

News Release

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Explorer Post exceeds expectations at competition

ANNA (April 26, 2018) In the same way cadets undergo rigorous training with realistic scenarios at police academies, the Texas Law Enforcement Explorer Advisory Association stages similar situational confrontations, placing Explorer Posts in competition with each other.

“The competition scenes are true to life,” says Anna Sgt. Josh Devore, an advisor to Explorer Post #8200. “The scenarios are developed and overseen by officers in the line of duty. Each of the scenarios comes straight out of police files from around the state. The Explorers are expected to make quick, thoughtful decisions in the same amount of time that police officers face every day.”

At a recent competition in Houston, the newly-formed Anna Law Enforcement Explorer Post entered a team of three Explorers, the first time the locals had competed at any level.

“It was the first such experience for our three Explorers,” he said. “When we entered the competition space, our Explorers were exposed to what they were up against. There were about 40 other teams, some with very experienced Explorers who not only had been at these events before, but who had actually won them. So, our challenge was a bit daunting.”

In addition, many of the 40 teams brought several squads of up to four Explorers each, the majority of whom had competed at this level before. In fact, some of the Posts are connected to schools, meaning that part of the school day is devoted to training and lectures.

Devore had been an advisor to Explorer Posts while a member of the Dallas Police Department, so he had a good idea of what to expect. The same could not be said of the three Anna competitors. Explorers Kyler Redwine, Pamela West and Jacob Williams faced an intimidating situation. Not only were they expected to react to realistic scenarios in a specified timeframe, they also knew that many of their competitors were more experienced.

“Our Explorers have definitely put their time in as well,” added Devore. “They meet every Thursday night, and for the last two months, they have been giving up a large part of their weekends, as they have been meeting almost every Saturday, four to five hours in the mornings, to prepare for this competition.”

In spite of this being their initial entry, the Anna Explorers earned a Second Place trophy in Accident Investigation and a Third Place trophy in Robbery in Progress. While not placing in the other three scenarios, Domestic Disturbance, Burglary in Progress, and Arrest Search and Seizure, they came within a few points of placing in each one of those as well.

“We could not be any more proud of the three members of our Post,” he said. “Their dedication to the principles of good law enforcement practices and their efforts at getting ready for this competition demonstrated an uncommon maturity.”

The Post is planning to attend more competitions and is in the process of developing fund-raising events and activities to help defray the costs of entry, travel and room and board. More information on these fund-raising programs will be shared in the near future.

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ABOUT ANNA – The City of Anna is a fast-growing community located in northern Collin County. Anna’s population is approximately 13,000 residents occupying over 4,000 households. This emerging and vibrant city offers its residents an excellent quality of life and low cost of living. With much of the City’s land still undeveloped, and the population expanding annually, the community is becoming an attractive location for retail and commercial establishments. The City’s ready workforce is skilled, well-educated, and comparatively young. Residents enjoy recreational opportunities, parks, trails, open spaces, easy access to the DFW and Red River corridors, and a pace of living that matches both a relaxed hometown and an emergent community.

PHOTO AND CUTLINE



ROOKIE EXPLORER TEAM SCORES AT COMPETITION -- At a recent City Council meeting, members of Anna's Law Enforcement Explorer Post were honored for their showing at their initial skills competition. The Explorers, who were competing for the first time, garnered a second and third place trophy for their efforts. The team was recognized by the Council for their accomplishments. Left to right, Anna Mayor Nate Pike, Advisor Sgt. Josh DeVore, Explorers Kyle Redwine, Austin Casada, Pamela West, and Branden Green, Civilian Advisor Kristen DeVore, Advisor Sgt. Chad Butler, and Police Chief Jeff Caponera participated in the presentation of the trophies to the Post. Not pictured were Explorers Jacob Williams and Mille Wiita, along with Advisors Sgt. Steve Williams and Officer Brandon Blair.

Note to editors: A photo file accompanies this release.