

## Overview

Our Omega Leo Medical Explorer Post 4077 is a Texas State University Program Organization under the College of Science and Engineering. Essentially, we are a “career awareness” organization that helps prepare college students for careers within any health or biomedical technology career. This includes all clinical careers, but also other career areas supporting clinicians. This would be almost any college major that may have a career in hospitals (administrative or operations) or working with or directly serving patients. And we can also help anyone seeking a career in biomedical technology such as computer science or engineering. We have special opportunities for any non-clinical student and are especially interested in helping engineering or computer science students. Come and ask us more about non-clinical options.

Medical Explorers participate in an extensive volunteer program that enables them to see different career paths up close. We provide training in the clinical skills necessary to support that volunteer service. Our weekly meeting speakers further help by sharing their stories and passion for what they do. Lastly, we have mentoring opportunities that further help the student find their place in healthcare or biomedical technology.

The Medical Explorer program “**adds value**” to the student beyond their preparatory academic courses. Medical Explorer members are well-trained volunteers in many different public or private settings where their strong health-related skills set them apart from other students. Our program has obvious benefits for the clinical focused students but imagine the “competitive” advantage an engineering student will have when applying for biomedical technology employment, if they already have knowledge of the clinical side of healthcare. The company will not have to train that new employee for their future interactions with clinical professionals. They will hit the ground already understanding the needs of patients and healthcare providers.

Texas State University President Supple created our program in 1991, beginning as a unit within the Scouting America (Boy Scouts) Learning for Life program. It was his vision to provide “hands-on” experiential learning opportunities, beyond the classroom, where students learn about the complex U.S. healthcare system, the different careers and professionals who work in that system, and the many “alternative” options for their future career as a health professional or in supportive biomedical technology.

We believe our program is a “**New Way**” of preparing future health professionals. Compared to the “**Old Way**” where students struggled to find experiences and learn about the possible careers, our program is a structured program of training and volunteer opportunities that better prepares the future health professional before they enter a “professional” or graduate academic program. **Our Medical Explorers know about their future career path and the healthcare team better than most of their peers in a professional program.**

In essence, we have moved some of the skill training and volunteer opportunities to the undergraduate years before the student commits to professional or graduate academic

programs. Because of this, Medical Explorers better understand their chosen career path and why they are continuing in graduate or professional education.

Our Medical Explorer program helps ensure the student is making the "right" career choice and avoids errors that occur when students lack these opportunities. Our program helps through a structured program of volunteer opportunities and skill training that enables their intense volunteer service and, ultimately, better career decisions.

Early knowledge of the healthcare system and its players is especially important to those students from academic programs that may not have clinical content or medical internships. Think engineering, social work, or even art. These students also serve important functions in healthcare but have to learn "about" our healthcare system "on-the-job." Our Medical Explorer program fills that void and makes the "applicant" a better employee and health professional.

Besides being part of Texas State University, we have unique roots in both Scouting American (Boy Scouts) and Lions Clubs International.