

# From Jump Start Program to Police Explorer Post

## Neptune High School/Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Partnerships Make Things Happen!

*By Sheriff Shaun Golden, Monmouth County Sheriff's Office,  
Principal Richard Allen, Ed.S. and Undersheriff Ted Freeman*



On March 14, 2014, the students in the Neptune High School *JumpStart* Law/Criminal Justice Academy became a part of Explorer Post #1, Monmouth Council of Boy Scouts. The official presentation of the Explorer Post Charter to Neptune High School Principal Richard Allen, Ed.S., and Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden was made at Neptune High School by Monmouth Council Scout Executives Chris Quakenbush and Lee Marconi. This milestone came about because of the passion for excellence of three individuals: Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden, Neptune Superintendent of Schools David Mooij, and Neptune High School Principal Richard Allen, Ed.S.

In 2012, Superintendent David Mooij and Principal Richard Allen approached Sheriff Shaun Golden about the possibility of using the amazing facilities at Neptune High School as part of Sheriff Youth Week. Neptune had long been a supporter of the Sheriff's Office Sheriff Youth Week Program and was the only school in Monmouth County to bus their students attending Sheriff Youth Week daily to the Monmouth County Police Academy. The offer was accepted and on Wednesday, July 10, 2013, all 126 cadets attending Sheriff Youth Week reported to Neptune High School instead of the Police Academy.

At Neptune High School, the cadets were afforded a rotation of activities including the rock wall climb, challenge course, zip line, weight room, swimming, and a 5 K challenge on Neptune High School's padded track. It was a day full of challenges and physical activities. Also, on that day, while showing Sheriff Golden the medical lab at Neptune High School, Principal Allen mentioned that Neptune High School had a *JumpStart* Law/Criminal Justice Academy and was hoping to find a law



enforcement partner to establish an Explorer Post at the High School. Sheriff Golden was receptive to the idea. However, he asked that Principal Allen first contact his local police department to make certain they did not want to pursue an Explorer Post. The following morning, Principal Allen had a document, signed by the administrative head of the police department, indicating that his agency was not interested in pursuing an Explorer Post with Neptune High School. The quest for Explorer Post #1 had begun!

On September 13, 2013, Principal Allen, Law/Criminal Justice *JumpStart* Academy Coordinator Josephine Morey, and Undersheriff Ted Freeman met at Neptune High School to create an action plan for the establishment of an Explorer Post at Neptune High School. The action plan included an agreement on the structure of this partnership, uniform of the participants, meeting schedule, transportation needs, registration fees, advisory committee, and the preparation of a memorandum of understanding between the Neptune Township Board of Education and the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office.



Following this meeting, faculty member and Explorer Post Advisor Josephine Morey and Ted Freeman met with Chris Quakenbush, Scout Executive, Monmouth Council of Boy Scouts, to review the paperwork, requirements, uniform approval procedures, adult leader and advisor training and certifications needed to proceed.

By December, all necessary paperwork was filed, training courses completed and the requirements for the charter completed and under review. The Neptune High School/Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Post was given the designation of Explorer Post #1. The first Explorer Post meeting at the high school was on December 4, 2013 which included an overview of the Explorer program and a course on Police Ethics by Undersheriff Freeman, the Ethics instructor at the Monmouth County Police Academy.

The January meeting was a class on the role of the Public Information Officer in Law Enforcement with guest speaker Cynthia Scott, an Emmy Award winning broadcast journalist, who is the public information officer for the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office. Students in the *JumpStart* Communications Class were also invited to attend this meeting.

An additional meeting was held in January, with subsequent meetings in February and March, on Forensics, in preparation for a Forensics exercise to be held at Camp Evans, a former military base. Retired New Jersey State Police Captain Robert Ferguson and Monmouth County Undersheriff Michael Donovan conducted the Forensics classes.

On April 30, 2014, Explorer Post #1 held a Forensics exercise at Camp Evans. Captain Ferguson, Undersheriff Donovan, and Sheriff's Office Claire Peluso prepared the crime scene in one of the rooms at Camp Evans. The Explorers were split into small groups, taken to the crime scene and, based on what they learned during their three training session on Forensics, had to determine what happened and justify that determination.

May and June were additional field trips for Explorer Post #1. May was a field trip to Sandy Hook, New Jersey, where they were met by Chief Robert Loudon and his staff of the U.S. Park Rangers, and given a tour of the entire operation including the public safety buildings, the old Army Fort Hancock buildings, and a trip to the top of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, the oldest continuing operating lighthouse in the country. Chief Loudon had also arranged for a side trip to the US Coast Guard Station

at Sandy Hook where the Explorers learned about the training and discipline required of the Coast Guard and the many functions that organization performs. The tour concluded with the boarding and tour of a Coast Guard cutter.

In June, Explorer Post #1 took a field trip to the newly opened Sheriff's Public Safety Center in Freehold which was personally conducted by Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden. There the Explorers saw the latest in communications and Emergency Management technology that serves all Monmouth County public safety agencies.

As the main character in the number one rated show on television, NCIS, Special Agent Jethro Gibbs, says, "There is no such a thing as coincidence." Such is the case with Explorer Post #1. The creation of Explorer Post #1, and the partnership between the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office and Neptune High School, is the result of three people coming together with



a shared vision and a commitment to education and to children: Sheriff Shaun Golden (who is also an adjunct professor at Monmouth University) Superintendent David Mooij and Principal Richard Allen, Ed.S. We look forward to continuing to expand our partnership as we collaboratively work to create a supportive, challenging and motivating opportunities for our future law enforcement professionals. 🌟