoun, Alex Wilkinson, Jake Kimmel, Cory McCulley, Billy Dempsey

Back row: Lt. Matthew Segal, Chase Minor, Brittany Mancuso, Jonathan Trobaugh, Bryan Stewart, Thomas Hauck III, Deputy John Parrish, Officer Pam Bland, Deputy Barry Bland.

Hanover County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Explorer Post 606 joined more than 3,000 other Explorers, adult leaders, and staff from throughout the nation at the 16th Biennial National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference last week (July 21-26) at Colorado State University. The purpose of the conference was to provide a training experience for Law Enforcement Explorers and to contribute to the development of skills required in the law enforcement profession.

Deputy Barry Bland and Deputy John Parrish of the Sheriff's Office, along with Officer Pam Bland of Hanover Animal Control, led a group of 14 young people to the conference. The post held several fundraisers prior to the conference including collecting and dumping trash at

the NASCAR and INDY races and the Virginia Pork Festival, selling Coca Cola products by the case, and holding two multi-family yard sales to defray each post member's travel expenses.

Members of the Hanover Post, with three teams of four Explorers per team, participated in the Arrest and Search, Burglary in Progress, Traffic Stop and White Collar Crime competitions. Team A, consisting of Explorers Michael Mason, Matthew Segal, Stephanie Pegram and Cory McCulley, won third place in the Traffic Stop Competition and placed in the top 10% for Burglary-in-Progress Competition.

The conference featured competitions sponsored by the nation's top law enforcement organizations, providing realistic and practical experiences to prepare Explorers for the types of situations they would have to face in law enforcement careers. Team events included Arrest and Search, Bomb Threat Response, Crime Prevention, Crime-Scene Search, Domestic Crisis Intervention, Shoot/Don't Shoot, Hostage Negotiation, Burglary in Progress, Traffic Accident Investigation, Traffic Stop, White Collar Crime, and Emergency Field First Aid.

Individual competitions included Air-Pistol Competition, Pistol Competition, Drill Competition, Bike Policing, Beam Hit Competition (dry-firing real semi-automatic handguns that have specially attached laser beams), and Emergency Vehicle Operations Course.

A wide range of seminars gave participants information on a host of topics, including Bomb Investigations, Cyber Crime Fraud, Exploring Leadership Development, Fugitive Investigations, Gang Recognition & Identification, Hate Crimes and Terrorism on the Internet, Mail Fraud, Narcotics Trafficking and Interdiction, Psychological Profiling, Protect Yourself: Self-Defense Techniques, Protecting our National Borders, and Surveillance Methods and Technology.

Sponsoring organizations held a career fair at which law enforcement professionals were available to discuss career goals with individual Explorers. There also were demonstrations and exhibits, a training track for post Advisors, as well as many recreational and entertainment events and a closing rally at which area federal and other law enforcement organizations showed off the latest in law enforcement technology and techniques.

In addition to the National Explorer Conference, Post members took a side trip where they toured the Grand Teton Mountains and Yellowstone National Park, white water rafted on the Snake River, and attended a Colorado Rockies baseball game at Coors Field.

“I would never have been able to see and do what I’ve done if it weren’t for the Explorer program,” said Explorer Captain Michael Mason.



(Left to right) Cory McCulley, Lt. Stephanie Pegram, Lt. Matthew Segal and Capt. Michael Mason

Exploring offers young people aged 14 through 20 an opportunity to learn about special interests and vocational choices in association with business and community organizations. Founded in 1973, Law Enforcement Exploring is a program for youth who are interested in the field of law enforcement. Nearly 50,000 young people belong to over 3,000 Exploring posts that are sponsored by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The Hanover Sheriff’s Office has sponsored a Law Enforcement Explorer Post since 1990. During that time, several post members have moved on to become law enforcement officers in Hanover and other agencies in the state.

Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a member of Explorer Post 606 should contact the Sheriff’s Office at 365-6110

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