

March 13, 2017

To: All present and future Junior Firefighters between age 16 and 18,

Dear Junior Firefighters,

On behalf of the Woods Road Volunteer Fire Department thank you for your interest in becoming a junior firefighter and as a citizen of this town allow me to be the first to say thank you and applaud you for what you're about to undertake. Actively serving your community in any capacity makes a community grow and helps to build one's character.

Here is a synopsis of our junior firefighter program. Quite simply it's a two prong approach which sets out to achieve the following between new member acceptance and turning age 18. First, it's a structured but flexible program designed to safely prepare you for entry into Firefighter 1 by introducing you to the basics of firefighting. Second, it affords you all the benefits and most privileges of being a regular firefighter without added risk of injury or harm as dictated by the state law, fire commissioner policy, general operating guidelines and fire department by-law all of which we will review at orientation. Here is what the program is not. The days we all decide to meet, separate from Monday, will be our time to learn and practice "firematics" and won't be used to perform station chores. Since your added time away from family and homework is valued and takes priority our time will be productive, organized and respected.

Participation in the Junior Program will not satisfy your general requirements to remain a good standing active member of the fire department; however, completion of Intro to Module 1 (Section 1) and Module 1 is requisite to ride the apparatus and for enrollment into Firefighter 1, respectively. The pace of this supplemental program is determined by you and will only affect your rate of progress. General requirements can only be satisfied on Monday evenings, answering a minimum percentage of annual fire calls and completion of state mandated reviews. The completion of Intro (Section 1) takes about 12-14 hours and Module 1 can be completed between 6-9 months with breaks.

It's important to stress that balance of family and school take priority over the fire department so school grades must minimally maintain a "C" average and your time at the station is limited and will adhere to NJ Child Labor Law. Safety is another top concern so what you can do and perform is limited.

Lastly, overcoming your fears, sharpening your teamwork and leadership skills and building friendships is what you can expect by completing Firefighter 1 and hopefully this Junior program will help to prepare you. The Firefighter 1 course is 210 hours (4 months) and starts either mid-August or mid-February of every year and meets twice a week and some weekends.

I/We look forward to your participation, contribution, successes and membership to the Junior program and don't hesitate to ask questions or to discuss any concerns or issues.

Sincerely,

Ken Johnson

Junior Program Lead

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