

# **Ridgely VFD Junior Cadet Program**

A committee of a minimum of three RVFD members appointed by the Board of Directors shall serve as the Junior Cadet Program Advisors.

The Advisors will serve as the liaison between the Junior Cadets and the Fire Department. They shall ensure all rules are being complied with and all records are well maintained.

Membership is open to youth 12 to 15 years of age. All Junior Cadet Candidates will be interviewed by two or more advisors. At least one parent must be present during the interview.

The RVFD Board of Directors will approve or disapprove all junior cadet candidates.

Junior Cadet members shall meet certain minimum requirements as established by the RVFD Board of Directors to maintain membership.

Once a member reaches the age of 16 the Junior Cadet may apply for CADET membership to the RVFD. Cadet membership is subject to a vote of the Ridgely VFD membership as outlined in the RVFD By-Laws.

## **RULES**

- Junior Cadets will be restricted from visiting the station at their pleasure.
  - Junior Cadets ages 14 and 15 will be allowed to visit the station without an advisor Monday through Thursday, 6:30 pm to 9 pm, Friday and Saturday 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm, and on Sunday from 9am – 9 pm. PROVIDED a non-probationary member is in the station and will assume responsibility.

- Junior Cadets ages 12 and 13 will be permitted to visit the station during scheduled and approved activities only.
- Junior Cadets of any age may attend scheduled and approved activities provided their membership is in good standing.
- During the school year Junior Cadets are not allowed in the station after 9 PM on Sunday through Thursday nights (school nights) unless special events are scheduled.
- On Friday and Saturday nights, Junior Cadets will be permitted to be at the station until 10:30 p.m. unless prior approval of the Board of Directors is received.
- Junior Cadets must maintain a "C" average in school and show proof of their grades each marking term. If grades fall below a "C" average in school the Junior Cadets will be prohibited from all activities until grades improve and a minimum of two weeks pass.
- Junior Cadet members shall not respond emergency to the fire station for any reason.
- Junior Cadets may be permitted to assist with Canteen operations through a rotational on call process limited to weekends, holidays and summer school vacations. Junior Cadets must be called to assist; they are not permitted to respond to the station without being contacted.
- Junior Cadet Members shall hold no vote in matters of the Fire Department.
- BEHAVIOR
  - ◆ 1st offense - Interview with advisor(s) – documented verbal warning
  - ◆ 2nd offense - Written warning to member and copy to the parents or guardian.
  - ◆ 3rd offense - Appear before the Company Board of Directors.
  - ◆ Junior Cadets may be dismissed from membership at anytime for poor behavior or poor participation.

## **ACTIVITIES / PROJECTS**

- Learn fire safety, first aid and emergency preparedness,
- Assist fire department with certain non-hazardous activities.
- Organize and participate in fund raising activities specifically for the benefit of the Junior Cadet Program.
- Junior Cadet meetings at least monthly and other times as needed and agreed by the program advisors.
- Under the direction of the program advisors Junior Cadets may assist with and participate in certain parades with the fire department.
- Attend certain department drills.
- Participate in other activities as determined appropriate by the program advisors.

## **Operational Organization**

- Junior Cadets will have a group of officers initially appointed by the Program Advisors and subsequently elected by the Junior Cadet membership.
- Offices are: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- The Junior Cadet Program treasury will be monitored by the Fire Department Treasurer, all checks will co-signed by the Fire Department Treasurer.
- Junior Cadets will decide activities in which to participate.