



U.S. Military Explorers

Unit Start-Up Considerations

Mission

Train, develop and inspire tomorrow's Warriors for our Nation's Armed Forces.

Starting up a Military Explorer Unit is a great adventure and commitment to mentoring our interested young adults in their military career decisions in life. To help you get started, there are some initial basic considerations to think about when you are deciding the type of program, time, when to meet, what to teach, how to get structured and set up a unit.

Military Branch Selection The Military Exploring Branch Unit you start up should be based on your key Adult Leadership military education and experience. U.S. Military Exploring Programs include training in the following different Military Branches (based on local availability): Air Force Explorers (AFX), Army Explorers (ARX), Coast Guard Explorers (CGX), Marine Corps Explorers (MCX), Navy Explorers (NVX), Space Force Explorers (SPX).

Time Commitment Determine how much time (hours, days of the week or month) you and your Adult Advisory Staff have available to give. One of Your Adult Staff may be retired and have plenty of free time on their hand, but another may have full time work, plus family and other responsibilities. Adding another work-related task to him/her may not be conducive to what they will be able to accomplish for the Unit.

Adult Leadership Selection What Military and Leadership qualifications do you and your adult staff have? Are outside resources available to assist you? Local veterans' organizations and BSA Troops in your area may have some adults that served in the military. A general overview of your talent pool is necessary before you consider Chartering a unit. You and at least for one or two other staff members should have been in the U.S. Military to be successful in setting and understanding the training and development programs.

Skill Set of Leaders Consider your Adult Advisors recruitment. Do they have in experience in BSA, JROTC, CAP, USNSCC, Young Marines or any other youth programs. Where are you recruiting prospective Cadets (young adults ages 14-18) from may also be a factor. An 'Initial Cadre Meeting' is required initially to propose your goal of starting a unit and to check the interest level. Consider looking at a year of operations and training. How will you accomplish your goals and objectives?

Number of Leaders A minimum number of 4 - 5 adult leaders are required to initially setup a unit. A small group of 10 - 12 young adults requires fewer leaders than a group of 20 - 30. One Adult Leader assumes the position of Commander, taking overall responsibility for the unit. Responsibilities for running the unit are divided up based on experience and talents including leadership skills, administrative oversight and logistics. One or two adults should be capable of being strong Military Training Officer(s). If you are near a military installation, reaching out to the command structure is a great starting point.

▪ **Local Military Organizations** A key element of a Military Unit is having a supportive local military organization, e.g., a Military or local National Guard Base, a Military Reserve organization, National Guard Amory, Navy / Coast Guard Facility. It is always a 'feather' in a Unit Commander's hat for him or her to support a Military Youth Group. If they will not let you use their facilities permanently, can you get access, with permission, for special training events or use of equipment?

▪ **Local BSA Councils** Another mandatory step is to locate your local nearest BSA Council and reach out to the Exploring Representative. Share you desires to set up a Military Unit.

▪ **Operations and Training Materials** We have a variety of training handbooks, operations manuals, program outlines, advancement guidelines and forms to help you, your staff and your cadets succeed.

Support

We are here for you every step of the way. Please contact us for additional information. Thank you for your interest!



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