



PALM BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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Monday, July 01, 2013 1:52 PM

PALM BAY POLICE EXPLORERS BEST IN BREVARD/2ND IN FLORIDA

(Palm Bay)—Palm Bay Police Explorer Post 597 returned Saturday from a weeklong statewide competition finishing 2nd overall and placing in the top five in 10 different categories. The results make Palm Bay's Explorer Post the best in Brevard County for the second consecutive year and 2nd best in all of Florida. "We are so proud of these young men and women," said Cpl. Frank Tobar, lead advisor for the Palm Bay Police Explorer Post 597. "They worked and trained so hard for months leading up to this competition. It paid off and we couldn't be more proud."

The Florida Association of Police Explorers (FAPE) annual statewide completion was held last week in Crystal River and hosted 31 police and sheriff explorer teams from around the state. The competition tested the participant's skill level and knowledge in many law enforcement categories including emergency vehicle operations, firearms training simulator, traffic crashes, traffic stops, crime scene, search and arrest, physical agility and others. Palm Bay's team included 13 members, some of whom participated for the first time and others who participated for the last time. "This is a good way to retire," said Mariah Marrero who is in her last year of eligibility as a Palm Bay police explorer. "I am very happy with the results and can't wait to move forward from here." Marrero has been with the explorer program since she was 17. She is now 21 and is enrolled in the police academy class that begins on August 26th. She is also attending the U.S. Secret Service Leadership Academy in July. Marrero hopes to work in Palm Bay as a police officer once she completes the academy. Two other explorers, Tyler Witt and Vincent Galioto will be attending the U.S. Marshal Secret Service Academy in July as well. "The explorer program is such a great experience for anyone who is considering a career in law enforcement," Chief Muldoon added. "We have some of the best advisors around who volunteer their own time to educate and train these kids for a future in law enforcement. What our advisors are doing

is yielding results because we already have several explorer graduates who are now working as Palm Bay police officers.”

The team results are as follows:

Shooting

2nd place Male Tyro Shooting-Aaron Shishilla

EVOG

1st place Male EVOG-Zachery Morris

2nd place Male EVOG-Vincent Galioto

FATS (Fire Arms Training Simulator)

5th place FATS Machine-Kevin Diaz, Tim Doyle, Rachel Butler, Zachery Morris

Events

5th place Tie Breaker-Vincent Galioto

2nd place Traffic Crash-Vincent Galioto, Tyler Witt, Mariah Marrero, Aaron Shishilla

3rd place Traffic Stop- same as above

5th place Crime Scene-same as above

2nd place Search and Arrest-same as above

Overall

2nd place OVER ALL- Palm Bay Police Explorer Post 597 – out of 31 teams from around the state of Police and Sheriff Explorers

Palm Bay Police Explorer Post 597 is chartered through the Boys Scouts of America and sponsored by the Palm Bay Police Department. The educational aspect of the program provides knowledge of the law enforcement function on one’s community. Through involvement, the explorer program establishes awareness of the complexities of police service and develops essential life skills. Membership is open to both male and female youths between the ages of 14, provided they have completed the 8th grade, through age 20. Palm Bay Police Explorer Post 597 meets each Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information contact: 321-952-3530.

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