

**Texas State University Omega Leo Medical Explorer Post 4077,
San Marcos, Texas: Capitol Area Council, Boy Scouts of America,
Lions Clubs International**

Standard Operating Procedure 400.01.00 – Merger of the BSA Medical Explorer Program with the Lions Omega Leo Club (Draft 03/19/22)

Originally prepared by Charles Johnson, Ph.D., Senior Medical Explorer Advisor, Post 4077, April 21, 2021

Last modified by Charles Johnson, Ph.D., Senior Medical Explorer Advisor, Post 4077, March 19, 2022

Review and Approval within the Medical Explorer Post 4077

Reviewed and Approved by the Omega Leo Secretary, Morial Allen, By Default without Changes on June 19, 2022

Reviewed and Approved by the Omega Leo Vice-President, Rocky Ferony, By Default without Changes on June 19, 2022

Reviewed and Approved by the Omega Leo President, Joshua Rasco, By Default without Changes on June 19, 2022

Reviewed and Approved as Final by the Medical Explorer Presidents' Council, By Default without Changes on June 19, 2022

Review and Approval by agencies outside of Medical Explorer Post 4077

Reviewed and approved by the BSA Organizational Representative, School of Science and Engineering, Texas State University: **date**.

Reviewed and approved by the Director of Student Organizations, Texas State University, **date**.

Reviewed and approved by the Learning for Life District Executive, Capitol Area Council, Boy Scouts of America: **date**.

Reviewed and approved as official by the Lions Club International Advisor, Mike Smith, **date**.

Review by Senior Medical Explorer Advisor for Consistency with Other Existing Policies

Last Reviewed by Charles Johnson, Ph.D., Senior Medical Explorer Advisor, March 19, 2022

Those with responsibilities in this SOP include:

1. Senior Medical Explorer Advisor
2. Senior Advisor - Lions Club International
3. Student Medical Explorer Officer – Co-President appointed as President to the Omega Leo Club

4. Student Medical Explorer Officer – Executive Officer appointed as Vice President to the Omega Leo Club.
5. Student Medical Explorer Assistant Volunteer Coordinator for Lion Club Involvement, appointed as Secretary to the Omega Leo Club.
6. Student Medical Explorer Training Officer.
7. Student Medical Explorer Chief Volunteer Coordinator.

Other Standard Operating Procedures Referencing or Impacted by Changes in this SOP:

- SOP 021.01.01 Training Records for Required Training Level One (not yet written)
- SOP 021.01.02 Training Records for Level Two Training (not yet written)
- SOP 041.02.00 Reporting Membership Status in “Good Standing” (written)
- SOP 050.10.00 Monthly Report of All Medical Explorer Volunteer Hour Summary (written)
- SOP 055.11.00 Maintenance of the Omega Leo Roster and Entering Applications into the MyLCI Database. (not yet written)
- SOP 200.01.00 Orientation and Required Training Program for Medical Explorers (written)
- SOP 200.05.00 Expectations of Medical Explorers Participating in Volunteer Opportunities (written)

The reasons behind the incorporation of the Lion Omega Leo Club into the existing Boy Scout Medical Exploring Post 4077 are listed below. In addition, the details of how the two fit together are outlined. Officer responsibilities and operational details are further discussed.

I. Purpose: This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines the operation of the Lions Clubs International Omega Leo Club within the Texas State Medical Exploring Post 4077, Boy Scouts of America.

A. Our Omega Leo Club is a fully chartered club within the Lions Clubs International. Omega clubs and is designed to encourage community service and eventual participation in regular Lions Clubs by young adults between the ages of 18 and 30.

B. There are three types of Leo/Lion clubs within the Lions Club International family. Alpha Leo clubs are designed for high school aged youth 12 to 18 years old. Campus Lions Clubs serve students in colleges. These clubs are officially chartered regular Lions Clubs. Omega Leo clubs are different from the Campus Lions Clubs in that they designed for young adults starting their careers but may overlap the ages of the Campus Lions Clubs. All three types of Lion/Leo clubs are sponsored by officially chartered local Lion Clubs, and are encouraged to work along-side Lion Club members in community service projects. The ultimate goal and purpose of Alpha Leo, Omega Leo, and Campus Lions Clubs is the growth of a “community service” mindset among young people willing to carry on the mission of community service.

C. The merger of the Texas State Medical Explorer Post 4077 (an existing part of the Capitol Area Council, Boy Scouts of America) and the Lions Club Omega Leo club is an easy fit where the community service projects of the programs overlap. The five pillars of community service of the Lions Clubs International are 1) Diabetes, 2) Hunger, 3) Childhood Cancer, 4) Vision, and 5) Environment overlap with the community service objectives that were already a part of the volunteer focus of the Medical Explorer Post 4077. Texas Lions have extended these charity areas to include Disaster Preparation – another area of overlap with our Medical Explorer Post in our involvement with Hays County Emergency Preparedness and the Hays County CERT program. It is a perfect fit and an easy merger of purposes. Medical Exploring Post 4077 had already focused many of their

volunteer opportunities in these five areas and the added Disaster Preparation focus shared with Texas Lions Clubs.

II. Advantages of the Merger:

A. What Medical Explorer Post 4077 gains from the merger - Lions Club International is the largest non-profit service organization in the world. There are over 48,000 Lions Clubs in over 210 countries worldwide. The Lions Motto is “We Serve”. By merging the Boy Scout Medical Exploring Post 4077 and the Omega Leo Club we are joining with a world-wide community of service leaders. Although Boy Scouts are also a world-wide youth movement to encourage community service, and our Medical Exploring Post fits well within that world-wide purpose, our Medical Exploring Post stands out in that community as the only unit in the United States focused on growing community service oriented future health professional adults between the ages of 18 and 30. While our model may eventually become more widely implemented within the Boy Scouts of America family there are many advantages of the Medical Exploring Post 4077 also being a member of the Lions Club International family.

B. Resources - As a fully functional member of the Lions Club family, we can draw upon the experiences of over 1.4 million caring men and women who are already serving their communities and changing lives. Resources, while including financial resources, more importantly include the shared experiences and histories of community service brought to the merger by the Lions Clubs. Medical Explorers can benefit from this rich history of service. Lions are heavily involved in community service, so it makes perfect sense for Medical Explorers to join in those existing programs. Why “reinvent the wheel”, when Lions Clubs International is involved in meaningful community service. Medical Explorers can join another “Community of Good” and accomplish much more.

C. Leadership – Medical Explorer Post 4077 can build upon the leadership principles already existing within the Boy Scouts of America, but by teaming with the Lions Club International we gain access to additional resources. Every Lions Club already has a team of strong leaders that can serve as examples and mentors to grow stronger leaders from among the membership of our Medical Explorer Post 4077. Networking with these Lion leaders is important to our future health professionals. We will seek alliances with local Lion Clubs as a way to strengthen parts of our program that may be of particular interest of a local Lion Club.

D. Access to a Global Support System – While our Medical Explorer Post 4077 has over thirty years experience in growing future leaders for healthcare, by being a part of the Lions Clubs International we gain access to over 300 Lions Clubs International staff members who are constantly updating resources and technology that will enhance community service. We will incorporate many of these resources into our training and leadership development program.

E. Experience the “Feeling of Service” – Medical Exploring Post 4077 has done well in helping future health professionals experience the good “feeling of service.” If anyone is involved in enough community service, it eventually becomes part of their character. It is an evolutionary process, where an individual changes their character for the better the more community service they do. Having more opportunities for service through participation as members of the Lions Club International family will increase the opportunity for character development among our members and ultimately among the larger population of future health professionals.

F. We Don't Lose Our Boy Scout Identity – We are committed to maintaining our participation in Boy Scouts of America. We are a unique BSA unit, and we can hope that we will serve as a model for other colleges who share our values of service. After all, that's what being a health professional should be about – serving others. We are committed to the principles behind the Scout Law. We strive to become – Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. In addition, we add a few words to these twelve – Reliable, Compassionate, and Professional. Medical Explorer Post 4077 builds upon the best of both worlds, the international communities of Boy Scouts and Lions Clubs International.

Medical Explorers learn the importance of the Scout Law words by participating in exemplary and sometimes intense medically related volunteer service.

1. Trustworthy – Medical Explorers keep their word (are reliable). Patients, those we serve, and co-workers can depend upon them. Their fellow Medical Explorers can depend upon them to do what they say they will do.
2. Loyal – Medical Explorers care about their family, friends, leaders, university, and country. They value connections and their network of support.
3. Helpful – Medical Explorers volunteer to help others without expecting a reward. They know that they are entering a “helping” profession.
4. Friendly – Medical Explorers are friends to everyone, including those very different from themselves. They respect those differences, and try to understand.
5. Courteous – Medical Explorers are polite to everyone; including patients, family, and co-workers. They understand that there is no room for arrogance. They understand the fragility of medical knowledge and that as soon as one thinks they know all the answers, something new will come along to change everything we know. Medical Explorers are open to new ways of thinking.
6. Kind – Medical Explorers treat others as they would like to be treated.
7. Obedient – Medical Explorers follow the rules and laws of our country. They understand and respect the acceptable standards of medical professional practice.
8. Cheerful – Medical Explorers look for the bright side of life, are optimistic about life, medicine, and strive to help others be happy.
9. Thrifty – Medical Explorers value much that is around them. They use resources wisely. They see scarcity in medicine in times of great need, and understand how to ration resources effectively for the greater good.
10. Brave – Medical Explorers face difficult situations head-on with courage. They strive to do the right thing.
11. Clean – Medical Explorers respect their body and mind. They know how to protect against pathogens in their medical environment and society. They see first-hand the damage others do to their bodies and life through poor health behaviors.

12. Reverent – Medical Explorers understand the importance of a spiritual life. They respect life and good health in themselves and others. They see themselves as part of something greater than themselves, and work hard to protect the sanctity of life. They understand the importance of spiritual matters to patients and family, and they strive to help in times of grief.

Important words, added to the Scout Law, which have special significance to Medical Explorers.

1. Reliable – Medical Explorers learn quickly that they must adopt “Reliability” as a critical part of their character. Health professionals must be reliable. Patients and co-workers must be able to rely upon any health professional. There is no room for “unreliable” health professionals.

2. Compassionate – Medical Explorers learn that they are entering a career where “compassion” makes the difference between a “good or bad” healthcare provider. Understanding how their future patients AND families depend upon them for human kindness and empathy will make them a successful and loved healthcare provider.

3. Professional – Medical Explorers know the importance of “looking like” a professional. They understand expectations of patients, family, and co-workers for the respect that comes from their actions, manners, and dress. Sloppiness has no place in healthcare.

G. In Summary – Benefits of Lion Club Participation – The Lion Motto is “We Serve”, and that’s what the Medical Explorer program is all about. Lions seek to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding. These goals are consistent with and overlap the goals of the Medical Explorer program. Lions seek to be the global leader in community and humanitarian service. Medical Explorer Post 4077 also seeks to be a leader in preparing future health professionals for community and humanitarian service. The creation of an Omega Leo Lions Club within our Medical Explorer Post 4077 will enable us to accomplish these goals better in a collaborative effort with a group that is already doing what we aspire to do.

The two organizations are ONE organization and will ensure that there is never a division of purpose or administration. Together we are a SINGLE organization with common purpose and management. One of the Co-Presidents will serve within the Lion structure as President of the Omega Leos. This will help ensure that the organization remains a single organization in its executive management. Separate officers may be assigned as a Omega Leo Vice-President and Secretary due to management responsibilities and duties to be carried out and reports submitted to Lions Clubs International. But the executive management must be the same for both organizations.

III. How Does a Medical Explorer Become an Omega Leo Club Member?

A. Any student seeking to become a health professional can join the Texas State University Medical Explorers and participate where their training may allow. The Medical Explorer Post is a recognized university “chartered” student organization. As a “chartered” organization Medical Explorers is considered a structural part of the university as opposed to most other student organizations which are classified as “independent.” As a “chartered” organization, the Medical Explorers report to the Dean of Science and Engineering. As a “chartered” organization, Medical Explorers are expected to be campus leaders among other student organizations, and foster excellence among all, especially any other organizations focused in healthcare. Our organization leaders are expected to involve members of other health related student organizations wherever possible in our training to help build and improve these other student organizations. Members of other organization should be invited to

participate in volunteer activities where appropriate. However, given the more extensive training requirements placed upon Medical Explorer Omega Leos when involved in clinical volunteer activities, these volunteer opportunities may only be available to fully trained Medical Explorers. We must guard of reputation for well trained healthcare volunteers carefully.

B. All aspiring members of the Medical Explorer Post 4077 complete both an application to the Boy Scouts of America **AND** our Lion Omega Leo Club. They will be members of both organizations from the beginning acceptance of their dual applications and after meeting membership qualifications of both Boy Scouts of America and Lions Clubs International.

C. All applicants to the Texas State Medical Explorer Omega Leo organization can be immediately entered into the membership database for the Lions Omega Leo part of our organization. Applications for membership within Boy Scouts of America must await completion of the required online BSA Youth Protection course. At that time and after completion of the appropriate application form and permission to complete a background check, the applicant will be submitted for full membership within the BSA Medical Explorer Post. All applicants may immediately begin the required training for all our members as defined in SOP 200.01.00 Orientation and Training Programs for Medical Explorers. All members may also immediately participate in the CERT G-317 Introduction to CERT course.

D. A few of the volunteer activities open to ALL Medical Explorer Omega Leo members regardless of training include the following:

1. Non-medical activities in cooperation with senior Lion Club members. These may be activities as simple as trash pick-up in the City Park or help at the food-bank. Yes, any Medical Explorer member may volunteer in any non-medical activities working along-side senior Lion Club members before they themselves are “Fully Accredited” Omega Leo Club members. All Medical Explorers are also members of the Omega Leo Club. The “Fully Accredited” status just indicates a higher level of training and history of volunteer service,
2. Volunteering through the university Bobcat Build program,
3. “Shadowing” the Church First-Aid crews before fully completing level-one requirements, and
4. Non-medical service in crowd maintenance duties at vaccination clinics.

Once Level-One training is completed, many other volunteer activities are open to all volunteers. At this time the applicant will have completed the BSA on-line Youth Protection course and have a completed background check.

1. Many CERT related activities including university football and graduation first-responder crews,
2. Vaccination clinics where you must be fully level-one trained,
3. Routine hospital volunteering,
4. Volunteering with Red Arena equestrian therapy,
5. Participation on crews for CMDA medical mission trips,
6. Participating in the Medical Explorer Princess program working with disabled or pediatric cancer children in a non-medical role, or

7. Other activities where substantial tasks may be available and the event “call for volunteers” clearly asks for Medical Explorers who may not have completed specific training requirements.

IV. How the Omega Leo Program is Meshed with the Medical Explorer Program

A. The Omega Leo Club activities are fully **meshed** with the Medical Explorer program and activities. There are never separate activities of volunteer activities of the two organizations, as they are never separated. The only differences maybe due to timing and completion of the BSA on-line Youth Protection course and BSA background check. The operational details of the two clubs are simple. The only differences are that new and untrained Medical Explorers may be excluded from some volunteer activities where more advanced training or background clearance is required.

B. There is no functional difference between Medical Explorers and Omega Leo Club purposes and activities.

C. The Omega Leo Club does have designated officers to be identified and filed with Lions Clubs international for communication purposes, but all Medical Explorer officers and Liaisons are performing their same duties within the Omega Leo Club. Please see the Medical Explorer Organization Chart. All officers and liaisons are considered as leaders within the Omega Leo part of our organization.

1. One of the Medical Explorer Co-Presidents will also be identified as **President of the Omega Leo Club**. Due to the specific activities the Lions Club International expects from our Medical Explorers, this Co-President will usually be the one most closely associated with FEMA Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) activities. Our Omega Leo part is expected to work with and encourage Lion Clubs within the Lion District MD2-S3 to participate in their county CERT programs. This is part of the Texas Lions focus on Disaster Preparation.

2. The **Vice-President of the Omega Leo Club** will be the Medical Explorer Officer identified as the Executive Officer for Lion Club Affairs. This Medical Explorer/Omega Leo officer reports to the Medical Explorer Vice President for Operations. Again, due to the expectations of the Lions Clubs International for our Medical Explorers, this Vice-President will have completed the CERT 8-module G-417 CERT Basic Training Course and experienced in a wide range of CERT activities. In the role of Vice-President of the Omega Leo Club, this officer will be more directly involved in the Lion State Alert Chair’s objectives (and those of the MD2-S3 Lion District Alert Chair) of increasing involvement of Lions Clubs members in their local county CERT programs.

This position will also help inventory the instructional resources for CERT training existing within the Medical Explorer membership and/or on campus at Texas State University. This task will be in support of Medical Explorer Omega Leo Club members helping in CERT training within the 10 Central Texas counties for Lion District MD2-S3, but also in anticipation of Texas State University having its own CERT program in the near future. Working toward this future university goal of a campus CERT program, this Medical Explorer/Omega Leo officer will be in communication with the university Emergency Management Coordinator, and help in any way with the creation of a Texas State University CERT program.

3. The **Secretary for the Omega Leo Club** will be a Medical Explorer member designated as the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator for Lion Club Affairs. This Medical Explorer/Omega Leo officer will primarily focus on communication with our San Marcos Lions Club (and other clubs near-

by) and helping enroll and track the hours for Medical Explorers Omega Leos involved in both our activities and those where Omega Leo Club members participate along-side Lion Club members. This officer is responsible for regular monthly reports submitted to our Lion advisors of all Medical Explorer and Lion related volunteer hours of Omega Leo Club members. To collect these volunteer hours, the Omega Leo Secretary will work closely with the Medical Explorer Chief Volunteer Coordinator to insure that the report of volunteer hours includes all volunteer hours for any approved Medical Explorer activity, whether group or individual activities. See the SOPs related to volunteer hour monthly reports in SOP 300.10.00 Writing Your Medical Explorer Resume, SOP 300.20.00 Maintaining a Spreadsheet Record of Your Volunteer & Training Opportunities, and SOP 50.10.00 Monthly Report of All Medical Explorer Volunteer & Training Hours.

Our senior Lions Club Advisor will communicate with or copy all three of these Omega Leo officers when information may be needed or invitations are extended to participate in Senior Lion Club activities. The Omega Leo Secretary will be responsible for most direct communication with our Lions Club Advisor, especially monthly reports of volunteer hours. Since all Medical Explorers are also Omega Leo Club members, these reports will include all volunteer hours accrued by all Medical Explorer/Omega Leo Club members.

D. Why is the focus on FEMA Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) activities so much by the Omega Leo Club? Medical Explorers are already heavily involved as CERT volunteers within Hays County, Texas. Medical Explorers serve as essentially the medical part of the Hays County CERT program.

Due to both the Hays County Emergency Management Coordinator/ MD2 State Alert Chair, Lions Clubs International, Mike Jones, and our senior Medical Explorer Advisor, Dr. Charles Johnson MD2-S3 District Alert Chair 2021-2022, being heavily involved in the Texas Lions response to disasters and Lion district MD2-S3 covering ten Central Texas counties: Medical Explorer Post 4077 has been asked to help encourage the participation of Central Texas Lions Clubs in the CERT programs of their respective counties.

Members of Medical Explorer Post 4077 may play an important role through presentations to Lion Clubs and help in the training of CERT volunteers within MD2-S3 district Lions Clubs. It will be the more advanced Medical Explorers, who are also “Fully Accredited” members of the Omega Leo Club, who will have this Lion responsibility. Not only will these more advanced Medical Explorer members carry more significant involvement in our Hays County CERT program, but also CERT efforts throughout the MD2-S3 Lions district. As the Hays County and Central Texas CERT programs grow and take on new capabilities, the Texas State Medical Explorer program is expected to be an integral part of that expansion of Lion Club members’ involvement in local emergency response.