

Medical Explorer Post 4077 – General Information for Scoutmasters

History and Our Typical Weekly Meeting

Originally chartered in 1991 as a unit in the Boy Scout Exploring program, the unit was later moved to the career awareness program - Learning for Life. The unit was originally sponsored by Texas State University as one of five university exploring posts. The Medical Exploring Post 4077 is the only post still operating. The unit has always focused at the college student level, serving any health or pre-health professions major, but **encourage membership by any student who might be seeking employment in healthcare.**

Scoutmasters looking for a way to keep youth in the scouting program, where the typical Boy Scout activities may not be working, should consider dual membership with their troop or venture crew AND the Medical Exploring Post; especially for any youth who may be interested in a health related career. We have several very interesting volunteer activities and may help keep a youth in the scout program. We don't accept off-the-street high school students, but may consider exceptions and requests from scoutmasters. Our program is an intensive program that should excite any high school student looking for adventure. Contact Dr. Charles Johnson to discuss any current scout who may need extra motivation to stay in scouting. He can be reached best by-mail at Charles.Johnson@txstate.edu.

We meet weekly to hear speakers discuss a broad perspective of issues important to healthcare. As a general rule, about half of the programs have a clinical focus (mostly medical, but at least one a semester is dental). The remainder of the programs can discuss administrative topics important to healthcare, military health careers, public health issues, or the occasional patient perspective program. At least a third of the speakers are physicians or dentists discussing their specialty or other topics important to their practice. Some presentations may be graphic and include movies of surgical procedures. Approximately a third of the speakers focus upon the technology used in healthcare, with the underlying purpose of preparing students for the technological changes to come. A recent "technology" related program has looked at robotic surgery, for example. Speakers are selected based upon their passion for what they do in health care. Over the years, many career decisions have been made because of these passionate speakers.

Volunteer Activities of the Medical Exploring Post

Medical Missions - We have participated on every medical/dental mission trip organized by the San Antonio Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA) since 1992. Six of our members are selected for each of the six to eight trips CMDA takes each year. On these trips our members fill in wherever they are needed – medical or dental. They may serve as interpreters, clinic administrators, pharmacy, or dental instrument cleaning and sterilization.

Hospital/ Community Health Volunteers – Our members are frequent volunteers in several area hospitals. Some have trained several of our members as patient advocates or hospice volunteers. Others serve as volunteers in the emergency room or sit with patients who may fall if they were to get out of bed.

Physician/Dentist Shadows – Many of our students are eager to shadow physicians and dentists in the area. As shadows, they bring a higher level of training to their shadow opportunities than the typical student. Our members are already trained in health safety procedures, blood borne pathogens, federal HIPPA privacy requirements, CPR, and first-aid.

EMS Ride Along – Our members are approved to ride with several area EMS. We also will be helping 5 to 8 of our 18 year old members (or soon to be) each year with partial scholarships for the EMT-Basic certification course. Following the passing of their national license test, they will be EMT health professionals. This experience complements any future health career objective.

Hospice 11th Hour Program – After extensive training, some of our special members volunteer to sit with dying patients who may not have family near-by. This requires a special and compassionate medical explorer. These students sit with the medical team assigned to the patient and learn much about the medical situation for the patient. Consider this activity much like a medical student grand rounds program. They will learn more about medicine than they ever realized.

Other Volunteer Activities – Check out our website (<http://www.bio.txstate.edu/mediaexplorers>) for details about all our volunteer opportunities.

Who We Are

Each fall semester we begin with 50 to 60 new students who may be interested in a variety of health careers ranging from physician and dentist to nursing or any other allied health profession. Our weekly programs tend to be somewhat "academic" and expose the students to a broad suite of health related topics of interest to many different career paths in healthcare. We do accept junior and senior high school students upon strong recommendations, but we **insist** upon a very mature high school student. Before a high school student is accepted, we visit with both the student and parent to explain our requirements and expectations. Maturity is a "must-have" quality due to the nature of the volunteer experiences – EMS, surgery, hospice, etc. This is an intense program!

How You Can Help as a Scout Master or Other Adult Scouting Volunteer

1. Keep us in mind if you have a youth who is drifting away from scouting. A boy or girl who is near earning their eagle rank but has lost interest in scouting may find our volunteer activities more interesting. We can always help design an Eagle Project that is medically related but run through the troop. Consider the Medical Explorer Post as a way to save a youth for scouting, both boys and girls.
2. If you are a health professional, we always need health professionals as weekly speakers and to bring their passion to the students for what they do as health professionals. We need shadow placements in any medical or dental office setting. We have performance expectations of our students while in shadow placements, so we hope we will provide a reliable and well trained student that you may find to be a valuable addition to your office.