

PEER JURY VS. LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORING POST

Both Peer Jury and Law Enforcement Exploring provide meaningful experiences for youth, but they serve very different purposes. This guide breaks down their key differences in purpose, structure, and outcomes.

PURPOSE

Peer Jury

- Offers a **restorative justice** alternative for first-time youth offenders.
- Focuses on **accountability and rehabilitation**, not punishment.
- Helps divert youth from formal court systems.

Law Enforcement Exploring Post

- Provides **career exploration** for youth interested in policing and criminal justice.
- Builds leadership and skills through **real-world law enforcement experiences**.
- Encourages **community service and personal development**.

WHO PARTICIPATES?

Role	Peer Jury	Law Enforcement Post
Youth Involved	Youth jurors & youth offenders	Youth members ("Explorers")
Adults Involved	Adult advisors (non-interfering)	Law enforcement officers & trained advisors
Age Range	13–17 (varies)	14–20 (must have completed 8th grade)

ACTIVITIES & STRUCTURE

Peer Jury

- Simulated court-style **hearings** for real misdemeanor cases.
- Youth jurors decide on **restorative consequences** (e.g., apologies, service).
- Offenders must **admit guilt** to participate.
- Meetings as cases are assigned.

Law Enforcement Exploring Post

- **Hands-on law enforcement training** (e.g., traffic stops, first aid).
- Opportunities for **ride-alongs**, field trips, and **competitions**.
- Regular meetings, often **weekly or bi-weekly**.
- Strong focus on **career mentorship and leadership**.

OUTCOMES

Area	Peer Jury	Law Enforcement Post
Goal	Rehabilitation & accountability	Career development & leadership
Program	Avoids court record for youth	Builds real-world experience & skills
Impact Length	Short-term, case-based	Ongoing, multi-year involvement encouraged

SUMMARY

Feature	Peer Jury	Law Enforcement Post
Focus	Restorative justice	Law enforcement training
Format	Court-style hearing	Training, drills, ride-alongs
Adult Role	Oversight only	Active mentors and trainers
Youth Role	Jurors & respondents	Explorers (students)
Benefits	Avoid criminal record	Career readiness, public service experience

QUESTIONS? CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION OR SCOUTING AMERICA'S **LEARNING FOR LIFE** DIVISION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED.