

# Congratulations

## Explorers recognized by the National Volunteer Fire Council

Please join us in congratulating Explorer Post One! The Rowlett Explorer Post One has been recognized by the National Volunteer Fire Council as the 2022 Program of the Year.



From the NVFC website:

### **Rowlett Explorer Post One** **NVFC National Junior Firefighter Program of the Year** *Sponsored by California Casualty*

Rowlett (TX) Explorer Post One is chartered by the Rowlett Citizen Corps Council and sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) Learning for Life Exploring Program. The post works closely with the Rowlett Fire Department to integrate training and opportunities for learning where possible.

The program develops in its members a culture of leadership, service to others, and a commitment to community involvement. The Explorers participate in or host many events including preparedness education, fire extinguisher training, smoke alarm blitzes, recycling drives, merit badge seminars, and first aid trainings. Each year the Explorers donate thousands of hours in volunteer service.

Activities the post engaged in during 2021 include the following:

- In February, the Explorers joined Rowlett Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members to train with Rowlett Fire Department's Swiftwater Rescue Team. They learned about basic inflatable rescue boat operations, how to swim and protect yourself in moving water, and how to work as a team to rescue victims trapped by water.
- The post participated in the BSA Circle Ten Council's Venturing Rendezvous event in March, providing a fire engine and bunker gear for the event. Venturers and Scouts were able to explore the fire engine, try on the gear, and put out a live fire using a charged fire hose.
- Three Explorers and four advisors traveled to the Sid Richardson Scout Ranch in April, where they learned how to climb, rappel, and run climbing programs for BSA youth. All seven attendees completed their instructor training and became certified BSA climbing instructors.

- Post One leadership annually teaches a youth leadership seminar to Explorers in Circle Ten posts (which encompasses central north Texas and portions of Oklahoma). The 2021 event, hosted at the Rowlett Community Centre, taught nearly a hundred Explorers about leadership traits, values, and principles that they were able to take back to their individual posts.
- In June, the post hosted its annual high adventure event, where a dozen advisors and Explorers spent a week traveling down the Current River in the Ozark National Forest by canoe. Members improved their team building, increased their canoe skills, and practiced their outdoor survival skills.
- The post hosted Circle Ten's annual Explorer Fire Games in July at the Rowlett Fire Training facility. The event received great feedback from both attending Explorers and supervising advisors.

### **About the NVFC**

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides critical tools, resources, education, programs, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Find out more at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).

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### **A message from CERT Director and RCCC Vice President Erik Ernst:**

I can't express enough how grateful and honored I am to belong to the RCCC and Rowlett CERT. On Saturday, 4/9/22, not only did one crew go down and show South Texas how things are done in Rowlett, but another group of volunteers helped support the Easter Eggstravaganza and Pup-A-Palooza. It doesn't matter if there is a disaster, or a celebration, the RCCC has you covered!

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### **Event Reminders and Volunteer Opportunities**

**ARES News** There will be a net on **Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 2100 hours (9PM) on KR5EXP 444.775 + 110.9. Our in-person meeting is scheduled to be at Fire Admin on **Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** @ 1900 hours (7PM). We will have Jeanne Powell as guest speaker. Sign up for the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting here <https://www.trackitforward.com/site/629100/event/630883> Looking forward to everyone attending.

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**Please VOTE!** While the RCCC cannot endorse candidates, we do ask that you please vote in your municipal election. Election Day is **Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>** and early voting is under way. If you need more information on polling locations, visit <https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/> for Dallas County or <https://www.rockwallvotes.com/> for Rockwall County.

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The **CERT General Meeting** topic on **Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00PM to 9:00PM will cover **Communications and Forms**. Remember, if you didn't write it down, it didn't happen. Instruction and practice will be provided on basic radio communications and controlled net procedures. An overview will also be provided about the most frequently used forms utilized during

deployment and instruction will be provided on how to complete forms accurately. The meeting will be at Fire Admin, 4701 Rowlett Road. Sign up here:  
<https://www.trackitforward.com/site/629100/event/630894>

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During the **CERT Q2 Drill** we will practice **Skills Rotation**. Join us on **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** from 8AM to noon. Sharpen your skills, or learn new ones, during a CERT skills rotation. During a Skills Drill, three to four stations will be set up to teach and practice some skills that are part of our core mission. This will be a “shotgun” start where each participant will be assigned to one of the stations and after the completed instruction period, will rotate to next skill. This will repeat until all participants have had an opportunity to complete each station. Station durations will be 30-45 minutes. The drill will start at 8am and we should be finished by noon. You can sign up and track your hours here: <https://www.trackitforward.com/site/629100/event/675593>

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Please mark your calendars for the **Rowlett Citizen Corps Council Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet** on **Friday, June 24, 6:30PM** at the Rowlett Community Centre, 5300 Main Street, Rowlett, TX 75088. Please plan on attending this important event, which is open to all RCCC members. We'll post more information in early June. Please sign up here: <https://www.trackitforward.com/site/629100/event/656989>

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### **General Reminder**

**A reminder to keep posting your volunteer service hours in Track It Forward.** The new process for tracking service hours is working great, and we need to keep up the good work. If there's any question about what, when or where to track hours, please ask the training/event lead or your program Director.