



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Hernando County Sheriff's Explorer Post 409 Attends State Competition

Date: July 13, 2017

During the week of June 18-24, 2017, representatives from the Hernando County Sheriff's Explorer Post 409 attended the Florida Association of Police Explorers (F.A.P.E) State Competition, held in Palm Beach Gardens.

The team, comprised of Explorer Captain Halee Moriarty, Explorer Lieutenant Abigail Hendry, Explorer Sergeants Logan Hickey and Isabel Wever, competed in eight scenario events during the competition. The scenario events were as follows: In Progress, Crisis Intervention, Crime Scene, Active Shooter, Search and Arrest, Traffic Stop, Shoot/Don't Shoot, and Tie Breaker. The team exceeded all expectations, scoring an average of 70% as a whole.

Also during the competition, Explorer Captain Halee Moriarty ran for Central West Regional Representative for the state F.A.P.E. board. Moriarty won the seat on the board and was installed, making her the first Hernando County Sheriff's Explorer to hold a state office. Moriarty will be working with the state board for the next year to improve communication in this region and to strengthen relationships between Explorers Posts in this area.

Deputy Jason Deso was nominated by the Explorers of Post 409 for Explorer Post Advisor of the Year. The Explorers provided the board with detailed reasons why Deso was nominated and should receive the recognition.

At the awards ceremony on June 24, 2017, Deputy Jason Deso was recognized by the F.A.P.E. board as the Explorer Post Advisor of the Year for 2017.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, "Deputy Deso is a perfect example of how our deputies are constantly trying to make their community better. Taking on the added responsibility of advising the Explorer Post alone is worthy of praise. Being recognized as Advisor of the Year

for 2017, however, is another example of the reputation our people have throughout the entire state.”

“I am also not surprised that one of our young Explorers is stepping into a statewide role. These young people remind us every day that our next generation is in good hands,” he added.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.