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Lewiston Police Explorers accepting applications

The Lewiston Police Department's Explorer Post is gearing up for another exciting year and is currently accepting applications.

The Explorer Post has been in existence since 1996 and serves as an introduction to law enforcement for young men and woman aged 14 to 20. It is sponsored in conjunction with WNY Scout Council. Members of the post are provided the opportunity to learn and train alongside Lewiston Police Department officers and experience all the aspects of the job officers perform.

This year's Explorer Post is scheduled to begin in October and will culminate with graduation in May. Some of the topics covered throughout the year include physical training, defensive tactics, traffic control, CPR/AED, basic first aid, firearms safety, handling routine police calls for service and traffic stops. Explorers will have an opportunity to tour the Niagara County Sheriff's Office dispatch, mobile command vehicle and the Niagara County Jail.

Members from area law enforcement agencies such as New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Customs, Border Patrol and Coast Guard will give presentations to allow the Explorers a glimpse of various careers in law enforcement. Presentations by numerous specialty teams such as K9, dive teams, crime scene and SWAT will be given throughout the year, with many affording hands-on experiences. Explorers aged 16 years and older who have completed specific aspects of the training will be afforded opportunities to "ride along"



Explorer's Post members visit the NCSO mobile command vehicle. (Submitted photo).

with officers on patrol.

LPD said, during the year, in addition to learning different aspects of law enforcement, Explorers learn personal attributes such as responsibility, respect and a good work ethic. They are involved with community events and, at times, assist patrol officers at local festivals and concerts.

Explorer Post applications can be picked up/submitted at the LPD office, 4059 Creek Road, during office hours of 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. weekdays. Applicants may also email cbaer@lewpd.com to receive a copy. For more information, contact the LPD at 716-754-8477.

Niagara County clerk warns of E-ZPass scam

Submitted by the Public Information Office

Niagara County Clerk Joseph A. Jastrzemski said his office has been made aware of a scam targeting E-ZPass users with fake text messages. Jastrzemski said this scam has been going after customers of tolling agencies across the country that persuades them to enter personal and/or financial information on a phony website - and it appears

E-ZPass customers are now the latest targets.

"This is like so many other scams where the goal is to try to acquire as much of your personal information as possible," Jastrzemski said. "The text message that is sent out looks official and has fooled many people."

The text message is sent as an attempt to collect tolls on behalf of "NY Toll Services" or "E-ZPass Toll Services." People receiving the text are directed to click a link to pay an outstanding toll balance to avoid a late fee. The toll account information provided in these texts is neither

valid nor accurate. Real communications from E-ZPass New York will only refer customers to the following official websites: EZPassNY.com and TollsBy-MailNY.com.

"It's always important to know that legitimate government agencies will never ask for customer's date of birth, Social Security number or other personally identifiable information in an unsolicited text message," Jastrzemski said. "Always remember that, if you are unsure about any text or email you receive, you should call the agency directly."

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