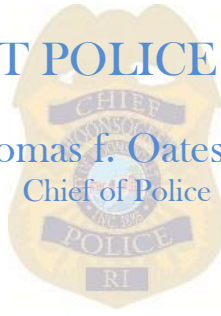


# WOONSOCKET POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thomas J. Oates, III  
Chief of Police



TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	530.01	2/13/2023	2/13/2023
TITLE		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Police Explorers		New	
ACCREDITATION		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
RIPAC: 1.14			
SECTION	SUBSECTION	DISTRIBUTION	
500 Community Relations & Services	530 – Outreach	All Personnel	

## I. PURPOSE

This policy describes the procedures authorized by the Woonsocket Police Department to establish and maintain a Law Enforcement Explorer Post.

## II. POLICY

It is beneficial to the Woonsocket Police Department to establish positive relations with all segments of the community. To maintain a good relationship with adolescents and promote policing as a career opportunity, the Woonsocket Police Department hereby establishes a Law Enforcement Explorer Post.

## III. PROCEDURES

### A. Authority

1. The Police Chief holds the title of Executive Officer. The Chief holds the final authority on all matters of the post's operation. The advisors will also act as liaisons between the Explorer Post and the Chief of police.
2. An Explorer Director is a full-time sworn officer who will oversee the program. He/she will appoint officers as post advisors to oversee and conduct daily post business.
3. Boy Scouts of America provided the means of chartering a Law enforcement Explorer Post for the Woonsocket Police Department. As a part of a national chartering process, Explorer Post participants and members of the department

who participate as advisors and assist with the program shall be cognizant of all requirements of the national, state, and regional governing divisions of Boy Scouts of America.

4. The Police Chief or his/her designee shall exercise control over the Woonsocket Police Explorer Post 412, governing the policy and conduct of participants. The Woonsocket Police Department Explorer Program is an official department program sponsored by the Woonsocket Police Department. It is assigned organizationally, under the Operations Captain.
5. The following information on post procedures and guidelines provided in this policy will be read by all explorers, department employees, and civilian volunteers associated with the post. All persons associated with the post will receive a copy of this document and will be held responsible for adhering to the policies and guidelines contained throughout.
6. The Assistant Explorer Director will solicit volunteers within the department personnel to assist the post as associate advisors. Associate advisors will serve with the approval of the police chief or his/her designee. All adult advisors and volunteers will complete the Boy Scouts of America registration form and be properly registered with the Boy Scouts of America. All adult advisors and volunteers will complete the *Boy Scout of America Youth Protection Training* program and promptly renew certification as needed.

## **B. Philosophy**

1. The Explorer Program is designed to develop law enforcement career awareness and good citizenship by exposing young people to the fundamental of law enforcement, including the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.
2. The Explorer Program is also designed to enhance public relations, improve participants' self-confidence, and guide them to become responsible individuals by training them and allowing them to perform various routine and administrative tasks in the department.

## **C. Goals and Objectives**

1. The following list outlines the goals and objectives of the Woonsocket Police Department Explorer Post 412:
  - a. To further an individual Explorer's overall education.
  - b. To encourage Explorer participation in rewarding and productive service activities.
  - c. To enhance preparation for future roles as productive citizens and community members.
  - d. To help young men and women become aware of the role of police services, specifically that of the Woonsocket Police Department.

- e. To help develop an interest in law enforcement careers for women and persons of color.
- 2. To accomplish these goals and objectives, the program is designed to address three categories:
  - a. Commitment
  - b. Training
  - c. Equipment

#### **D. Conduct**

Advisors and participants shall adhere to all policies and procedures of the Woonsocket Police Department. All participants and advisors shall be guided by the code of conduct as outlined in **Chapter 3** of the *Woonsocket Police Rules and Regulations* and **Article VIII** in the *Woonsocket Police Explorer Post 412 Rules and regulations* and

#### **E. Advisor Positions**

The Explorer Director or his/her designee shall appoint a post advisor who will be a full-time police officer for the City of Woonsocket. The post advisor will serve at the pleasure of the Explorer Director and may be reassigned at any time. The Explorer Director may consider experience and expertise in working with adolescents when making the appointment. The Explorer Director may appoint associate advisors who are full-time Woonsocket Police Officers. Advisors perform the following functions for the Post:

- 1. Recruiting, selecting, and training qualified Explorers for various positions
- 2. Maintaining records for each Explorer
- 3. Maintaining Explorer By-laws, which outline expectations, policies, and responsibilities for all Explorers.
- 4. Planning periodic recognition events.
- 5. Completion and dissemination as appropriate of all necessary paperwork and information.
- 6. Providing uniforms and necessary supplies.
- 7. Advisors will be the liaison between the Post and Chief of Police and Explorer Director.
- 8. Be a positive role model for Police Explorers.

#### **F. Activities**

The design of the Explorer Program is to introduce adolescents to the career of law enforcement and to build a positive relationship between police officers and youth.

The program is intended to provide youth with a positive image of policing while providing youth the opportunity to gain new insights into the realities of policing.

Explorers will normally be involved in situations that present minimal risk to their safety. Explorers have no powers of arrest and are not considered peace officers by the State of Rhode Island. The following is a list of possible activities in which Explorers may participate:

1. March in the annual Autumfest parade
2. Charitable events such as annual toy drives and food drives
3. Assist department in annual National Night Out events
4. Assist in departmentwide training (such as active shooter, etc.)
5. Activities as directed by the senior post advisor or Chief of Police
6. Annual “Stations Day.” It is a voluntary event where Explorers show their skills and knowledge.
7. Annual “Rhode Island Explorer Police Academy.” The week-long police academy provides practical experience in different areas of law enforcement.

#### **G. Limitations**

Woonsocket Police Explorers are nonsworn personnel and have no powers of arrest. Explorers post participants will not be allowed to use or carry weapons. Explorers will not be allowed to involve themselves in potentially dangerous situations. Explorers will not be allowed to participate in undercover drug activities or other activities that present the potential for serious injury or death. Explorers may be allowed to ride with officers on a limited basis as outlined in the *Woonsocket Police Explorer Post 412 Rules and Regulations*.

#### **H. Training**

The Explorer Post shall meet twice a month. Explorers must receive adequate training from department staff and be familiar with the policies and procedures of the department before participating in Explorer activities. Such activities may involve those that require physical exertion such as running and jumping. Participants must be checked for proficiency in all areas of training and physical fitness before participating in Explorer activities.

Typical training includes, but is not limited to:

Building searches, community service, tactical training, honor guard, search and rescue, arrests and use of force, crime scene investigations, crisis/hostage negotiations, report writing, domestic violence, first aid / CPR, active shooter, DUI/ SFST's. and patrol procedures.

**I. Discipline**

Members of the Explorer post serve at the pleasure of the police chief and may be removed with or without cause. Issues of conduct or illegal behavior shall follow procedures outlined in the *Woonsocket Police Explorer Post 412 Rules and Regulations*.

**J. Uniforms**

Explorer uniforms will be unique and distinct from sworn police officer uniforms. Explorer post members will only wear uniforms as provided by the department outlined in the *Woonsocket Police Explorer Post 412 Rules and Regulations*.

**K. Recruitment**

An open and fair recruitment process will be used for potential Explorer post candidates. A selection process consisting of a review of the person's application and a scored interview shall be employed absent the education requirements. The interview panel will be made up of post advisors and ranking explorer post members. A background check of potential candidates will be performed.

**L. Participation**

Although participation in the Explorer Post is voluntary, participants are expected to be active and involved in Post activities. The included attendance at meetings as set by the post advisor and volunteering at a community event. Members of the post must follow the policies and procedures for the post as outlined in the *Woonsocket Police Explorer Post 412 Rules and Regulations* and applicable policies and procedures of the Woonsocket Police Department.

**M. Insurance Participating**

Explorers are covered by the Learning for Life liability insurance policy. All injuries or situations should be reported to the local Learning for Life office within 24 hours.

Per order,

*Thomas F. Oates, III*

Chief of Police

*Written directives published within PowerDMS are in full force and effect on the referenced dates and have been approved by the Chief of Police*