

## Who We Are

The Erie Police Explorers is a non-profit organization that is comprised of fourteen to twenty-one year old students who have an interest in the field of law enforcement as a career. The students involved participate in a variety of activities throughout the year. From walking a security beat at events such as Celebrate Erie to holding fingerprinting sessions for children, the students in-



**Explorers meet at Celebrate Erie to review and share information** (Erie Times News Photo by Greg Wolford)

involved in the program gain a valuable learning experience from the time that they give. There are many other events that the Erie Police Explorers at-

tend throughout the year such as Girard's Dan Rice Days, Erie's Zoo and St. Patrick's Day Parades, Celebrate Erie and many more. In these events, the explorers assist the public with the smooth operation of that activity and provide crowd control for that event. In some cases, the explorers may be asked to direct traffic. Everything that is done is volunteered time to the community that we serve, but in the long run the experience we gain from an event is priceless. The explorers have meetings the second and fourth Sunday of every month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Erie City Council Chambers, where new items are discussed and training classes are held. The training classes at the meeting include marching, physical training, and scenarios of real-life situations that a police officer would encounter.

## Our Background

The Erie Police Explorers program was started by the Erie Bureau of Police on September 26, 1978 to give students between the ages of fourteen to twenty-one an opportunity to learn the aspects of a career in law enforcement. On May 4, 1979, Erie Police Department Motorcycle Patrolman Melvin Wilcox was killed in the line of duty. Thus, the post was renamed the Wilcox Memorial Post #7 Police Explorers. Law enforcement Exploring is an excellent chance for anyone wondering if they should pursue a career as a police officer to find an answer. Police Explorers are not police officers; they assist the community in public events, either working as security or directing traffic. Every beginning Police Explorer receives training at the Explorer Basic Training Academy, which is held from February to May of each year, and at the monthly meetings. From traffic stop and hostage situation scenarios to just basic physical training, there is a wide range of items taught to the explorers. The explorers are also available to travel abroad to visit other police departments and police explorer posts. Previous trips include Charleston, South Carolina and Dallas, Texas. If you join and are trained to meet the requirements, you will have the opportunity to go on a ride-along with a City of Erie police officer and experience a first-hand look at the work of a law enforcement officer. Overall, this is an excellent learning experience. The more that you learn and grow in the program, the more life skills you will be able to take with you into a career in law enforcement. The possibilities are endless as to what you can learn when you become an Erie Police Explorer!



**Police and Fire explorers at an event** ([www.wctd.org](http://www.wctd.org))

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q-** Can I arrest someone if I am a Police Explorer?

**A-** No. The Erie Police Explorers do not have the power to arrest anyone in any situation.

**Q-** Do I get to wear a uniform?

**A-** Yes. However, uniforms are not provided with your membership. The costs are up to you, although you are not obligated to purchase anything initially.



**Q-** How old do you have to be to join?

**A-** To join Post #7, you must be at least fourteen and you can be in the program until you are twenty-one years of age.

**Q-** I'm not doing well in school, can I still join?

**A-** You must possess a 2.5 GPA to join the post. If you do not meet this, we will work with you until you improve. Report Cards are checked quarterly.

**Q-** What else do I need to join?

**A-** You need to have a clean criminal record above all, which will be examined by the post advisor, and have the willingness to follow our post motto; Motivation, Dedication, Teamwork. You must also be trustworthy, responsible, and have a positive attitude.



### Wilcox Memorial Post #7 Police Explorers

626 State Street, Room 111  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501

Roger Smith, Post Advisor

## What Will You Learn

*If you join Post #7, you will have the opportunity to learn all of the following things:*

- *Motivation*
- *Dedication*
- *Teamwork*
- *Respect*
- *Discipline*
- *People Skills*
- *Leadership*
- *Aspects of Law Enforcement*
- *And Much, Much More...*



**The Erie Police Explorers patch, which is worn on the dress uniform**



### Post #7 Motto

My mission in Post #7 Police Explorers is to be an active member, promote teamwork, strive to be the best member or officer that I can be and carry out any and all tasks put before me to the best of my ability. I will neither ridicule nor belittle a fellow member or officer whether in public or in private. I will act as professional as possible for the good of the organization, so help me God.

### Current Post Officers

Chief Brian Garbowski  
Deputy Chief Ethan Johns  
Captain Amanda Diehl  
Sergeant Daniel Simonian  
Corporal William Powell IV

### Wilcox Memorial Post #7 Police Explorers

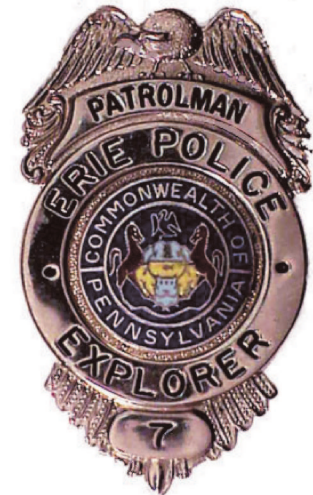
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Motivation  
Dedication  
Teamwork

**Erie  
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Wilcox Memorial Post #7  
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Erie, Pennsylvania