

CHAPTER 10
ACADEMY TRAINING
REVISED SEPTEMBER 2025
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CHAPTER 10

ACADEMY TRAINING

1. EXPLORER ACADEMY.

- a. Establishment of Level I and Level II Academy. The statewide explorer coordinator shall be advised via e-mail when an Explorer Level I or Level II Academy is to be conducted. An Explorer Level I or Level II Academy may be conducted on a Division level with multiple explorer posts participating, or an individual Area may conduct an Explorer Level I or Level II Academy if that method is more practical.
- b. Establishment of Level III and Level IV Academy. The statewide explorer coordinator is responsible for coordination of the Explorer Level III and Level IV Academies.
- c. Academy Attendance. All explorers registered in the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Explorer Program shall attend the Explorer Level I, II, and III Academies. Explorers should complete Academy Levels I and II, as described below, within the first 12 months of membership. Explorers should complete the Level III Academy within 24 months of reaching age 18. Explorers who successfully complete the Level III Academy and anticipate applying for the position of cadet, and are 20 years of age, should be encouraged to attend the Level IV Academy.
- d. Academy Courses. The statewide explorer coordinator will provide the necessary training materials (e.g., lesson plans) to assist post advisors in conducting an explorer academy. The academy courses are designed to enhance the explorer's basic understanding of departmental policies and procedures. This training will assist explorers toward becoming successful candidates for CHP cadets.
- e. Academy Instruction. The explorer training consists of four levels of instruction. Annex A, California Highway Patrol Explorer Academy Syllabus, outlines the minimum hours of instruction for each of the four levels of training.
 - (1) Level I. Level I Academy instruction consists of courses which are ride-along prerequisites for the explorer cadet. This instruction provides the knowledge necessary to perform ride-alongs in a safe manner and in compliance with departmental policy. Ride-alongs offer explorer cadets a basic understanding of departmental field operations which will also enhance their Levels II and III Academy training. Coordination of a Level I Academy is the responsibility of the explorer post advisor and the Division explorer coordinator.

NOTE: All explorers are required to complete the online California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System training at the Less than Full Access level on the CHP Intranet site under the Online Training tab. This training should be conducted as a component of the Level I Academy. Area office Local Area Network coordinators can provide access for explorers to the CHP Intranet site to complete the training. After certification, explorers shall participate in the recertification process every two years.

(2) Level II. Level II Academy instruction is essentially a continuation of Level I Academy training. However, Level II Academy instruction incorporates 16 hours of first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training into the curriculum. Coordination of Level II Academy training is the responsibility of the explorer post advisor and the Division explorer coordinator.

(3) Level III. Level III Academy instruction introduces explorer cadets to a more comprehensive and structured type of training. Level III training consists of approximately 62 hours of instruction. In order to qualify for the Level III Academy, an explorer must have successfully completed the explorer Levels I and II Academies with a certificate of accomplishment, be at least 18 years of age, meet minimum physical standards, and have the recommendation of the Area commander. The Level III Academy is designed to refine explorers' skills, continue to expose them to the Department's cadet training standards, and introduce them to the Department's cadet hiring process. Coordination of the Level III Academy training is the responsibility of the statewide explorer coordinator.

NOTE: Explorers shall be awarded their badge upon successful completion of the Level III Academy.

(4) Level IV. The Explorer Level IV Academy is a program of instruction designed to refine explorers' skills, and to introduce them to the Department's cadet training standards. The Level IV Academy is comprised of approximately 63 hours of instruction. In order to qualify for the Level IV Academy, an explorer must have successfully completed the Explorer Levels I, II, and III Academies with a Certificate of Accomplishment, be at least 20 years of age, and have the recommendation of the Area commander. Additionally, candidates for the Level IV Academy should be in excellent health and physical condition. This training is designed for explorers who have demonstrated their commitment to the Explorer Program. In addition, those explorers who have applied for, or will be applying for the position of CHP cadet, should be given the first opportunity at attending a Level IV Academy. Coordination of the Level IV Academy is the responsibility of the statewide explorer coordinator.

f. Academy Facilities.

(1) The Level I and II Explorer Academies should be conducted at the Area and/or Division office during local Area meetings or multi-Area weekend sessions.

(2) The Level III Academy is a seven-day, live-in academy conducted at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. The dates for the Level III Academy will be determined by the statewide explorer coordinator.

(3) The Level IV Academy is a seven-day, live-in academy conducted at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. The dates for the Level IV Academy will be determined by the statewide explorer coordinator.

NOTE: State facilities may be utilized to conduct meetings, training, and other functions that are related to the mission of the Explorer Program.

2. ACADEMY CERTIFICATES.

a. Certificate of Accomplishment. Upon successful completion of each level of training, explorers shall receive a Certificate of Accomplishment in recognition of their achievements. Explorers must obtain an average score of 70 percent or greater at each academy level in order to receive a CHP 400B, Certificate of Accomplishment.

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ANNEX A

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL EXPLORER ACADEMY SYLLABUS

LEVEL I SYLLABUS

Academy Orientation	0.5
Departmental Overview/History/Structure	1.0
Explorer Post Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)	
CHP 400D, Explorer's Evaluation/Resources	1.0
Professionalism/Ethics/Cultural Diversity	1.5
Community Outreach	0.5
Final Examination	1.0
Information Systems	
California Law Enforcement Telecommunications	
System CHP 101, Appropriate Use of Automated	
Information & Systems Statement	1.0
Required Forms	
CHP 180, Vehicle Report	
CHP 215, Notice to Appear Violation	1.5
Patrol Vehicle Familiarity	
Consolidated Patrol Vehicle Environment	1.0
Physical Fitness/Stress Management	1.0
Radio Communications/Brevity Codes	1.0
Traffic Control/Direction	1.5
Vehicle Pullovers/Violator Contacts	1.0
Vehicle Code	1.5
Weapons Display/Safety Precautions	<u>1.0</u>

Total: 16.0

ANNEX A

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL EXPLORER ACADEMY SYLLABUS (continued)

LEVEL II SYLLABUS

First Aid	4.0
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Classroom	2.0
Training CPR Practical Examination	<u>2.0</u>
Total:	8.0

ANNEX A

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL EXPLORER ACADEMY SYLLABUS (continued)

LEVEL III CLASSES

Active Shooter	2.0
Arrest Methods/Defensive Tactics	2.0
Controlled Substances	1.0
Crime Scenes, Evidence & Forensics	2.0
Crimes Against Persons/Death Investigation	1.0
Crimes in Progress	2.0
Domestic Violence	2.0
Drill	5.0
General Criminal Statutes	1.0
Graduation	3.0
Graduation Rehearsal	3.0
Lifetime Fitness	7.0
Radio Communications	1.0
Scenario Demo	12.0
Search and Seizure	1.0
Traffic Crash Investigations	4.0
Traffic Enforcement	5.0
Traffic Enforcement DUI	2.0
Uniform Inspection	2.0
Use of Force	2.0
Vehicle Pullovers	1.0
Weapons Violation	1.0

Total: 62.0

ANNEX A

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL EXPLORER ACADEMY SYLLABUS (continued)

LEVEL IV CLASSES

Academy Orientation	1.0
Accident Investigation	6.0
CPR/First Aid Certification	4.0
Drill and Graduation Practice	5.0
Driving Under the Influence	4.0
Effective Report Writing	2.0
Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (Skid Pan/Defensive Driving Course) Field	8.0
Problems	4.0
Final Inspection/Graduation	2.0
Officer Safety Tactics	4.0
Physical Conditioning	8.0
Physical Methods of Arrest Recruitment	4.0
Presentation	0.5
Traffic Stops	2.0
Weapons Instruction	<u>8.0</u>

Total hours: 62.5