



Homestead Police Explorer cadets do physical training, drills and other activities in June 2015, as part of that city's program. **PETER ANDREW BOSCH** - Miami Herald File

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The Miami-Dade Schools Police Department is looking for local high school students ages 14-18 to participate in the newly expanded Police Explorers program.

The program, which has been offered for years by numerous cities within the county, has been a hit among teens considering a future in law enforcement and related fields. Now the MDSPD has expanded the program to provide easier access for these aspiring teens in the community.

Police Explorers is a sort of junior police academy; aside from teaching high school students basic law enforcement training and procedures, the program emphasizes leadership and community building and outreach.

"This program offers a numerous amount of valuable skills, aside from just your police training," says Lt. Raul Correa, the department's public information officer. "We want to build leaders within our community. ... In the program we assign students to lead groups of their own peers. Our students are exposed to a more holistic approach, such as community service. We want to give them the real picture of being a complete, mature police officer, not just what you see in *CSI Miami*."

Police Explorers participate in crime prevention projects, social and community events, law enforcement related training, competitions, ride along programs, and parades and fundraising events.

Meetings are voluntary and will be held weekly after school at three locations throughout the school year: Barbara Goleman High in Miami Lakes, Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial High in Miami, and the Robert Morgan Educational Center in Miami.

In addition, the MDSPD is offering a Police Explorers Academy that runs from July 27 to August 7th. Hosted at Miami Dade College's North Campus, all interested high school students are encouraged to apply as well to experience a similar program.

There is a one-time \$25 registration fee to join. Other requirements include maintaining a minimum 2.0 or "C" GPA throughout high school. Interested students should contact the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department office at 305-995-2677.