

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Learning for Life to enable young people to become responsible individuals by teaching positive character traits, career development, leadership, and life skills so they can make ethical choices and achieve their full potential.



"Exploring is an opportunity for (youth) to . . . get involved with their peers . . . and people in their community who work with them. They get a chance to see the workplace."

—Dr. Frederick C. Eichmiller, vice president and dental director,
Delta Dental of Wisconsin



"Health Careers Exploring is a great program committed to helping youth across the country receive relevant and up-to-date information about all aspects of health care."

—Dr. David Sundwall, executive director,
Utah Department of Health



"Personnel shortages in nursing are a major issue in the health profession. Health Careers Exploring creates greater awareness about the field of nursing and gives youth interested in this profession some of the critical experience they will need to be successful."

—Geraldine Bednash, Ph.D, RN, FAAN
executive director, American Association of Colleges of Nursing



"It's a wonderful program because it allows youngsters at all levels to experience various health-care professions. . . . It's almost like getting a tryout in the health professions."

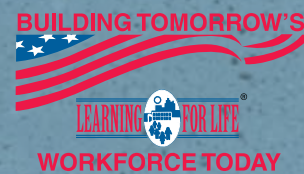
—Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, M.D.,
former Surgeon General of the United States



"This program gives youth a vast array of knowledge and insight into health-related professions. Youth need exposure to different types of careers in the health field. Health Careers Exploring provides the exposure they need."

—Dr. Audrey Manley, former president of
Spelman College

Exploring HEALTH CAREERS



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What Is Exploring?

Exploring is Learning for Life's career education program for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) or 15 to 20 years old. Adults are selected by the participating organization for involvement in the program. Color, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status, or citizenship is not criteria for participation.

Exploring's purpose is to provide experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Explorers are ready to investigate the meaning of interdependence in their personal relationships and communities.

Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and the organizations in their communities. Local community organizations initiate an Explorer post by matching their people and resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, and develop.



Everyone Wins With Exploring

Exploring will be one of the best opportunities you offer your company, your employees, and the youth of your community.

Company Benefits

- Impact on the education process of youth
- Team-building attitude within the company
- Opportunity to interpret adult occupational roles for youth
- Preparing young adults for transition from school to work
- Creating a wholesome, supportive environment for the healthy development of adolescents
- Developing future responsible and caring adults
- Ensuring that young people see how your business relates to the free-enterprise system
- Helping young adults gain insight into the ethics and ideals of business
- Visible commitment to the welfare of your community

Employee Benefits

- Greater job awareness
- Developing leadership and problem-solving skills
- Re-evaluating ethical and moral values
- Opportunity for greater community involvement
- Respect from youth and community
- Identification as appropriate adult role models
- Enhancing communication, planning, and program development skills
- Greater commitment to service
- Developing interpersonal skills used in the workplace and elsewhere

Youth Benefits

- Stimulated interest in continual education
- Career information; insight into future vocation
- Positive alternative to negative youth activities, such as drug abuse and involvement with gangs
- Sense of acceptance and belonging to the "right" group
- Secure, supportive environment for adultlike activities
- Opportunities to participate in practical, real, and meaningful hands-on experiences

- New career and personal skills
- Opportunities to try leadership roles and develop skills
- Cooperative relationship between adults and youth
- Service to others

Health Careers Exploring

The program's primary goal is to expose youth to the multidimensional aspects of and the varied occupations in health. Health Careers Exploring is a nationwide program for male and female students interested in pursuing a health career. Learning for Life conducts the Health Careers Exploring program along with other career-related and character-development programs.

Health Careers Exploring helps youth explore career fields, assists in character development, and helps them develop social and life skills. The program is done in health organizations and schools nationwide. Health Careers Exploring is an action-learning program. By providing hands-on, work-related activities to students, members of the health professions and health organizations help youth "explore" the skills, intricacies, demands, and needs of various health careers.

Health Careers Exploring Addresses Need to Increase Health-Care Workforce

The challenge to increase the health-care workforce is daunting; however, Health Careers Exploring is uniquely positioned to help stem these shortages. Youth participants in Health Careers Exploring work with employees in health-related organizations (such as hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, medical research labs, etc.) to explore and learn about a wide array of health careers, including physician/surgeon, nursing, radiology, dentistry, podiatric medicine, pharmaceutical, and many more. Twice a month throughout the year, youth meet with employees, at the worksite to get hands-on experience and exposure regarding a particular health career. Program activities in Health Careers Exploring are planned and executed by employees of the organization/institution and the youth participants involved in the program.

Exploring's Five Areas of Emphasis

Career Opportunities

- Developing potential contacts that may broaden employment options
- Boosting self-confidence and experiencing success at school and work

Citizenship

- Encouraging the skill and desire to help others
- Gaining a keen respect for the basic rights of others

Life Skills

- Developing physical and mental fitness
- Experiencing positive social interaction

Leadership Experience

- Developing leadership skills to fulfill our responsibilities in society
- Providing exposure to different leadership traits

Character Education

- Helping make ethical choices
- Fulfilling one's responsibility to society as a whole

