

Gastonia Police Department

Protect, Serve, and Enhance the
Quality of Life for All



Contact: PIO Donna Lahser, 704-854-6665

Jan. 31, 2012

Gastonia Police Explorers Awarded

Gastonia Police Explorers Post 515 took home the Explorers Post of the Year Award, and Officer Amy Hawkins received the Advisor of the Year Award during the Explorers Piedmont Council annual banquet held Jan. 24 at Cleveland Community College.

Created by the Boy Scouts of America, the Explorer program helps interested youth learn about careers in law enforcement. Male and female participants must be 14-20 years old with a clean record, and are required to attend monthly meetings, learn about all areas of law enforcement, and help law enforcement officers with selected duties.

GPD's Explorers have successfully completed a number of projects including adopting a family at Christmas and participation in Survival Week-End hosted by the NC Association of Law Enforcement Explorers. They were recognized in June for leadership at the NC Academy for Law Enforcement Explorers in Salemburg, a disciplined week of police recruit-like training.

Officer Hawkins was nominated for the Advisor of the Year by an Explorer's parent. "She is a very hard worker and is very committed to her Explorers," Toscha Swann said in a nomination statement. "The Explorers program has changed my son's outlook on life. He has a better attitude and knows he can do anything he puts his mind to. I thank Amy for that, because she has been kicking his butt every step of the way! And that's not just for my son, that's for all of them."

Members of GPD's Explorer Post are Caleb Price (major), D'Andre Mason (captain), Brittany Dimmitt (sergeant), Nick Swann (sergeant), Clay Jenkins (squad leader), Jordan Taylor (squad leader), Brent Anderson, James Marsello, Sydeny Hush, Michael Watkins, Blossom Kavanagh, Cole Welch, Donald Butler, Ashley Dalena, Cody Price, Travis Gilman, Caylin McRavion, Matthew Petterson, Patrick Drake, Coleman Barrett, Chris Swann, Simon Towner, Zachary Huffstetler, Jon Hodge, Dallas Payne, Ashlynn Windham, Justin Haymaker, Robbie Richards,

Deerick Wallace, Caleb Costner, Senior Advisor Officer Amy Hawkins, Advisor Officer Chad Welch, and Advisor Sgt. Laura Biggerstaff.

###