

**CHAPTER 12**  
**UNIFORM/GROOMING AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS**

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## CHAPTER 12

### UNIFORM/GROOMING AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

1. GENERAL. All departmental policies and procedures contained in Highway Patrol Manual (HPM) 73.5, Uniform/Grooming and Equipment Standards Manual, shall be applicable to the explorer. Specific policies and procedures regarding explorer uniform and grooming standards are contained within this chapter:

a. Inspection. The Area commander shall conduct an annual formal uniform inspection of all explorers within the command. The explorer captain may conduct inspections as deemed necessary to ensure compliance with uniform and grooming standards.

b. Identification Card. At the discretion of the Area commander, each explorer may be issued an Explorer ID card (refer to Chapter 5, Personnel Procedures). The card is intended to identify the person as an explorer of the explorer post while on official explorer business. The ID card is the property of the Department and shall be returned upon termination or resignation from the Explorer Program.

#### 2. GROOMING STANDARDS.

a. Every explorer acting in an official capacity shall present a neat and clean appearance. Uniforms and civilian attire shall be appropriately maintained.

b. Inappropriate or unusual slogans, pictures, or designs on the outer clothing of civilian attire shall not be permitted.

c. Civilian clothing worn during explorer post functions shall be consistent with a business environment.

#### 3. UNIFORM STANDARDS.

a. Possession of Uniform. All explorers shall possess, maintain, and have ready for immediate use, a serviceable basic uniform that is authorized for the Explorer Program.

NOTE: Any explorer who is in financial need and unable to afford an explorer uniform may petition the explorer post for distribution of funds for the purchase of an explorer uniform. Financial assistance requests shall be submitted on a memorandum and submitted to the explorer post advisor. Authorization for the disbursement of explorer post funds for this purpose shall be at the discretion of the Area commander.

b. Wearing of the Uniform.

(1) The explorer uniform shall be worn only during official explorer functions and when necessary to travel incidental to duty unless otherwise authorized by an explorer post advisor. Explorers shall not go to any public establishment when in uniform before or after any explorer post function without approval of the explorer post advisor.

(2) Each explorer is responsible for presenting an appearance which is reflective of the professional image expected by the Department.

c. Any attempt to use a law enforcement patch, badge, uniform, or equipment to pose as a peace officer or obtain gratuities and/or preferential treatment may result in severe disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution. Explorer uniforms have been designed for identification purposes and uniformity. Explorers shall not wear or use the uniform or uniform items for any other purpose.

d. Basic Uniform. The basic uniform of the explorer shall consist of the following items:

(1) Explorer cap.

(2) Long-sleeved shirt with shoulder patches, explorer rocker, and badge.

(3) Navy blue necktie with brass tie bar.

(4) Trousers.

(5) Black basketweave trouser belt with a square, solid brass buckle, or Velcro trouser belt.

(6) Solid-colored socks, without design, in either royal blue, navy blue, or black.

(7) Approved black boots or shoes.

(8) Brass nameplate.

(9) Explorer badge (after successful completion of the Level III Academy).

e. Specialty Uniforms. Specialty uniforms shall only be worn during official explorer functions when authorized by the explorer post advisor. Explorers may wear the following specialty uniforms:

- (1) Utility uniform, with explorer patches. The utility uniform should only be used for competitions, in controlled environments, or circumstances in which duties would expose the explorer's uniform to excessive soiling or damage. Use of the utility uniform in public view should be limited to prevent explorers from being mistaken as peace officers.
  - (2) Cold weather uniform, with explorer patches (only authorized in designated cold weather Areas in accordance with Department policy and Division/Area Standard Operating Procedures).
- f. Insignia of Rank. All ranking explorers shall wear items of identification pertaining to their position of authority. Insignias shall conform to specifications contained in HPM 73.5 and will be of the style sold at the Academy PX.
- g. Accouterments. Explorers may wear only the accouterments/pins authorized in this manual. Accouterments are to be worn on the explorer basic uniform.
- (1) Explorers may wear The Law Enforcement Exploring Proficiency Awards. This program provides an opportunity for Explorers to earn a series of recognition items that acknowledge their law enforcement Exploring experience. These recognize community service, crime prevention, law enforcement service, law enforcement training, firearms training, physical fitness, emergency preparedness, tenure, perfect attendance, drug abuse prevention, attendance at National Law Enforcement Conference, attendance at National Law Enforcement Explorer Academy, and Explorer of the Year.
  - (2) Each award or recognition is represented by a police-type commendation ribbon that affixes to a metal holder bar. The metal bar is to be affixed centered and above the name plate.
  - (3) The United States flag pin may be attached to the left pocket flap of the shirt, 1 inch to the left of the right edge and centered midway between the top and bottom of the flap.
- h. Other Required Items. In addition to the basic uniform, the following items are required:
- (1) Valid driver's license, issued by the state in which the explorer resides (if applicable).
  - (2) Flashlight.
  - (3) Pen and pencil.
  - (4) Watch.

- (5) Insignia of rank (when applicable).
  - (6) High-Visibility Reflective Safety Vest.
  - i. Optional Items. Explorers may wear the following optional items:
    - (1) Flashlight holder.
    - (2) Portable radio holder.
    - (3) Soft body armor.
    - (4) Short-sleeved shirt.
    - (5) Black gloves.
    - (6) Raingear.
    - (7) Whistle.
    - (8) Navy blue turtleneck or dickey with no markings, insignia, or embroidery.
    - (9) Explorer jacket with required patches.
  - j. Additional Items. The following formal items may be issued by the explorer post or Division for use during special events and drill competitions.
    - (1) Navy blue aiguillette.
    - (2) Navy blue campaign hat with canary yellow braid.
    - (3) Explorer cap piece.
  - k. Campaign Hat. The straw campaign hat may be worn by explorers **only** during special events and drill competitions. This hat does not replace the explorer baseball cap currently approved for daily use. The campaign hat shall not be worn during the performance of normal explorer activities, including ride-alongs. The wearing of the campaign hat shall be approved by the Area commander and be worn in conjunction with the direction set forth by the Division commander.
- NOTE: During special events, the explorer post advisor will determine the appropriate uniform that all explorers shall wear.
- l. Prohibited Items. Explorers shall not wear any of the following items:
    - (1) Firearm.

- (2) Holster.
- (3) Ammunition case.
- (4) Baton or baton holder.
- (5) Aerosol projector or holster.
- (6) Leather billy, police club, sap, or any other similar item.
- (7) Duty belt (except as noted in paragraph 3.I. below).
- (8) Tactical riot helmet.
- (9) Uniformed personnel badge or cap piece.
- (10) Handcuffs.

m. Duty Belts. Duty belts may be worn during sanctioned explorer competitions, ride-alongs, traffic control assignments and training. At no time shall an explorer be in possession of any firearm, ammunition, oleoresin capsicum spray, or similar item. When approved by the explorer post advisor, explorers may utilize plastic or molded “training” firearms that are clearly identifiable as non-functional.

4. EXPLORER UNIFORM SPECIFICATIONS. The explorer uniform items will be designed and manufactured as specified in HPM 73.5, with the exceptions contained in this chapter. Specifications for the explorer uniform and required articles outlined in this chapter are minimum requirements. All uniform items shall be properly sized to assure proper fit. Construction requirements such as stitching, etc., are not mandatory for the explorer uniform:

a. Shirt—Long Sleeve (Required Item).

- (1) Material. Fabric materials shall be of good quality, wash and wear, preshrunk, and colorfast. The shirt shall be constructed of 65 percent polyester and 35 percent cotton.
- (2) Style. The basic style of the uniform shirt should match the outward design style of the departmental uniform shirt with the exception of color. The shirt shall have scalloped pocket flaps, shoulder strap epaulets, pencil compartment, and blue buttons.
- (3) Color. Medium blue.
- (4) Authorized Types. Flying Cross, style #126R5435.

b. Shirt—Short Sleeve (Optional). The basic uniform shirt in short sleeve form is permitted when authorized for wear. The shirt shall be constructed of 65 percent polyester and 35 percent cotton.

(1) Color. Medium blue.

(2) Authorized Types. Flying Cross, style #176R5435.

c. Trousers (Required).

(1) Material. Fabric materials shall be of good quality, permanent press, preshrunk, and colorfast. The trousers shall be constructed of 65 percent polyester and 35 percent cotton.

(2) Style. The basic uniform trouser shall match the outward design style of the departmental uniform trouser, with exception of color, width of belt loops, and seam stripe. Belt loop widths may be narrow. There shall be no seam stripe.

(3) Color. Dark navy blue.

(4) Authorized Types. Flying Cross, style #48200.

d. Badge—Cloth.

(1) Material. Background shall be 8 1/2 ounce (oz.) cotton twill, vat-dyed material. Backing will be made of preshrunk, permanent finished crinoline.

(2) Style. The badge shall be a seven-pointed star and display the explorer letter "E" in the center. There shall be a concentric band and a ribbon below the band. The area between the circular band with ribbon and the outer edge of the badge shall have a leaf pattern. The width of the badge from tip-to-tip shall be 2 7/8 inches.

(3) Lettering. Leaves and all lettering shall be sharp and clear. Lettering shall be block style, and 3/16 inch in height with stroke proportionate width. The explorer "E" shall be 1 inch in height in accordance with Learning for Life, Explorer Division. The top half of the band shall be lettered "CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL." The ribbon shall be lettered "EXPLORER."

(4) Color. All yarn shall be vat-dyed viscose rayon. Background and explorer "E" shall be Cable No. 70068, Spanish Yellow, as listed on U.S. Army Color Card, Textile Color Card Association of the United States or Sulky No. 1083, Gold. The ribbon and concentric band shall be Sulky No. 1203, Silver. The leaves and border for the ribbon and concentric band shall be Cable No. 65018

Black and Sulky No. 1005, Black. "CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL" and "EXPLORER" lettering and center disk shall be Cable No. 70087, Royal Blue or Sulky No. 1042, Royal Blue.

(5) Stitches. There shall be 4000 stitches on material background and 7040 stitches on a solid embroidered stitched background.

(6) Placement. The badge shall be centered above the left shirt pocket. The lowest most star tip shall be 1/2 inch above the left pocket. The badge shall be sewn on with colorfast thread matching the badge edging, and shall not be cross-stitched.

(7) Authorized Vendor. California Highway Patrol Academy Post Exchange (PX) (refer to item 696).

e. Cap (Required).

(1) Material. Cotton twill.

(2) Style. Adjustable snap-back or clasp baseball cap style. Sweatband shall be black or navy blue on both sides, so it is not visible when worn.

(3) Color. Navy blue

(4) Emblem. Embroidered on the face of the cap and shall be the departmental explorer emblem.

(5) Authorized Vendor. California Highway Patrol Academy PX (refer to item number 561).

f. Departmental Explorer Emblem.

(1) Style. Embroidered motorcycle wheel with tire and flying wings, with ribbon top and bottom. Wheel to be wire spoked, oval in shape. Tire to be 1/4 inch wide with the outer portion threaded. Wing spread shall be 2 3/4 inches from tip-to-tip. Height from band-to-band to be 2 7/8 inches outside measurements. Tips of wings shall extend 1/2 inch above the outside of the top ribbon.

(2) Lettering. Top ribbon shall have embroidered "CALIFORNIA." The bottom ribbon shall have embroidered "HIGHWAY PATROL." Across the face of the cap emblem, halfway between the top and bottom of the emblem, shall have embroidered "EXPLORER." The word "EXPLORER" shall have 7/16 inch letters and shall not exceed 3 inches in length. All lettering shall be block style.

(3) Color. All yarn shall be vat-dyed viscose rayon. The color of the emblem shall be Venus No. 9074, Gold Rayon No. 40 thread. All detailing and outlining of the emblem shall be in Robison-Anton 6727, Chocolate No. 40 thread. Embroidered "CALIFORNIA" and "HIGHWAY PATROL" in Madeira No. 1076, Royal Blue Rayon No. 40 thread. Embroidered "EXPLORER" in Madeira No. 7/2, Silver Mylar No. 50 thread.

g. Explorer Shoulder Patch (Required).

(1) Material. Background to be 8 1/2 oz. cotton twill, vat-dyed material. Backing shall be made of preshrunk, permanent finished crinoline.

(2) Style. To be "Shield" shape, 3 inches in width and 3 5/8 inches in height. (Wolf-Brown, Inc., Style #S-210-2, or equal).

(3) Edging. To be vat-dyed viscose rayon yarn, Cable #70068, Spanish Yellow.

(4) Lettering. All lettering to be sharp and clear and to be vat-dyed viscose rayon yarn, Cable #65018, Black on #70068 panel. Lettering to be between 3/8 inch and 1/2 inch in height with stroke proportionate to width.

(5) Detail. Wings, wheel and upper panel to be Cable #70068 highlighted in Cable #65018.

(6) Stitches. There shall be 4000 stitches on material background and 7040 stitches on a solid embroidered stitched background.

(7) Placement. To be attached on both sleeves of the shirt in such a manner that a line bisecting the center of the patch would be perpendicular to the ground when the garment is worn. To be sewn on garment with colorfast thread which matches edging of the patch, and not cross-stitched.

(8) Authorized Vendor. California Highway Patrol Academy PX (refer to item number 694).

h. Explorer Shoulder Rocker (Required).

(1) Material. Background to be 8 1/2 oz. cotton twill, vat-dyed material. Backing shall be made of preshrunk, permanent finished crinoline.

(2) Style. The shoulder tab shall be rectangular in shape, 1 inch in width, and 3 inches in length.

(3) Lettering. The tab shall read "EXPLORER" in block lettering. All lettering shall be sharp and clear. Lettering shall be 1/2 inch in height and proportionate in width.

(4) Color. The edging and lettering shall be vat-dyed viscose rayon yarn, Cable No. 70068, Spanish Yellow. The background shall be Cable No. 70087, Royal Blue.

(5) Stitches. There shall be 4000 stitches on material background and 7040 stitches on a solid embroidered stitched background.

(6) Placement. The "EXPLORER" shoulder tab shall be sewn on each shirt sleeve with the top edge just touching the point of the shoulder patch, centered horizontally. It shall be sewn with colorfast yellow thread and shall not be cross-stitched.

(7) Authorized Vendor. California Highway Patrol Academy PX (refer to item number 695).

i. Explorer Advisor Shoulder Rocker.

(1) Material. Background to be 8 1/2 oz. cotton twill, vat-dyed material. Backing shall be made of preshrunk, permanent finished crinoline.

(2) Style. The shoulder tab shall be rectangular in shape, 1 inch in width, and 3 inches in length.

(3) Lettering. The tab shall read "ADVISOR" in block lettering. All lettering shall be sharp and clear. Lettering shall be 1/2 inch in height, and proportionate in width.

(4) Color. The edging and lettering shall be vat-dyed viscose rayon yarn, Cable No. 70068, Spanish Yellow. The background shall be Cable No. 70087, Royal Blue.

(5) Stitches. There shall be 4000 stitches on material background and 7040 stitches on a solid embroidered stitched background.

(6) Placement. The "ADVISOR" shoulder tab shall be sewn on each shirt sleeve with the top edge just touching the bottom of the "EXPLORER" tab, centered horizontally. It shall be sewn with colorfast yellow thread and shall not be cross-stitched.

j. Utility Uniform. The departmental utility uniform is authorized for explorers provided the explorer badge, shoulder patches, and rocker are worn in the same positions specified for the explorer shirt.

(1) Material. The utility uniform shall be composed of 65 percent polyester and 35 percent cotton "RIPSTOP" material.

(2) Color. Dark navy blue.

k. Cold Weather Uniform. The departmental cold weather uniform is authorized for explorers in designated cold weather areas. Wearing of the cold weather uniform shall be authorized by the post coordinator. The cold weather jumpsuit may be purchased and worn by explorers at their own expense.

l. Jacket.

(1) Jacket—Blue Lightweight Waist High. The departmental lightweight blue jacket is authorized for explorers provided the explorer badge, shoulder patches and tabs are worn in the same positions specified for the explorer shirt.

(2) Color. Navy blue.

(3) Authorized Vendor. California Highway Patrol Academy PX. Refer to the following item numbers:

(a) Medium #1305.

(b) Large #1306.

(c) X-Large #1307.

(d) XX-Large #1308.

(4) Jacket—Blue Patrol. The departmental approved navy blue patrol jacket is authorized for explorers provided the explorer badge, shoulder patches, and tabs are worn in the same positions specified for the explorer shirt.

m. Trouser Belt (Required).

(1) Material. To be 8 to 9 oz. top-grain cowhide.

(2) Style. To be hand-stamped basket-weave design with "Craftool Co." #511 basket and border stamp.

(a) Buckle Type. Width to be not less than 1 1/2 inches nor more than 2 inches with straight-type end, or with end tapered to not less than

1 1/4 inches. To have a plain yellow colored, center-bar type, buckle constructed of solid brass.

(b) Buckleless Hook and Pile. Width to be not less than 1 1/2 inches nor more than 2 inches with straight-type end, or with end tapered to not less than 1 1/4 inches. No hook-and-pile (velcro) shall be visible when the belt is worn.

n. Nameplate (Required).

(1) Material. All metal construction, plain without design

(2) Color. Polished gold finish with royal blue lettering

(3) Lettering. To be approximately 1/32 inch stroke, 1/4 inch in height. To be engraved deep in the metal and filled with royal blue lacquer. Name on the plate to consist of no more than 13 letters including spacing. Plate to include either the full name, initial(s) and last name, or last name only, depending upon the length of the wearer's name.

(4) Style. To be rectangular in shape, size approximately 1/2 inch in width and 2 1/4 inches in length. To have two metal clutch fasteners attached to the back.

(5) Level IV Nameplate. (After successful completion of the Level IV academy).

o. Necktie (Required).

(1) Material. Dacron or wool fabric.

(2) Color. Navy blue.

(3) Authorized vender. California Highway Patrol Academy PX. Refer to the following item numbers:

(a) Women's, 14 inches long, #471.

(b) Men's, 17 1/2 inches long, #474.

(c) Men's, 21 inches long, #475.

p. Mock Turtleneck.

(1) Material. 93 percent cotton and 7 percent Lycra.

(2) Style. The long-sleeved mock turtleneck may be worn in accordance with HPM 73.5, Chapter 6, Regulations for Optional Uniform Items.

- (3) Color. Navy blue.
- q. Dickey.
- (1) Material. 93 percent cotton and 7 percent Lycra (neck has 2 percent lycra).
- (2) Style. The mock dickey may be worn in accordance with HPM 73.5, Chapter 6, Regulations for Optional Uniform Items.
- (3) Color. Navy blue.
- r. Rank Insignia. Rank insignias for explorer post captains and lieutenants shall be gold collar pins. Sergeant insignias shall be gold color pins with blue stripes. The authorized vendor is the CHP Academy PX. Refer to the following item numbers:
- (1) Captain. Shirt #1511, jacket #1510.
- (2) Lieutenant. Shirt #1509, jacket #1508.
- (3) Sergeant. Shirt #616, jacket #616.
- s. Campaign Hat.
- (1) Material. To be #1 Quality Bedford Hemp Braid, tight weave, 5 to 5 1/2 mm wide. The color shall be navy blue and color shall be blended with the finest metallic dyes only in order to achieve minimum discoloration.
- (2) Crown. To be made of a single layer of hemp braid forming a Montana peak traditional four-dent style, 5 1/2 inches high. Stiffened and made water resistant with a double dip of #21 sizing by Kempen Paint Company.
- (3) Brim. To be made of a 2-ply layer of straight flat hemp braid sewn together, 3 inches wide, with a minimum thickness of 3 mm with a raw edge, stiffened and made water resistant with a triple dip of #21 sizing by Kempen Paint Company.
- (4) Sweat Band. To be (first selection) genuine leather, 1 5/8 inch wide, with a minimum of one inch of Oil Silk lining filled with head culture foam attached to leather-and-reed cloth with an average of eight to ten stitches to an inch with a tacked bow back.
- (5) Eyelets. To have three blue enameled metal eyelets in the crown, one on each side and one in back, 2 3/4 inches above the brim. Brim shall have one 3/8 inch oval japanned metal eyelet on each side of the brim adjacent to, and centered on, the crown to accommodate the head strap.

(6) Hat Band. To be approximately 3/4 inch wide (9 ligne) yarn-dyed grosgrain nylon band, pattern #5551, with finished edges extending around the bottom of the crown. Shall have a minimum of three evenly spaced tacking stitches at both ends, with four additional stitches evenly spaced at the base of the crown inhibiting ribbon movement. Flat bow shall be 4 inches in length and tacked in each corner. The flat bow shall be centered on the left side of the crown.

(7) Brim Cord. To be a 3/16 inch-wide nylon cord to lay on the brim around the bottom of the crown. Each end of the cord is to have a 1 1/4 inch double acorn with a 1 1/8 inch single slide acorn. Both double acorns to lay on the brim and to the center-front of the crown. The single slide acorn to lay on the brim against the center-front of the crown. Color of the cord and acorns shall be yellow gold rayon. The code to order this color is CD-YLW.

(8) Head Strap. To be 3/8 inch black leather with adjustable silver buckle. To have button-snapped leather loops for securing the hat through the oval eyelets and over the brim cord.

(9) Packaging. Each hat shall be packed in individual cartons with a "BRIM-PRESS" type insert which will allow the hat to rest firmly on bottom interior of the carton, with firm support on the top portion of the brim, thereby assuring a flat brim indefinitely. Each individual carton shall have the size, shape, and type of hat contained plainly marked on the front exterior flap.

(10) Vendor. The straw campaign hat is available from Stratton Hats, Inc., 3200 West Randolph, Bellwood, Illinois 60104, telephone number (708) 544-5220.

t. Cap Piece.

(1) Material. Gold.

(2) Color. Gold.

(3) Style. To have a motorcycle wheel with tire and flying wings, with ribbon top and bottom. Wheel to be wire spoked, and oval in shape. Tire to be 3/16 inch wide with the outer portion treaded. Spread of wings to be 2 1/2 inches from tip-to-tip. Height from band-to-band to be 2 19/32 inches outside measurements. Tips of wings to extend 1/2 inch above outside of top ribbon. Top ribbon to be 7/32 inch with the word "EXPLORER" in 3/16-inch lettering. Letters to be block style deeply sunken and filled with royal blue, hard enamel. To have two screw-type fasteners spaced 1 1/8 inches apart center-to-center.

(4) Authorized Vendor. The explorer cap piece shall be purchased from Sun Badge Company, 2248 S. Baker Street, Ontario, CA 91761 (909) 930-1444.

u. Footwear (Required).

(1) Shoes.

(a) Black leather or Corfam.

(b) To be smooth finished. Shoes to be plain or cap toe, to accept polishing (if leather), with no ornamental stitching, ventilation, holes, or seams. Soles not to be more than 3/4 inch thick. Heels shall not be more than 1 1/2 inches thick (measured from the bottom of the heel to the top of the sole). Shoes shall not be worn if they have a pointed toe or squared or beveled heel in excess of 1/4 inch. Shoelaces shall be black in color.

(2) Boots.

(a) Black leather or black leather nylon sided.

(b) Boot lower stock shall be smooth finish, plain or cap toes, to accept polishing, with no ornamental stitching, ventilation, holes, or seams. Boots with nylon sided upper stock are authorized when nylon sided is not visible below the hem of the trouser leg. Soles shall not be more than 3/4 inches thick. Heels shall not be more than 1 1/2 inches thick (measured from the bottom of the heel to the top of the sole). Boots shall not be worn if they have a pointed toe or squared or beveled heel in excess of 1/4 inch. Shoelaces shall be black in color.