

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

DEFINITIONS:

Junior Firefighter (JF): Is a person between the ages of 16 & 18 years who has been accepted into the Junior Firefighter program with the Huron Shores Fire Department.

Direct Entry Recruit (DER): Is person who has been a Junior Firefighter for a period of no less than 10 months and has reached the age of 18 years and as such has been approved by the Fire Chief and council to become a regular member of the HSFD.

Coaching Member: Is a regular member of the HSFD who is assigned to mentor the JF during a training session. The coaching member will be appointed by the senior officer in attendance & will provide guidance and explain the training components to the JF as well as assist the JF participate in the training.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Junior Firefighter Program (JFP) is to present volunteer firefighting to the youth in our community as a possible vocation or goal which will allow them to reap the benefits of volunteerism while helping their community, learning valuable new skills, and being part of a team. This will also serve to help mould good, productive & responsible citizens and potentially present role models for Junior Firefighters. Finally, once attaining the full age of 18 years the Junior Firefighter will transition to a full regular member of the HSFD as a direct entry recruit.

METHOD:

Target youth ages 16 & 17 to consider joining the HSFD as Junior Firefighters through media releases, open houses, word of mouth & mail outs.

The interested person will complete an application form and his / her parent(s) will be required to complete and present a parental consent form which grants the applicant permission to participate in the JFP. Once their application is approved, the JF will be eligible to participate in certain training and orientation programs. The JF will be encouraged to attend all regularly scheduled training sessions and be assigned a coaching member for each training session.

APPLICATION:

In order for an applicant to the JFP to be successful, the applicant must meet the minimum following:

- Be aged 16 or 17 years;
- Be a resident of the Municipality of Huron Shores;
- Not have any medical, psychological or physical restrictions which may restrict them from carrying out the duties of a firefighter;
- Be of good moral character;
- Have the consent of his/her parent(s) or guardian;
- Receive 66% vote in favour of their application by the station membership for which they are applying;
- Receive the approval of the Fire Chief; and
- Be approved by council.

SCOPE:

The JF will be set up and outfitted with a complete spare set of bunker gear. They will participate in the recruit training program and all regularly scheduled training sessions.

The JF will be permitted to participate in hands-on training with their assigned coaching member to the extent that is deemed appropriate and desirable by the officer in charge of the training session. The JF will not be permitted to participate in live fire exercises requiring entry into a burn building or on a live fire ground operation. During this type of exercise, the JF will only be permitted to observe along side his/her coaching member.

The JF may be allowed to be present during a business meeting if it is deemed desirable for the purpose of exposing the JF to a meeting for educational purposes, however matters of a sensitive nature will not be discussed in the presence of the JF and in any event, the Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief, as the case may be, will determine whether or not the JF will be permitted to be present.

The JF will not be enrolled in or attend any Ontario Fire College courses or similar natured training off site which is intended for regular fire fighters.

Each station may have up to 5 active Junior Firefighters at any one time.

The JF will not be permitted to drive/operate a fire department vehicle.

The JF may be released from the Fire Department for any reason that a regular member may be released from the department. As well, if in the opinion of the Fire Chief, it is deemed to be in the best interests of the Fire Department or of the JF that the JF no longer remain enrolled in the JFP, the JF may be released from the department.