



07-27-16

Pickens County Sheriff's Office Explorers Bring Home Top Honors during South Carolina SCALE Competition

The Pickens County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post#138 is the current SC title holder for being named the *2016 Explorer Post of the Year* and *1st Place Overall* during the recent South Carolina Association of Law Enforcement Explorers (SCALE) Competition.

The annual event was held July 18 through July 22 in North Charleston, SC and is the focal point of their Summer Conference where Explorer Posts come together to test their skills and knowledge in pursuit of one day becoming law enforcement officers.

The Pickens County Sheriff's Office enjoys a strong and dedicated group of Explorers who attend several meetings each month and vigorously train to become first responders in years to come. Eight Explorers from the Pickens County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post#138 were in attendance at this year's event.

The 2016 competition was attended by fourteen teams of Explorers that were sponsored by eleven different law enforcement agencies.

Sheriff Rick Clark stated...

"Our Explorer Program is a reflection of our entire agency in that we strive to serve as a model for other programs to follow. The future for law enforcement in Pickens County has never been brighter with the quality of young men and women that are already experiencing the calling to serve others through public service. I am so very proud of our Explorer Post and of our deputies that graciously devote so much of their personal time to this program".

The Pickens County Sheriff's Explorers won first place in the highly sought after award for being named the **SCALE Post of the Year 2016** – an award given to the group with outstanding community service and superior leadership.

The **2016 First Place Overall Award** was also brought home by the Pickens County Explorers after achieving the highest average score accumulated from team events.

2016 SCALE Competition Results:

“First Place Overall Team”Pickens County Sheriff’s Explorers

- SCALE Post of the year 2016.....**Pickens County Explorers**

First Place Team Finishes:

- Domestic Violence.....**Pickens County Explorers**
- Armed Robbery.....**Pickens County Explorers**
- Open Door/Burglary.....**Pickens County Explorers**

First Place Individual Explorer Finishes:

- Individual Pistol.....**Explorer Captain Brandon Smith**
- Physical Agility (Male) **Explorer 1st Class Kaleb Grant**

The Explorer program is a nationally recognized program among law enforcement agencies. Candidates must meet certain criteria to become a member. Participants must be between the ages of 14 to 21 and anyone under the age of 18 must have the consent and approval from their parent or legal guardian. Candidates must maintain a “C” average in school and must have completed the 8th grade upon being selected for the program.

Pickens County Sheriff’s Explorers often give back to the community through volunteering at large public events, fundraisers and ride-a-longs with the Sheriff’s Deputies.

Interested candidates should contact Pickens County Deputy 1st Class Elijah Chapman at (864) 898-5539 or by email at elijahc@co.pickens.sc.us for additional information.



Left to Right (Back Row): (Advisors)

Deputy Brandon Brewer
Deputy 1st Class Elijah Chapman
Deputy 1st Class Michael Torres
Sergeant Robert Porter

Left to Right (Front Row): (Explorers)

Explorer Captain Brandon Smith
Explorer 1st Class Kaleb Grant
Explorer Lieutenant Tyler Brown
Explorer Lt. Caleb Cassell
Explorer Sergeant Maddy Blanton
Explorer Deandre Mansell
Explorer Sergeant Alex Harbin
Explorer 1st Class Eli Harbin

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