

NATIONAL FIRE/EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPLORING CONFERENCE



The **BLEVE**



Building ~ Lifelong ~ Excellent ~ Vibrant ~ Energy

Thursday June 21, 2007 ————— NEWSLETTER ————— Champaign, Illinois

TODAY

Demonstrations, post tours & sightseeing, closing/awards show, movie, TV, Illini Union-bowling, billiards, food, etc., Champaign's Shoalem Aquatic Center, 1pm-5pm



A Tribute

Yesterday, we were reminded of the importance of the brotherhood of firefighters and that when one firefighter falls, we all feel the loss. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families, friends and other members of the Charleston, South Carolina Fire Department for the nine firefighters who lost their lives doing what they do best.



June 21, 2007

Today in Illinois fire history: In 1971, Assistant Chief John Polimeni of the Vernon Fire Protection District died in the line of duty when the pumper truck he was riding in turned over on the way to a fire. In 1999, Assistant Chief Wayne Luecht of the Northbrook Fire Department died from burns he had received ten days earlier when an electrical panel exploded during an investigation into the presence of smoke at a local department store.



Advisor Gene Coleman

Gene Coleman, post advisor of post 2513 of Birmingham, Alabama Fire & Rescue Service and also Post 5050 Center Point Fire District Fire Department. Gene was an Explorer Post 2513 -- the same post he is advisor of today. He credits his experience to a time as a youth learning first aid. He enjoys the Family of firefighters that all firefighters share and the service they give to the community.



Advisor Ada Vought

Ada Vought, Advisor of Post 318 Boca Raton, Florida. Ada serves as a Firefighter and paramedic, and has been advisor for two years. She comes from a family of explorers as her two sons and one daughter are Explorers and a younger daughter will join next year. She commented that the conference was incredible and that the youth were getting better training here than many firefighters ever receive anywhere. She especially liked the live fire burn event, the instructors are great. On fun fact is that one of her advisors got stuck in an elevator and had to be rescued by the fire department.



Explorer Garrett LaMay

Garrett LaMay, Post 264 chartered to Anchorage, Alaska Fire Department, has been in the post for four years. This is the first national conference for Garrett. It took almost a full day to get to Central Illinois, having left Anchorage for Seattle, before continuing onto Chicago and later a train south to Champaign. Garrett became interested in fire fighting at a young age and is particularly interested in becoming a paramedic. He thinks the conference is a “blast” and added that he had met people from Delaware and Washington, plus more states too numerous to mention. Garrett added that the instructors are great, the food good and that all the members of his post struggled a bit to get out of bed since it’s a three-hour time difference.



Advisor Ashton Lynch

Ashton Lynch, Advisor for Post 2903, Salt River Indian Reservation, Arizona, Salt River, Fire Department. Ashton was an Explorer in the same post as a youth and has been an advisor for about a year. She is a certified Type-2 Wildfire Firefighter. This is the first national conference for Ashton. “It’s been a good show and the Explorers are learning a lot of hands-on and leadership skills.” She feels that Exploring teaches responsibility and offers opportunities to youth and encourages other Native American youth to get involved in Exploring.



Nice ride Kathryn.



Adrian Lopez, Post 2903, Salt River Indian Reservation, Arizona.

“Great program – making a lot of new friends. Foods OK, but need more fry bread and Indian tacos.”

Remember that part of your responsibility as an Explorer is to show leadership and courtesy to others. Please refrain from tossing the Frisbee in the hallways – it’s better for outside. And help keep the bathrooms clean. Remember too, to be considerate of others when using the elevators and only punching your floor number.

Basic Leadership Principles

Colonel Royal Mortenson, USMC, speaker at Annual Fire College (part three of three)

9. I will hold myself accountable for all I do and don’t do. I will hold others accountable for their actions commensurate with their position and responsibilities at every level.

10. Don’t lie, steal or cheat.

11. Never accept hazing, racism or otherwise cruel, demeaning behavior, it is the hallmark of the ignorant and the unprofessional.

12 Mistakes of omission will not be accepted. If you act and make a mistake because you lacked accurate information but you did your best – all can be fixed. If your mistake is bedded in a failure to try – all will be painful.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast	FAR — Dining Hall
9:00 AM – 2:30 PM	Live Demonstrations	IFSI FIELD
12 NOON – 1:00 PM	Lunch	IFSI
1:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Tours & Sightseeing (Your opportunity to visit the location of your choice.)	
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Dinner	FAR — Dining Hall
7:30 PM	Closing/Awards Show	Foellinger Auditorium
9:00 PM	Movie Recreational Activities	FAR — 1 st Floor Lounge FAR
9:00 PM – 11:00 PM	Bowling, Pool, Food, etc.	Illini Union
11:15 PM	DAY CONCLUDES	

Don't forget we have a big awards presentation planned for Thursday night at Foellinger Hall at 7:30 p.m.

