



LA CROSSE FIRE DEPARTMENT
EXPLORER POST 50
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Boy Scouts of America
Explorer Post 50
La Crosse, WI
Bylaws Governing
Established July, 1998

Article One
The Objective of Explorer Post 50

La Crosse Fire Explorer Post 50 Chartered to the La Crosse City Fire Department and sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America is a youth organization composed of young men and women between the ages of 14 and 21. The objective of Post 50 is to provide a learning center to the youth of the community and to provide trained individuals who may become career or volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical personnel later in life.

Article Two
The Explorer Code

An Explorer 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 religious 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 any variation of this Code.

Article Three
Membership Classification, Qualifications, Rights, Duties, And Termination

Section One - Membership

A. Waiting List

An applicant will present to the Post a completed Boy Scouts of America Explorer membership application. Upon a position becoming available, it will be offered to the applicant. When an applicant becomes a member, he or she will be placed into probationary status.

B. Probationary Member

During the probation period, the new member will have no Post election voting privileges and may not respond to calls when the Explorer Post is requested. However, probationary members will be issued turnout gear.

Probationary Requirements

1. Complete 3 months of service
2. Attend 80% of all scheduled meetings
3. Have a basic understanding of:

- A. Incident command system of the La Crosse Fire Department
- B. Fire ground operations
- C. Basic Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

4. Must be current in dues

Only the Board can recommend active status for an Explorer and it must be approved by the Post Advisor. Failure to complete the probationary requirements will result in an extension of the probationary period.

C. Active Member

An active member is someone who has completed his or her probationary period, which time the member will be issued a Post shirt.

If a member misses more than four consecutive scheduled meetings without notifying a Post Leader, and/or is more than \$10 behind in dues, his or her position may be replaced by a new member. Special circumstances, such as vacations or financial hardships will be considered provided the Post leadership is advised prior to the situation.

Section Two - Privileges

All members have the right to attend regular or special business meetings, social functions, and other activities which pertain to the Explorer Post and those of the LaCrosse City Fire Department to which we have been invited to attend. All active members are expected to participate in fund raising activities which are performed to support the Post.

Section Three - Leave of Absence

A leave of absence must be granted through the Post Advisor and/or the Post Officer. A reason is requested, but not mandatory.

Section Four - Training

Explorers are highly encouraged to seek and complete all training offered to the Post by the La Crosse Fire Department. This training may include fire prevention and suppression, rescue, CPR, First Aid, emergency medical care, station duties, equipment and area familiarization, vehicle operation, hazardous materials, public awareness and education programs, safety, and infectious disease control.

Section Five - Disciplinary Action

A. Acts which may provide the basis for disciplinary action include:

(* - a violation that can result in termination in membership)

1. *Failure to uphold 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 substances, alcoholic beverages or tobacco products.
6. * Misrepresentation of information in the membership application, training records or the Post / La Crosse Fire Department documents.
7. *Any act that tends to bring discredit or malign to the La Crosse Fire Department or Post 50
8. *Failure to fulfill financial obligations to the Post or La Crosse Fire Department.
9. *Any violation of any traffic law during a Post activity.
10. *Attending any fire department activity that the Post has not been requested to attend and where there is not at least a Post leader present. This applies to responding to calls.
11. Failure to wear full turnout clothing while on the fire scene of a fire related call, unless approved by an adult leader or La Crosse Fire Department officer.
12. Leaving a Post activity without advising an adult leader.
13. Failure to follow the Post chain of command
14. *Being present at a station after 1900 hr. (7:00 PM) unless for an Explorer function or unless prior approval has been granted by the Post adult leader.
15. * Use of any emergency warning devices. This includes, but is not limited to red light and sirens. (This violation may also result in criminal prosecution.)
16. Fighting in general.
17. Not upholding Post 50's Uniform Rules and Regulations.

B. Any member may request that the Officer Board initiate disciplinary action. Such a request must be in writing and must provide sufficient information to justify further investigation or disciplinary action.

C. The board will provide written and verbal notification to members against whom disciplinary action has been requested, and will provide reasonable opportunity for that member to appear before the board and to present information in his or her own behalf prior to any Board determination of what action, if any to take.

D. Disciplinary action against Post members will be directed and enforced by the Board in coordination with the Post Advisor. The Post Advisor will inform the Fire Chief of any disciplinary problems, if necessary.

E. The Post Advisor and Post Committee retain final authority regarding disciplinary decisions of the Board of Officers.

Article Four

Types of Officers, Duties and Qualification for the Board of Officers

Section One - Board of Officers

The Board, comprised of Post Officers elected, will coordinate interaction of the Post with the La Crosse Fire Department Leader and with the La Crosse Fire Department Chief, via the Post Adviser.

The Board will recommend and enforce the Post policies and procedures, solicit and supervise membership, and oversee financial management.

The Board of Officers is composed of the following:

A. The **Captain**, who is the highest ranking officer, will be responsible for the operations of the Post. The Captain will conduct the business meetings, supervise the functions and duties of the other Board members, be responsible for the overall management of the Post and appoint, direct and discharge all committees as appropriate.

B. The **Lieutenant** is the second highest officer in the Post. The lieutenant will assume the duties of the Captain as delegated by the Captain or in the absence of the Captain.

C. The **Sergeant** of Record acts as the treasurer and as the secretary. The Sergeant of Records gives the balance of the Post treasury at the beginning of the meeting, takes the record of attendance during the meeting, and records the amount of dues paid by each member. The Sergeant of Records shares third level of the chain of command with the Sergeant of Equipment.

D. The **Sergeant** of Equipment is responsible for Post equipment, such as turnout gear, uniforms, etc. The Equipment Sergeant will issue the equipment to members as needed, maintain an inventory of equipment available and equipment issued, and ensure

the equipment is in working order. He or she shares third level on the chain of command with the Sergeant of Records.

Section Two - Qualifications for the Board and Elections

A. To hold an Officer position, he/she must be a member of the Post for at least 6 months and have completed the Post officer training session which is mandatory for all new officers.

B. To hold the position of Captain a member must have served as Lieutenant or one of the Sergeant positions.

C. Elections are held during a regularly scheduled meeting with no less than two thirds of vote from all members present. Members are elected by a simple majority vote. The vote will be via secret ballot. Tie votes will result in a run - off vote of the tied candidates.

Article Five Method of Amending the Bylaws

Amendment of these bylaws may be made at any regularly scheduled business meeting, and will require at least two-thirds of attending voting members, via secret ballot.

Article Six Definitions of Titles

- 1.** The **Post Leader** is directly in charge of the actions of the Post. He or she will have final say with all Post activities.
- 2.** The **Post Advisor** is who runs the meeting and drills. He or she will have more hands on with the Post.
- 3.** The **Post Officers** are any of the following. Captain, Lieutenant, or Sergeant.
- 4.** The **Adult Leader** is someone who may or may not be part of the Post but is involved to give guidance or training.