



Program Testimonial

Name: Courtney Naliboff

Role(s): Mentor, Teacher, Program Facilitator

Organization(s): North Haven EMS, North Haven Community School

Date Submitted: 12/13/2024

North Haven EMS is a group of dedicated volunteers who have committed to serve our island home by providing emergency medical care and transportation in times of need. Recruiting new EMTs is always a challenge, given our small population and the education and commitment required to become an EMT.

That's why we were eager to become a pilot site for EMS Explorers, now called EMS ConnectME. My co-teacher, fellow EMT Jessie Hallowell and I were fortunate to work with eleven interested high school students--nearly half of our high school student body--to support their certification in first aid, CPR, AED use, and Stop the Bleed, and their exploration of EMS topics including equipment use and inventory, community collaborations with our clinic and eldercare facility, pathways to EMS as a profession, and community outreach. They introduced basic first aid and CPR skills to students in grades 3 and up and community members through public events.

Whether those students eventually become full-fledged EMTs and members of North Haven EMS or not, they have already contributed to the community's overall safety by becoming certified in first aid and CPR and helping to spread that information to a wide audience. They are safer babysitters, family members, friends, and neighbors, and can make informed decisions as they encounter situations where someone might experience a medical or traumatic emergency.

Thank you to EMS ConnectME and JMG for supporting the time and space for teens to learn these incredibly valuable skills and consider EMS as a career or volunteer position!