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Junior Firefighters Policy (Updated December 11, 2020)

Junior firefighters must be at least 16 years old but not older than 18 years old. They must be able to follow directions under stressful conditions. They should be in good physical condition to perform essential fire ground tasks. Juniors should be willing and able to attend at least 50% of scheduled meetings and required training. Special trainings are optional but highly encouraged. Juniors must maintain a 75% average or higher in their schoolwork to remain active. (Please note - the following document does not supersede TWFD SOG's. It is an addition to be followed by Junior. Members.)

Rules and Regulations

- The regular fire department officers will directly supervise the Junior Firefighters. A committee made up of members of the regular fire department, assigned by the Chief, will act as the Junior's Advisors.
- 2. Junior Firefighters shall abide by all federal, state and departmental rules and regulations.
- All Junior Firefighters shall meet the minimum standards must provide at least 2 references 3. which will be checked prior to initial interview.
- After the initial interview by the personnel committee, the junior applicant will be brought 4. to a vote by the regular fire department membership. If a majority of members at the business meeting accept the applicant, then the applicant shall become an official junior member.
- 5. Junior members do not have voting privileges within the regular fire department. They may attend meetings but might be asked to leave the room while some issues are discussed.
- The Town of Watertown Fire Department has established a limit of 10 junior positions, if 6. more applications are received; candidates will be evaluated in order in which the applications were received.
- Dependents of active fire department personnel are automatically accepted regardless of the total number of junior members currently on hand.
- All juniors must complete the department Junior Orientation Program (JOP). This program includes departmental procedures, building policies, apparatus orientation and command structure. The Junior Orientation Program will consist of a review of the fire departments SOG's along with the rules and regulations of the junior program. There will also be two hours of station and apparatus safety training with a member of the Junior advisory board and the training officer.
- All fire department members must recognize rules and regulations that govern minors and their safety. Junior members are not permitted to participate in activities that are prohibited. Junior members must recognize when they have been asked to perform something not appropriate and will report this to the requesting firefighter and commanding officer.
- 10. Junior members should not be at the station unsupervised, except during an emergency
- Only department officers may talk to the media. Junior members will refer all questions 11. regarding the fire department to the most senior officer on the scene. Juniors are expected to represent the fire department in a positive manner. It is not appropriate to discuss internal matters of the fire department or talk negatively about other fire departments.

- 46 12. Junior members and their immediate family may use the station by request and approval 47 of your junior advisor. DO NOT bring your friends to hang around the fire station. An 48 occasional, a small group is permitted with the approval of your junior advisor.
 - 13. Any injuries occurring during training or a scene call are covered by Worker's Compensation Insurance. All injuries must be reported to the senior officer as soon as practical for documentation and treatment.
 - 14. Junior members shall never possess nor use Tobacco products or Alcoholic beverages.
 - 15. Do not respond to calls or come to the station if you are sick or under the influence of medication.
 - 16. Upon completion of the Junior Orientation Program and a 30 day waiting period from acceptance to the fire department Junior Firefighters may be permitted to respond to calls on apparatus.
 - 17. Junior members should not be present at the Firehouse during school days after 10PM.

DRIVING OF PERSONAL VEHICLES

- 1. Only members that have a valid New York driver's license may drive personal vehicles to the fire station.
- 2. All juniors must report to the station for all calls. If all apparatus have responded prior to your arrival, you must stand-by at the station until either a senior member of The Town of Watertown Fire Department drives them to the scene or wait until the department returns from the call to assist in clean-up. Juniors are NOT permitted to respond with any backup departments.
- 3. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE JUNIORS TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE SCENE! The public might pressure you as a firefighter into entering a burning building or perform other tasks you are not authorized to undertake.
- 4. At no time is a junior member permitted to use colored light, hazard lights, honk horn or use any other warning devices while enroute to the station.
- 5. All speed limits and traffic laws are to be strictly followed while responding to the station.
- 6. The Town of Watertown Fire Department is in no way responsible or liable for any moving violations while enroute to or from the station for a call or training.
- 7. Failure to abide by these rules will result in a suspension of at least 30 days and possible expulsion from the junior program.

RESPONDING TO CALLS ON APPARATUS

- 1. Junior firefighters shall don full protective bunker gear before boarding fire apparatus that is responding to a call. Juniors shall wear full protective turnout gear to all calls unless otherwise instructed by the senior officer.
- 2. Junior firefighters will obtain verbal permission from the officer or senior member in charge of an apparatus prior to boarding an apparatus. The officer or senior member must be willing and able to supervise the junior firefighter at all times.
- 3. Junior members must place their accountability tag on the ring of the apparatus you are boarding.
- 4. Junior firefighters, in reverse seniority, shall give up their seat to any senior firefighter upon request. No questions or arguing. Reclaim your accountability tag and get off the apparatus and wait for the next unit going to the scene.

- 5. When riding any piece of apparatus, junior firefighters shall position themselves in a seat with a seat belt in place and securely fastened. Under no circumstances will a junior stand up on an apparatus while the apparatus in moving.
 - 6. Junior firefighters shall remain in the apparatus until given instructions by the officer. If no instructions are given, tell the apparatus operator you are reporting to command. Check in with the Incident Commander and wait for instructions.
 - 7. All instructions of the officer must be followed exactly. If you are not sure what you are doing or have been assigned something you are not permitted to do, say so right away so your task can be clarified or someone else can be given the assignment.
 - 9. Under NO circumstances is a Junior Firefighter permitted to drive apparatus.
 - 10. Upon returning to the station, Junior Firefighters will assist in clean up, properly store their gear for the next call and sign the run sheet.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

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At motor vehicle accidents a Junior member may assist in vehicle rescue if felt competent by a senior officer but must be cognizant of the prohibited activities below.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Junior Firefighters may respond to EMS calls as upon receiving CPR/AED Qualifications.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES BY LAW and/or TWFD

The TWFD and/or the law specifically prohibit members under the age of 17 of an emergency service organization from participating in the following activities:

- 1. Operating organizational vehicles.
- 2. Operating various types of power driven saws, shears, and tools except in properly supervised training.
- 3. Using rubber electric gloves, insulated wire cutters, life nets or acetylene cutting torches.
- 4. Operations of pumps of any fire department vehicle at the scene.
- 5. Entering a burning structure.
- 6. Operating high-pressure hose lines (air or hydraulic) except in properly supervised training.
- 7. Ascending ladders, except in properly supervised training.
- 8. Operate any aerial device (cranes or hoists), non-automatic elevators, and airbags for lifting or winches.
- 9. Perform operations in tunnels, shafts or trenches.
- 10. Participate in emergencies at explosives or fireworks plants, retailers or in support of public safety for a public display.
- 11. An emergency operation in or around mines, strip-mines or quarries.
- 12. Participate in operations with incidents involving paint, acid or poisons (any HAZMAT).
- 13. Participate in operations involving radioactive substances.
- 14. Roof top ventilation or any work on top of a roof except in properly supervised training and using proper fall protection equipment.
- 15. Wrecking or demolition including use of acetylene torches, cutting or crushing equipment.
- 16. Entry into a hazardous atmosphere (including training).
- 17. Be present on a highway or busy roadway during an actual emergency

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

- 1. Participate in organized fire, rescue, and EMS training activities in which a competent adult member of the organization is present and supervising the junior member.
 - 2. All aspects of fire suppression training.
 - 3. Rescue/Vehicle extrication training.
 - 4. Hazardous material training except using Level A and B personal protective equipment.
 - 5. Safety training.

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- 6. Wildland firefighting and Wilderness Search and Rescue Training.
- 7. Provide canteen services.
- 8. Participate in support capacity for searches, rescues, wild fires, HAZMAT incidents and water supply operations while under direct supervision of a senior member.
- 9. Must be under the direct supervision and control of the fire chief or a trained experienced officer over 21 years of age. Direct supervision means that the officer must be within speaking and touching distance of the junior member.
- 10. Attacking the fire with hose lines as part of EXTERIOR operations, if BEFO certified.
- 11. Setting ladders if BEFO certified.
- 12. Setting up Positive Pressure Ventilation as part of EXTERIOR operations if BEFO certified.
- 13. Clean up with the following conditions:
 - a. Must be outside the fire building collapse zone.
 - b. Only after the incident is declared under control by Command and there's no active fire or hazardous condition.
- 14. Salvage operations exterior of the fire.
- 15. Participating in establishing water supply is under the direct supervision of a senior competent firefighter.

OFFICERS

The Town of Watertown Fire Chief will designate one officer/department head to the position of Junior Chairman to supervise the Junior Firefighter Program. The Chairman will designate Junior Advisors as needed to carry out the responsibilities of the program.

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