



Rowlett Citizen Corps Council

Your Partners in Preparedness



Happy New Year RCCC Members!

A message from RCCC President Whitney Laning

Help us help you and others. Now is the time to update all your service hours in Track it Forward! We use the total number of hours contributed for various types of funding, justifications and other considerations. Help us to tell our story and make our combined community safer, stronger and better prepared.

Call for Volunteers

Dallas County Health and Human Services is requesting 100 adult volunteer actors from across the county to participate in a full-scale Medical Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise on **Saturday, April 5th, 2025, from 8:00AM to 1:00PM** at Duncanville High School, located at 900 W Camp Wisdom Rd, Duncanville, Texas. They particularly encourage those who have mobility aids, are multilingual, or are hearing impaired to participate, as those unique skills and perspectives are crucial to the success of this essential Medical POD exercise.

Please sign up <https://tinyurl.com/HHSP0D> by March 31st, 2025. For questions, contact **Aaron L. Street** at the Dallas County Homeland Security and Emergency Management office: aaron.street@dallascounty.org, 469-818-4297.

Toys for Tots



Very early on December 7th, CERT and Explorers volunteered to assist VFW Post 2150 with their **Toys for Tots Motorcycle Run**. This event allows participants and sponsors to gather Christmas toys for needy children who would otherwise go without. CERT and Explorers directed rider traffic during set-up and the closing of the motorcycle run. Thanks to all who volunteered!

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RCCC News (continued)

RCCC Potluck

On Friday, December 13th, RCCC gathered at Old Glory Station for delicious food, door prizes, a 50-50 raffle, some seriously ugly sweaters, and holiday fellowship. Thanks to all who participated!



Rowlett Holiday Parade

On December 14th, CERT and Explorers decorated holiday floats and waved to thousands of Rowlett residents during the annual Rowlett Holiday Parade. RCCC was well represented with the Explorer Bus, our two new trucks and a holiday float.



CERT News



CERT Monthly Meeting Wednesday, January 15, 2025 7PM at Old Glory Station, 5100 Dalrock Road.

Winter in DFW can be balmy or...BRRR! Cold weather can lead to power failures, internet and cell interruptions, and dangerous roads. Keep yourself and your family safe: prepare your home and vehicles before a winter storm hits.

CERT "11 Questions" Challenge

Each month, we randomly pick a member to answer a set of questions. They will always be the same questions but the answers can help us get to know some important stuff about our volunteers.

We can't take credit for the questions as they are a revised version of Stephen Colbert's questions for celebrity guests. Please note that participation, should someone be selected, is completely voluntary. This month, let's get to know **Darrah Merillat!**



Darrah Merillat

- Best sandwich? **Grilled cheese with bacon**
- What's one thing you own that you really should throw out? **Old textbooks**
- What is the scariest animal? **Snakes (danger noodles)**
- Native Texan or From Another Land? **Native**
- Favorite action movie? **John Wick**
- Favorite smell? **Baked goods**
- Least favorite smell? **Rotten veggies**
- Flat or sparkling water? **Flat**
- Most used app on your phone? **YouTube**
- You get one song to listen to for the rest of your life: what is it? **Probably a Taylor Swift song**
- Describe the rest of your life in 5 words? **Hopefully knowing what I'm doing**

Volunteers Needed! During Rowlett's first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Fair on January 19, 2025 from 1-4pm at the Rowlett Community Centre, RCCC will provide information about disaster preparedness and home fire safety, and will distribute Smoke/CO detectors and natural gas safety kits from ATMOS. **Please sign up on TIF.**

ARES News



Monday, January 6 @ 20:00 – **Monthly ARES NET** on AB5U UHF 441.325 + 162.2

Wednesday, January 15 @ 19:00 – **Monthly CERT general Meeting** @ Old Glory Station, 5100 Dalrock Road. The topic will be "Severe Weather Prep."

Monday, January 20 @ 19:00 – **Monthly In-Person meeting** in training room of Fire Station #2, 8602 Schrade Road.

All members of Rowlett Citizen Corps Council are invited to the January 20th ARES meeting. With the severe weather season approaching, there will be a review of weather radar in general and an in-depth review of the phone app **RadarScope** including what the different "watch" and "warning" boxes refer to, the way to estimate how soon a storm is expected to arrive, how severe the storm is likely to be, and how to evaluate whether there might be severe hail or a tornado heading in our direction. If you are interested in downloading RadarScope on your cell phone prior to the meeting, it is available in both the Apple and Google Play stores.

The new **National Weather Service Skywarn 2025** training schedule, now referred to as "Severe Weather Education" is available. <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/skywarnmap>.



Please remember - even though it's required that all Rowlett Skywarn members must attend a class once every 2 years, it is highly recommended that yearly attendance either in-person or via a virtual class be completed.

The closest upcoming in-person classes include:

- Saturday, January 18th 9AM, at the Sockwell Center, 6301 Chapel Hill Blvd, Plano, TX 75093
- Thursday, January 23rd at 6PM, at the Rockwall County EOC, 972 N T L Townsend Dr, Rockwall, TX, 75087, USA
- Saturday, February 15th 9AM at the Atrium, 300 North 5th St, Garland, TX

The online class schedule has not yet been released.

After attending a class, please make sure to complete the certificate information and send a copy of the certificate to either JP (jp@theprescotts.info) or Mark (markriaboy@gmail.com).

Explorer News



2024 came to a close with Post One elections. It was a close race, but Ryan Laning was elected as the new Post One commander. This was followed by the careful selection of the new Lieutenants for the next year. After interviews with many great candidates, Ava Texta, Bella Hatcher, and Jordan Collins were chosen for these prestigious positions.

Rounding out the year was our holiday party! We came together and celebrated the season with games and activities in theme with this merry occasion. The party ended with a gift exchange that left everyone with a present and a closer connection to their fellow Explorer.



Explorer News (continued)



Explorer Highlight: Bella Hatcher

Bella Hatcher has been with the Post for four years. Bella joined the Post because she was interested in learning career options within the fire and medical service fields.

Currently, Bella is enrolled in paramedic school, and will be starting clinicals soon. But when she has time she likes playing corn hole and video games with her friends. She has a big corn hole tournament coming up at UNT in Denton this month.

Bella's current priorities within the Post are to make everyone feel included. She wants to make sure that everyone feels welcomed and valued when they come to the Post.



Upcoming Explorer events include a **Bowling Lock-in**, where the Post will enjoy an evening at Bowl-a-Rama and a night of fun! February 21st, 7:00PM - February 22nd 6:00AM.

Explorers are also planning a **Horseback Riding and Fishing campout**: We're going down to Camp Trevor Rees-Jones to go horseback riding and wet a line. We will also be visiting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Fishery so we can stay informed to do our part at keeping nature healthy. March 14th, 7:00PM - March 16th noon.



BSA646 News

Weekly Scout Meetings at Old Glory Station, 5100 Dalrock Road, Rowlett. We are there every Monday night from 7:00PM until 8:30PM unless it's a holiday like School Winter Break, New Year's, or Memorial Day.