

SONOMA VALLEY FIRE EXPLORER POST 911



Presentation for Sonoma Valley Fire District Board of Directors

February 10, 2026

WHAT IS A FIRE EXPLORER?

- Youth age at least 14 years of age and in high school up to age 21 who are interested in exploring a career in the field of firefighting or emergency medical services
- Explorers are issued uniforms and protective gear
- Explorers train on all aspects of the fire service
- Explorers participate in community events
- Explorers participate in a ride along program at the discretion of post staff

PURPOSE OF THE EXPLORER PROGRAM

- The primary objective of this program is to provide an environment of public safety career opportunities through education and experience
- The program is designed to build good character, promote citizenship and develop personal and mental fitness for youth ages 14-21



EXPLORER POST 911 HISTORY



- Explorer Post 911 was established in 1986 by the Valley of the Moon Fire District
 - Original advisors were Jerry Sheppard, Ken Van Wormer and Dick Hanna
- In 2001, the program was moved to Schell-Vista Fire Protection District
 - Jason Weber became the Post Advisor
- In 2025, in collaboration with Schell-Vista Fire, the program was moved to Sonoma Valley Fire where many staff members contribute to the success of the program

CURRENT EXPLORER POST 911 STAFF

- Executive Officer:

Fire Chief Akre

- Post Committee:

Matt Garner (Schell-Vista)

Sean Lacy

Chris Landry

- Advisor Staff:

Mark Branconi

Jeremy Branconi

Chanton Em (Schell-Vista)

Jayden Filippi (Schell-Vista)

Ismael Gonzalez

Sofia Iniguez

Alex Molesworth

Matt Norrbom



CURRENT EXPLORER POST 911 YOUTH



- Currently 15 Explorers (maximum)
- Waiting list established
- Sending 5 Explorers and 3 Advisors to CFEA Academy in Hemet, CA
 - March 29 – April 4, 2026
- Continuous recruitment at community events and schools

BENEFITS OF EXPLORER PROGRAM

- Personal growth
- Community involvement
- Introduction to Sonoma Valley Fire
- Growth and training for our staff
- Recruitment for volunteer and ultimately full time firefighters
 - 24% of our full time staff are former explorers



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Questions?

