

Press Release – Peterborough Fire/Rescue

August 26, 2005

**For Immediate Release: Peterborough Explorer
Attends State Fire Academy**

For the second summer in a row, Caroline Hampson represented the Peterborough Fire & Rescue Explorer Post at the annual New Hampshire Fire Explorer Training Academy. Explorers, young people ages 14-19, received the same training that firefighters receive at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy in Concord, NH.

The Explorers, known as ‘cadets’, worked rigorous days, learning in classroom environments and in physical, hands-on activities. Some of these experiences could be quite intense. Cadets practiced basic fire suppression, search and rescue, ventilation, and overhaul and salvage—the essential work of a firefighter. They also led a strictly regimented lifestyle for the week, getting up before dawn, marching in formation, and keeping their rooms neat and orderly. The instructors were state certified instructors and the curriculum came from the New Hampshire Fire Standards and Training manual—the same manual used by full-time firefighters.

This is the 14th year of the academy and PFR sponsors any of its explorers who wish to attend. Hampson took advantage of the opportunity to further the training she received last summer. The Peterborough Explorer Post has been sending cadets to the Academy since its inception and many Peterborough Firefighters have served as instructors in past years. Many of Peterborough’s current fire and rescue personnel are graduates of the program and some have returned to Concord as instructors and chaperones. “It is a great program and we like to support these kids any way we can,” said Peterborough Fire Chief Joseph Lenox. It can give Explorers a jump on a career as a firefighter; any coursework can count towards certification as a career firefighter. The program has been praised for building improving, self-confidence, and creative thinking. Cadets also get to work under pressure in a safe and controlled setting.

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