

NOUVELLE

ACADIAN COMPANIES' CORPORATE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016



45 YEARS

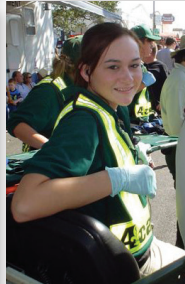
OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITIES



A MULTITUDE OF MILESTONES • LOUISIANA & TEXAS MEDICS OF THE YEAR HONORED • EMPLOYEE AWARD CEREMONY

CORPORATE WELLNESS PROGRAM • 50 YEARS OF MODERN EMS • SCOUTING EXPLORER PROGRAM

FINDING YOUR PASSION • ATS SHEDS LIGHT ON HOME SECURITY • SMS PARTNERS WITH SMITH MASON & CO



EXPLORING PROGRAM

PROVIDES NUMEROUS BENEFITS TO YOUNG ADULTS AND COMPANIES

Acadian has been a supporter of Scouting for many years. In addition to our corporate support, many of our employees volunteer with various Boy Scout and Girl Scout packs or troops. We also currently sponsor three Explorer posts in Lafayette, Abbeville, and Gretna, Louisiana. Exploring is a unique career study program created by Boy Scouts of America for young men and women ages 14 to 20. It provides an opportunity to learn about a wide variety of careers and to network with professionals already in those fields. Explorers are able to get firsthand experience to determine whether or not a particular career is right for them.

While Exploring offers programs in dozens of career fields and more than 100 occupations, Acadian's posts are specifically designed for young adults who are interested in the medical field. The program provides real world experiences, helping participants develop critical skills necessary for a successful career in emergency medicine.

The Acadian Explorer program initially included post meetings and ride-alongs on ambulances. Eventually, the program was expanded to include more group activities and hands-on experiences for the young adults. Operations Supervisor Craig Hamilton, who served as the Lafayette post advisor for many years, remembers when the Explorers first started working Lafayette's Mardi Gras parades.

"It was 1998 and we were walking the parade route when a bystander called us to assist a person who was choking. The patient was in cardiac arrest. As the Explorers started CPR, I removed the piece of food the patient was choking on, and he eventually regained consciousness while we were loading him into the ambulance. When the Explorer group resumed foot patrol, the crowd along the route began to clap and cheer. I remember watching these young adults, who had just helped to save a life, swell up with pride," Craig recalled.

Explorer Zachary Gaspard loves being in the program. "There are so many great things about

being an Explorer. We learn a lot through hands-on demonstrations and when we get called, we are able to witness Acadian medics providing patient care. To actually participate and be able to care for people is an experience you'll never forget," Zachary said.

The program is also excellent outreach for our employees who serve as post advisors. Paramedic Thelma Stelly has been the Vermilion post advisor for 13 years, and says, "The feedback we get is that it's a life-changing experience for the kids. They get into the group not knowing what to expect, and by the end of their second year, they start realizing that they may want to be an EMT, or a nurse, or something else in the medical field."

Luke Pryor agrees. The EMT has been interested in a medical career since he was in eighth grade. He attended the Health Academy at Lafayette High School and joined Acadian's Explorer post. "I tested for my EMT right out of high school. The education and experience I received in the Health Academy and through working with

the Explorers really prepared me," he said. Luke joined Acadian as an EMT after graduating in May of 2015. "My plan is to get a few years of practical experience and then go back to school. My ultimate goal is to become a trauma surgeon," Luke added.

Education and real-life experiences are a large part of the Acadian Explorer program. Paramedic Field Supervisor Dayna Laffoon, a Lafayette post advisor, stresses learning with her Explorers. "We teach them everything. We'll do scenarios where we do a full work-up on patients. In addition to the practical aspects of EMS, we'll teach them how to communicate with patients and their families. We go over everything aspiring medics will learn in EMT class. They love to learn and to feel like they are making a difference," Dayna said.

After completing the program, many of our Explorers have gone on to become valuable employees at Acadian. Kaitlin Hebert became an Explorer when she was 15. "I was interested in a career in emergency medicine, but I wasn't sure it was something I could do. I joined the Explorers and started working the festivals and running calls. I wanted to see what it was all about, and I fell in love with it," Kaitlin said. She attended the National EMS Academy after high school and became an EMT at Acadian.

Paramedic Jerry Prine, who has been advising our Gretna Explorer post for six years, said, "One of the greatest accomplishments of the program is that so many of our kids are going on to become medics, nurses, and doctors. One of my Explorers just finished in pre-med at Loyola and is preparing for the Medical College Admission Test, well-known as MCAT®." EMT Timmy Carter was an Explorer who later became a medic and is now helping Jerry run the post as an Associate Advisor.

The Gretna post is very active with the Louisiana Teen Community Emergency Response Team training sessions. Participants learn about basic disaster preparedness response skills including first aid, fire safety, search and rescue, team-building skills and disaster medical operations. Other areas of instruction include terrorism awareness, bullying, and the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

Richard Zuschlag sees the benefits of the Explorer programs, saying, "Our explorers serve as great ambassadors for our company and are highly visible, providing valuable assistance to our medical teams at area fairs, festivals, and sporting events. Employee recruitment and retention is important to any organization and sponsoring the Explorer posts is an excellent way for us to find, nurture, and mentor our future workforce."



The Vermilion Explorer post was recently awarded for achieving Gold Level of the National Exploring Journey to Excellence.



The Evangeline Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored legendary football quarterback Archie Manning at their 35th annual Distinguished Citizens Awards luncheon in Lafayette, Louisiana. The event also included UL Lafayette football coach Mark Hudspeth and football star Jake Delhomme.

The luncheon raised funds for the Council's programs. Acadian was a sponsor of the event and several employees assisted by serving on the planning committee, sponsorship committee, and in coordinating the program. Several of our medics, who assist with Acadian's Explorer posts, also attended the luncheon.

Pictured from left: UL Lafayette football coach Mark Hudspeth, legendary football quarterback Archie Manning, Richard Zuschlag, and football star Jake Delhomme.