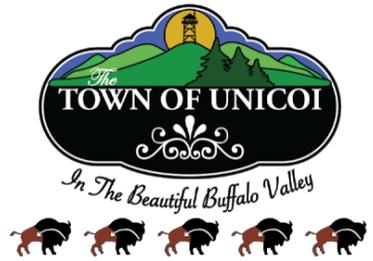




UNICOI POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unicoi Police To Launch Explorers Program Next Week

Unicoi, Tenn. -- The Unicoi Police Department will host a kick-off meeting for its new Explorers Program Tuesday, February 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Buffalo Conference Room at the Tourist Information Center, 106 Unicoi Village Pl., in Unicoi.

Explorers is a program for anyone, age 14-20, interested in a career in law enforcement. Training, practical experiences, competition and other activities provide participants a hands-on experience that teaches them the full scope of the career.

“I’ve always loved working with young people,” said Unicoi Police Chief Andy Slagle. “And I know what a positive affect a program like this can have on them. It gives them something to work for and keeps them focused while still having fun.”

Participants in the Explorers Program will learn law enforcement protocols and procedures, as well as important leadership skills. They will also gain respect for police officers, develop new personal skills, improve their marksmanship, attend local and national competitions, network with industry professionals and learn about the educational requirements for a career in law enforcement.

“I think this is a great idea on the part of our chief,” Mayor Johnny Lynch said. “I knew he was going to be good for this town and to see him start up something like this that’s going to have an impact on the youth, well that makes me proud of him and our town.”

The Unicoi Volunteer Fire Department (UVFD) will be assisting with the Explorers Program so participants will receive additional insight and experience in a secondary, but closely-related field.

“It’s important we work together as a team both on-scene and off,” said UVFD Chief Wesley Hensley, “We’re happy to support the Unicoi Police in this endeavor and I think it will be great to help prepare these young people for a future in public safety.”

According to Slagle, while the kick-off meeting will be held on a Tuesday, the regular meeting date for the Unicoi Police Explorers Program will be the fourth Thursday of the month, February through October.

“We’ll be doing something different each month,” said Slagle. “Whether it’s learning communication codes or tactical training, I know the kids are going to love it.”

The annual program cost is only \$36 per participant since the department will be seeking sponsorships for uniforms and other supplies. Scholarships may be available in critical, need-based situations.

Anyone looking to sponsor the program may contact Chief Slagle for more information on helping to shape the lives of Unicoi youth.

For more information, email police@unicoitn.net or call (423) 220-0025. A parent or guardian must accompany anyone under 18 to the kick-off meeting.

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