



Charleston County Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedures Manual

Sheriff Carl Ritchie

9-30 LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORER POST 555

- ☐ NEW
- ☒ REVISED
- ☒ REVIEWED

ACA Standards Reference:
CALEA Standards Reference: 44.1.3, 45.3.1, 45.3.2, 45.3.3
NCCHC Standards Reference:
SCLEA Standards Reference:
SC Minimum Standards:

This policy dated 1/28/2025 replaces prior policies cited above and supersedes all previously issued directives.

I. Purpose:

To provide guidelines for the operation and administration of Law Enforcement Explorer Post 555.

II. Policy:

Charleston County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing youth programs, such as Law Enforcement Explorers, for individuals having an interest in law enforcement and in serving their community. (Ref: CALEA 44.1.3)

III. Definitions:

A. For purposes of this procedure, the word "deputy" applies to all agency employees with a certification classification of Class I, Class II, or Class III, as defined by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

The following terms are used interchangeably; however, they carry guidance to specific employees based on usage of the term:

1. Deputy, deputy sheriff, detention deputy, sworn employee, uniformed sworn employee, sworn administrative employee, and

2. civilian, non-sworn employee.

B. *Employee*: When used without further clarification, the term employee is inclusive of all agency members (sworn and non-sworn).

C. *Explorer Post 555*: A sanctioned program of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, chartered by the Boy Scouts of America.

D. *Explorer*: An approved teenager or young adult, ages 13 to 21, who is a member of Explorer Post 555.

IV. Procedure

A. Explorer Post 555 is a sanctioned program of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. The objective of the program is to offer teenagers and young adults (ages 13 to 21) an opportunity to experience hands-on training and interaction with law enforcement professionals. (Ref: CALEA 44.1.3)

- B. Explorer Post 555 is chartered by the Boy Scouts of America and administered by deputy sheriffs designated by the Sheriff as post advisors.
- C. All Explorer advisors must attend all necessary advisor training as mandated by the Boy Scouts of America.
- D. A set of rules and regulations will be promulgated by post advisors to govern the Post. The Post rules and regulations will also include all applicable Boy Scouts of America rules and regulations.
- E. Explorer candidates must complete an application, meet all Boy Scouts of America Explorer requirements and receive a satisfactory background investigation by a post advisor.
- F. The agency will make available its training aids, materials, facilities, equipment, and personnel for the proper training of Explorers.
- G. Explorers are not sworn law enforcement officers and, therefore, do not have arrest powers. (Ref: CALEA 45.3.1 item a)
- H. Explorers may perform only those duties approved by the post advisors and in which they have received necessary training. Explorers will be under the supervision of a deputy sheriff when performing approved duties. Explorer duties include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. traffic direction, control, and parking;
 - 2. records and administration;
 - 3. radio and phone communications;
 - 4. search and rescue;
 - 5. undercover activities; and
 - 6. community service. (Ref: CALEA 45.3.1 item b, and 45.3.2)
- I. Explorers will wear an agency approved and issued uniform while engaged in official activities unless directed otherwise. When in uniform, Explorers are expected to meet the agency's dress code and appearance standards as well as comply with all applicable regulations, policies, and procedures of the

Post. Explorer's uniforms will clearly distinguish them from sworn personnel. (Ref: CALEA 45.3.3)

- J. Explorers may accompany sworn personnel as a ride-along with prior approval of a post advisor. An *Explorer Post Ride-along Waiver (CCSO form-152)* dated and signed by an advisor must be presented to the shift supervisor. Any Explorer not in proper uniform or in possession of a waiver form without a current date will be denied ride-along privileges.