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The 21 members of Burleson Police Explorer Post #4911 are making a good impression on the community.

“All of the feedback has been very positive,” Burleson Police Sgt. Darin Pool, head advisor for the Explorers, said. “Quite a few people commented on the Explorers’ conduct at the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Burleson and stated how professional they acted.”

Since the post re-organized last fall, the Explorers have worked the Burleson Old Town Boo Bash, American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Burleson 2011 and Cinco de Mayo. They will also participate in the National Police Week Open House on Tuesday, May 17. The Explorers even entered a float in the annual Parade of Lights Christmas parade in 2010 and won third place for Best Float.

The post membership is full at 21 members. The students, who range in age from 15 to 18 years old, applied to the program because they have a serious interest in law enforcement. Explorers must maintain passing grades in all classes, can not be under the supervision of any criminal court (probation, parole, etc.), and need a true desire and ability to make law enforcement a career.

Police advisors include Sgt. Pool and officers Chaz Garrett and Tiffany Bauereisen, associate advisors. Explorer leaders include Post Capt. Garrett Kirkpatrick (senior at Burleson High); senior Scott Jones, Post lieutenant; and juniors Andy Williams and Jordan Hopkins, Post sergeants.

The students have already completed classes in the history of law enforcement, use of force, domestic crisis intervention, felony and misdemeanor traffic stops, crisis negotiations, CPR and first aid, crime scene, penal code, family code, code of criminal procedure, radio procedure, transportation code and dealing with mentally ill subjects.

Upcoming training includes patrol procedures, juvenile law, arrest/search/seizure, report writing, ethics, self defense, crash investigation, crime prevention techniques, community/public relations, dangerous drugs and narcotics, and

criminology. The classes are taught by members of the police department. Class is three hours a night, two nights a month.

The City paid for the charter and registration fees for the Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America, but all funding for equipment and supplies has been paid for through fundraising. The Explorers and students from the Burleson High School Criminal Justice Club joined forces during Boo Bash 2010 to host a haunted house. The money raised through that endeavor will keep the program funded for the year.

Training, competition, service and practical experiences are rolled into a curriculum that also includes character development, physical fitness, good citizenship and patriotism. The post is open to both men and women. Other activities the Explorers will be involved in include crime prevention, citizen tours of police facilities, bicycle safety inspections, child identification fingerprinting, an agency information booth at community events, telecommunications/dispatch center assistance, assistance with organized searches for lost/missing persons and traffic/crowd control at parades, festivals and other community events.

The Explorers include John Samuel, senior; Explorers Zach Wallace, Cody Adams, Isacc Moore, Brady Sharrow, Jacob Uzee, Katie Mohler, Cal May, Dylan Warren, juniors; Explorers Heather Dailey, Bryan Erickson, Rachelle Medlin, Natalie Finch, and Brenda Perez, sophomores; and Explorers Colton Jacobson, Katie Jones, and Caleb Morefield, freshmen.