

# Delaware City Fire Company Cadet Program

## Guidelines

### I. Application Process

The Delaware City Fire Company Cadet Program is open to anyone ages 14-18 years of age. An application for membership can be obtained at the Delaware City Fire Company. A permission and statement of understanding must be signed by a parent or legal guardian and must accompany the membership application along with the \$10.00 processing fee. After returning the application to Delaware City Fire Company, the Fire Company review board will review the application and call the applicant for a meeting with the review board. This meeting requires a parent or legal guardian to attend with the applicant.

The review board has the right to accept or deny an applicant admission into the Cadet Program. After admission into the program, the applicant will be notified and will be introduced to the general membership of the Fire Company at the next general membership meeting held the first Wednesday of each month.

A recent medical physical examination will be required of the new applicant.

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## **II. Cadet Classifications**

- A. Cadet – A male or female teenager between the ages of 14 and 18 who requests to join the Fire Company and makes the commitment to community service with the Fire Company
  
- B. Senior Cadet – A male or female teenager over the age of 16 who has completed the minimum requirements and Delaware State Fire School courses to respond to emergencies on the apparatus

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## III. Requirements

### A. Meetings

The Cadet Committee will meet twice a month on the second and fourth Sunday. Each Cadet is required to participate in 50% of all Cadet Meetings. The Cadet may also attend general membership meetings, active crew meetings, and committee meetings for which they have volunteered to participate. Each Cadet must volunteer to participate on one Fire Company committee other than the Cadet Committee.

### B. Training

Each person joining the Fire Company is required to participate in a CPR / AED class. Cadets will also be required to attend a general first aid class. At the age of 16, a Cadet may register to attend a First responder class.

All Cadets are expected to attend in house training sessions on all aspects of the fire service. Training is held each week, normally on Tuesday or Wednesday nights and on occasional weekends.

Cadets age 16 and over are expected attend classes at Delaware State Fire School in Introduction to Emergency Services, Basic Fire Fighting, Structural Fire Fighting, Vehicle Rescue, etc.

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## C. Educational Status

Cadets whom are still attending school will be required to maintain a “C” in all classes. Report cards will be presented to the Cadet Program Coordinator within two weeks of publication after each quarter. Failure to maintain the “C” in each class will result in suspension from Fire Company activities until a positive interim report from that class instructor is received.

Cadets suspended from school will also be suspended from Fire Company activities until they are accepted back into school.

Cadets no longer enrolled in high school and do not have a high school diploma, must be actively enrolled in a GED or home school program.

## D. Dress Code

Respectable attire is expected to be worn in the fire house and on any fire house outing. As a Cadet, you to, are representing the Fire Company. No vulgar or abusive language or pictures shall be worn on any clothing. A fire company t-shirt or sweatshirt should be worn while performing Fire Company functions. No open-toed shoes will be worn during fire company emergencies.

Class-A uniform may be issued to Cadets for parades, funerals, and other formal occasions. Black shoes, socks, and belt must be worn with the class-A uniform.

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## E. Fire Company Functions

Cadets shall participate in Fire Company functions such as, open house, fire prevention, station clean-up, banquet hall set-up, banquet hall functions, fund raisers, etc.

Cadets are welcome to participate in other Fire Company functions such as Christmas party, Caroling, Halloween party, annual banquet, etc.

## F. Orientation

Upon acceptance into the Fire Company, Cadets must complete a full fire company and apparatus orientation. Cadets will have six months to complete this orientation. Several of the officers along with the Cadet Program Committee will help you complete this task.

Each Cadet will be assigned a sponsor to help the Cadet with orientation and any other problem or concerns the Cadet may have. This person will serve as a sort of big brother/sister. Any person accepting this position must be proactive in the Fire Company and may be a Senior Cadet.

A Cadet will be issued turnout gear compliant with the present specifications of the Delaware City Fire Company. The Cadet will be oriented on the proper donning and usage of this gear in accordance with the standard operation guidelines on file presently in the Delaware City Fire Company.

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## IV. Rules and Regulations

- A. All rules and regulations set forth in the Delaware City Fire Company By-laws, Standard Operating Guidelines, and House Rules will also be followed by the Cadets of the Delaware City Fire Company. These rules are in place for your protection and will be strictly enforced.
- B. No Cadets will be allowed in the fire house during school hours unless school is not in session that day.
- C. Cadets will be allowed in the fire house no later than 9:00 pm on school nights and 10:00 pm on weekends or when school is out. The only exception to this rule is for official Fire Company business.
- D. No Cadet will be allowed to respond to alarms between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am on school nights. Cadets that have completed the minimum requirements to ride apparatus and have been cleared to do so may respond to nighttime alarms after the age of 16.
- E. No Cadets will be allowed to sleep at the fire house. The only exception to this rule is if the Fire Company is sleep a crew in quarters in times of disaster (ex. Heavy rains or snow) with the permission of a parent or legal guardian.
- F. Conduct that is disturbing, abusive, disrespectful, or irresponsible will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.

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- G. Drug and alcohol consumption by Cadets will not be tolerated and will be handled expeditiously by the Cadet Program Committee and the Discipline Board with the appropriate discipline or expulsion.
- H. Cadets will obtain verbal permission from an officer / designee to ride the apparatus to each alarm. A Cadet will not be counted to establish a full crew on any emergency until, after the age of 16 and all training / testing requirements have been completed, the Cadet is cleared as an interior firefighter.
- I. No more than two exterior Cadets may ride on the same piece of apparatus at one time.
- J. A Cadet will relinquish their seat on the apparatus should a senior firefighter want to ride and no other seat is available.
- K. Cadets will remain in the apparatus until given instructions by the officer. The exception to this is a Senior Cadet that has been cleared as an interior firefighter.
- L. All instructions of the officer must be followed exactly. If you are not sure what you are doing or you have been assigned something you are not permitted to do, inform the officer right away so the assignment can be completed by someone else.
- M. Cadets will not start, attempt to start, or move any piece of apparatus.
- N. Cadets will not, under any circumstance, direct traffic at an emergency scene.

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## V. Prohibited Operational Activities

There are several activities that junior Cadets are prohibited to perform. These guidelines are set forth with the safety of the Cadet and all else involved in mind. These activities include:

- A. Operation of the aerial ladder / platform.
- B. Operating various types of power driven and hydraulic saws, cutters, and spreaders. The exception to this is while attending a fire school under direct supervision of an officer and Senior Cadets.
- C. Operating the pumps of the fire vehicles an emergency scene.
- D. Driving a fire truck, ambulance or other emergency vehicle.
- E. Entering a burning structure.
- F. Operating high-pressure hose lines (water, air, or hydraulic) except while training.
- G. Ascending ladders, except while training.
- H. Operation of water rescue boat or any other vessel.
- I. Performing operations in confined spaces greater than 4 feet deep.
- J. Participating in emergencies at the refinery.
- K. Participating in emergencies involving radioactive substances.
- L. Roof top operations or ventilation.
- M. Entry into hazardous materials or WMD atmospheres.



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## VI. Permitted Activities

All Cadets will be able, with proper training if required, to perform the following support functions.

- A. Participating in organized training activities in which an adult member of the organization is present and supervising the Cadet.
- B. All aspects of fire suppression training except interior live fire training. Exception to this is Cadets over the age of 16.
- C. Rescue training
- D. Water supply training.
- E. Hazardous materials training without entry into a hazardous atmosphere.
- F. Safety training.
- G. Wild land firefighting and Wilderness search and rescue training.
- H. First aid assistance with direct supervision of an EMT or First Responder.
- I. Salvage and overhaul if:
  - i. The incident has been declared under control.
  - ii. Must be “on air” if working in a fire area.
  - iii. Must be outside the fire building collapse zone.
- J. Provide food and drink support to the emergency scene with the Ladies Auxiliary.
- K. Participate in support capacity for searches, rescues, wildfires, hazardous materials incidents, and water supply operations.

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## Permitted Activities Continued

Senior Cadets will also be allowed to:

- A. Participate in actual fire suppression interior training.
- B. Participate in actual fire suppression activity under the direct supervision of a senior firefighter. Two Cadets may not advance a fire suppression line with out a senior firefighter with them.
- C. Set ladders.
- D. Set up positive pressure ventilation.
- E. Salvage operations.
- F. Establishing water supply.
- G. Assisting in vehicle operations and other types of rescue with completion of appropriate courses in that particular type of rescue.

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## VII. Probationary Period

Delaware City Fire Company requires new members to complete two years of probation in order to become an active member of the Fire Company. During this time period the probationary member must complete specific courses and tasks to become an active member. These specific courses are available through the Delaware State Fire School once a Cadet becomes 16 years of age.

This two year probationary period begins when a member or Cadet is accepted into the Fire Company, no matter what age. Having this in mind, a Cadet has the ability to complete probation before turning 18 years of age, but will continue on probation until they are 18 years of age at which time they will be voted upon by the general membership for membership into the Fire Company if two years of service and the required courses and tasks are completed. If a Cadet turns 18 years of age before completing two years of service with the Fire Company, probation will continue pending the general membership's vote to accept or deny membership to this individual.

Cadets do not have the right to vote during general membership meetings. They do however have the right to voice their opinions to the Cadet Program Committee.

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## VIII. Cadet Meetings and Officers

Meeting will be held twice a month on Sunday. During these meetings the Cadet Program Committee and the Cadets will discuss Fire Company related topics, hold training sessions, discuss fund raising techniques, and discuss any problems Cadets may be having and any membership problems needing to be addressed to the Cadets.

The first meeting of the month will consist of business and discussion of activities. If time is allowed, a Cadet activity may also be scheduled for this time.

The second meeting of the month will consist of training.

After obtaining at least 5 Cadet Members, there will be discussion on Cadet Officers being elected by the Cadet members. This part of the program requires more discussion after getting more Cadet Members.

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## IX. Cadet Field Trips

From time to time, the Cadet Program Committee may plan recreational or educational field trips. Only active Cadets will be invited to attend. Field trips will be funded by the funds raised by the Cadet Program.

Occasionally the Fire Company may have a trip planned for the general membership. These trips may also be paid for by the fund raised by the Cadet Program. These funds will be provided for the Cadets that actually helped with fund raising.

Proper attire consisting of a Fire Company t-shirt or sweatshirt or class-A uniform will be expected of all Cadets attending field trips. You will be notified of the attire expectations prior to the field trip. Remember that you, as a Cadet of the Delaware City Fire Company, represent the Fire Company and its reputation. You will be expected to follow company rules while on field trips.

Overnight trips will require both male and female leadership adults if co-ed Cadets attend.

Signed permission slips will be required from parents for field trips out of the Delaware City Area.

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## X. Incentives

Incentives will be used to help retain Cadets in the program. There are several avenues to be discussed about these incentives. Trips, gift certificates, prizes, scholarships, may be considered in this discussion.

The committee will set up short term and long term goals to be met by each of the Cadets in the program each month and year. This may be set up as a certain number of pension points earned. After completing a goal, the Cadet will be eligible for an incentive after each quarter as long as an acceptable report card has been turned in to the Cadet Program Committee.

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## **XI. Critical Incident Stress Management**

The Delaware City Fire Company recognizes that any one of our members will be subjected to incidents that may cause an elevated level of stress such as, but not limited to, fatalities, severe traumatic injuries, priority medical patients, destruction of property, etc. We strive to keep all of our members safe and sound in mind, spirit, and body. Any officer is available to help a Cadet with any and all problems they may experience as a result of these traumatic experiences. If the need should arise, a special task force of trained personnel is available at any time for help in debriefing any member. The officer, after hearing a request for help, shall contact the Cadet Coordinator to arrange for this counseling to begin immediately.

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Please do not let the Cadets ride on:

- Police Action
- Psychiatric Emergencies
- Suicide
- Entrapment
- First Due on Work
- Hazmat
- Industrial

They are not to get off the apparatus until the scene is under control and they are not to get out of the rescue or ambulance on MVC's. The roadway is no place for a Cadet to be. Please use common sense with these guys. We do not want to scare them away and we do not want to break the law.