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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Riverside Police Department Explorer Academy

**Riverside, California** – For over 30 years the Riverside Police Department and Learning for Life has collaborated to educate and introduce local youth, ages 14-20 years, to police operations to prepare them for future careers, including many in law enforcement. However, the overriding goal is to build self-confidence and good character, while also developing them as responsible members of their community. Hundreds of youth have been involved in this program and many have pursued a career in law enforcement as well as other professional fields of study. The key is to help them to be successful in any future endeavors.

In May 2013, the Riverside Police Department began its first annual Explorer Training Academy on the campus of California Baptist University. The academy is designed to prepare the young men and women in attendance for their various roles within the Explorer Program, their community, and everyday life. The overall success of this program rests with the professionals; police officers, detectives, educators, and medical technicians, who taught their respective disciplines to the Explorer Scouts. The participation and leadership from this cadre of instructors has been incredible. Those involved in the instruction have volunteered their time to make the inaugural academy a tremendous success.

Forty-seven Explorer Scouts from the Riverside Police Department and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department began the Academy on Saturday, May 11, 2013. After 16 consecutive Saturdays of rigorous physical training and classroom instruction, 42 Explorer Scouts will march in the graduation ceremony.

The graduation ceremony will be held in the auditorium at Ramona High School on Saturday, August 31, 2013 at 1:00 pm.

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