

Santa Clara Fire District
Junior Firefighter

Candidate: _____

Date: _____



The “Junior Firefighter” (JRFF) program is designed for Santa Clara Fire District members between the ages of 16 to 18, who are in school or not. The purpose of the Junior Firefighter program is to prepare these new firefighters for a long term career in firefighting. It is our goal to promote long term volunteerism, give our new firefighters the tools and knowledge that will assist them in preparing for firefighter entrance exams, pass the exams then keep the job once they have been hired.

While it is the JRFF’s decision to join the district, parents and the school will make the ultimate decision whether or not the JRFF can participate in our program. Our policy is that the custodial parent can remove their child from the program for any reason without justification to the fire district; furthermore, school comes first, JRFF’s shall maintain at least a “C” average or the ability to compete in high school sports to participate in our program.

Like most industries, fire districts are required to follow the rules and regulations of many government organizations. These include but not limited to: Bureau of Labor & Industries (BOLI), Occupational Health & Safety Administration (OSHA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and many more.

BOLI states that minors under the age of 18 are prohibited from performing eighteen hazardous activities. Included in this list are (1) the operation of motor vehicles and (2) roof activities.

The following is an excerpt taken from a letter response to a question written to Ore-OSHA:

“The only personnel restrictions in OAR437-002-0182, Subdivision L, Oregon Rules for Fire Fighters, are the same for all ages. OAR437-002-0182(4)(a) requires that all employees’ physical capabilities be evaluated annually to determine their ability to perform assigned duties. OAR437-002-0182(4)(b) prohibits employees with known medical conditions from engaging in fire suppression activities at emergency scenes (not including support activities) unless a physician certifies that they can safely perform the tasks. OAR437-002-0223(3)(a), Subdivision N, Material Handling & Storage, which also is applicable, prohibits employees under 18 years of age from operating commercial or industrial type vehicles, forklifts and other similar kinds of vehicles (this would include engines, apparatus, trucks and other fire department vehicles).”

Although the law states that 16-18 year old firefighters can do most of the functions of the older firefighters, the districts position is that we will exceed both BOLI & OSHA law for the protection of the JRFF. It is the policy of the District that JRFF’s are restricted from the following operations or use of tools:

The following initials certify that I have read and understand the information presented above.
Parent _____ Candidate _____ Chief Officer _____

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1. JRFF's shall not drive department vehicles or enter endangered buildings unless approved by the chief officer on scene. In addition that chief officer on scene must hold the rank of captain or higher.
2. JRFF's shall not be allowed to use the following power tools or complete the following operations at actual emergencies:
 - a. Chain Saw
 - b. Circular Saw
 - c. Hurst tool
 - d. Climb ladders
 - e. Roof operations
 - f. Or use any tool deemed unsafe by the incident commander or chief officer on scene.

JRFF's shall be able to perform all the above operations in item (2) at drills while in direct supervision of the officer leading the drill or the officer's designee at said drills.

It is our policy to maintain professionalism at all times and inappropriate horse play will not be tolerated.

To restate - The intent of this program is to offer the individual the opportunity to learn real life skills in a safe learning environment. Custodial Parent of said individual shall have the ultimate say in whether or not the student remains with the district. The district will always go with the parent's wishes regarding high school or other extracurricular activities.

Listed below are the steps to becoming a Junior Firefighter with the Santa Clara Fire District.

1. Meeting with parents and candidate;
2. Signed expectation and program content sheets (Parents, Candidate & Chief Officer);
3. Application and questionnaire filled out;
4. One month of drill attendance;
5. Physical Agility Test
6. Review by the application committee.

Reasons for dismissal from program:

1. Parents request
2. Arrests for alcohol or illegal drugs
3. Two speeding tickets
4. Standard rules that apply to all volunteer and paid staff.

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The following is a list of what is expected from all individuals involved in the program.

Junior Firefighter - You can expect

1. Appropriate Quality Training -
2. To be in confidential situations
3. Treated as an adult
4. Your questions and opinions will be listened to. (May not act on them but we will listen)
5. WE WILL WATCH FOR YOUR SAFETY.

Junior Firefighter – What we expect

1. When responding to calls from home or other, that all traffic laws are obeyed
2. Honesty
3. Timeliness
4. Confidentiality to patient information
5. If you say your going to do something – do it
6. Safety concerns addressed at every call or drill
7. YOU WILL WATCH FOR OUR SAFETY.

Parents – You can expect

1. We will do every thing possible to watch for your child’s safety both at drills and calls.
2. Honest opinions regarding how your child is doing in the fire service.

Parents – What we expect

1. You will let us know if school requirements are not being met.
2. If your child has a medical condition we should know about.

Parents – What we would like

1. Come to a drill or two
2. Call and ask us questions



PARENTS: should your child be involved in a motor vehicle accident while responding to either the station or the scene, the district’s insurance carrier will not cover any other individuals, your vehicle or any other vehicle’s involved in the accident.

Depending on the circumstances workman’s comp may or may not pay for injuries sustained by your child. Cause and whether the incident occurred due to illegal activity may be taken into account once the claim is filed. Please maintain insurance on your vehicles.

All speeding tickets are the responsibility of the driver and are not covered by the district.

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Included with your JRFF application, please complete the following reading, questionnaire and essay assignment.

Located at the Oregon OSHA website is a pamphlet entitled “You’ve got your whole life ahead of you...”

<http://www.cbs.state.or.us/osha/pdf/pubs/2413.pdf>

If you do not have access to the internet and would like a printed copy please contact paid staff during normal business hours.

Answer the following questions regarding this pamphlet.

The title of the pamphlet is important. . . Why?

List the five ways to get hurt on the job!

List the eight ways to be SAFE on the job!

Explain your understanding of and way you should do number eight!

Who do you report to in the event you are injured?

*Please write a half page essay (In your handwriting) on what you hope to get out of your time with the Santa Clara Fire District and how you plan to use it.

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