

Preventing disease and healing for animals is at the heart of what veterinarians and veterinary technicians do.

A career in veterinary medicine and/or technology allows those with this passion to put their knowledge and compassion into practice.

Veterinary medicine is a very wide field. Young adults can find out how big this arena is by joining the Exploring Veterinary Science, Explorer Post 26 while in high school or college.

The Explorer Post is administered by a partnership between the Niagara Frontier Veterinary Society (NFVS), the Boy Scouts of America, and Medaille College. The program runs January through May each year for young adults ages 14-20.

The hands-on program was started in 1992 and is for students thinking about a career in veterinary medicine, veterinary technology, or anyone who is interested in animals.



Your veterinarian.
Your *other*
family doctor.

Niagara Frontier Veterinary Society
P.O. Box 1252, Ellicott Station
701 Washington Street, Buffalo, NY 14205
nfveterinarsociety.org

The Niagara Frontier Veterinary Society is comprised of more than 75 small animal hospitals and 220 practitioners in Erie and Niagara Counties. It exists to advance public awareness and understanding of appropriate pet health care, veterinary services and the veterinary profession.

Exploring

Veterinary Science

If you love animals and science,
maybe you should consider
a career in veterinary medicine.



Most students think of veterinarians as treating cats and dogs in an office; however that just scratches the surface.

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are public health officials, protect the nation's food supply, are involved with research that benefits not only animals but humans, along with other animal-related professions. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians care for all non-human animals.

Explorer Post students learn about career pathways through NFVS members guiding them with:

- Lectures and classes
- Interactive labs
- Observations
- Field trips (animal shelters, dairy farm, zoo, horse farm, etc.)
- Trip to a veterinary college at Cornell University or Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph

A wide range of topics is covered, including those that provoke emotion such as euthanasia or the use of animals in research. Other subjects include:

- Animal care, handling, and physical exam
- Preparing for and applying to veterinary school, technician school
- Surgical procedures
- Large and small animal medicine
- Exotics companion animals
- Feline, canine, equine and bovine topics
- Veterinary medicine and Society
- Aquatic medicine
- Veterinary medicine in Government and the Military
- Research
- Industrial Medicine
- Dentistry
- Pain management



Students meet with veterinary professionals, generally on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, 7-9 p.m. at Medaille College.

Meetings that are presentations or involve a laboratory are usually held at Medaille College.

If there is a field trip, it is the student's responsibility for transportation to the facility where the Post is meeting (e.g., a dairy farm.) Conflicts with a student's schedule, such as sports or school exams, are not a problem because each meeting is an individual topic. Students generally participate for two or three years at which time they move on to college.

Explorer Post students receive a scrub top uniform, monogrammed with their name and the supporting organizations. For students interested in additional first-hand experience, Post veterinarians assist in connecting them with a local hospital for a short preceptorship. Students are encouraged to participate in volunteering with animal-related organizations fulfilling community service requirements at most schools.

Registration is in November each year.

The registration fee is about \$45. Students under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the registration. For registration or other information, please call Dr. Timm Ottersen at 716-689-2287 or email: post26explores@gmail.com or gncf@wnyscouting.org.

