Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department Seeking Students

The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department has a continually running Student Recruitment Program. Students; primarily those who are majoring in Fire Protection Engineering, Fire Science, or other related field at the University of Maryland or other area colleges; have the opportunity to apply for membership with our department. We are particularly interested in those wishing to partake in our live-in program, however live-in status is not a requirement. In return for this opportunity, the students participate as active firefighters and EMT's. This will not only aid in our staffing, but may serve to alleviate a financial burden for some students.

What do the students gain? The students take what they have learned in their fire service training/education and apply it through experience responding with our department. The students also gain responsibility, independence, the ability to work as a team, and many other traits that will help them to be successful in their fire service career.

What are the requirements to be a part of the program?

- Student shall be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- Student must go through a formal interview/recruitment process.
- Student shall be a full-time student enrolled within the Fire Protection Engineering/Fire Science degree program at the University of Maryland or other accredited higher education institution.
- Student shall become and active member of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department.
- Student is required to maintain acceptable academic standards at the University.

Education is the number one reason the students are in our program, and the fire department cannot stress enough how important it is to us to make sure the students are successful in their endeavors.

What does the department provide for the student?

- Semi-private sleeping quarters with ample storage for personal belongings.
- Comfortable living conditions (full kitchen, laundry, lounge/day room, gym)
- High-speed internet, telephone, and cable access in each room
- Separate study area with computer facilities
- A positive environment close to the University of Maryland (on the Shuttle Circuit)

The program is directed by a Membership Committee and the Chiefs of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department. The initial application process includes a background check and typically takes between 2 to 4 weeks. During this period of time, new members are encouraged to participate in other department activities and to get to know their fellow firefighters. New members are required to complete training provided by the Prince George's County Fire

Department, Maryland Fire and Rescue and Institute and other training agencies. Training includes Firefighter I and Emegency Medical Technician as a minimum, both of which must be obtained within 36 months. Of course, if you have prior training in the fire service, we do offer reciprocity and equivilencies where they are appropriate.

While we do not require our members to commit to a "duty night", participation between the hours from 3-11 p.m. weekdays, an occasional weekend, and a sleep-in once or twice a month is appreciated.

There are many opportunities for advancement and responsibility in the department, all it takes is determination and dedication.

Addidtional benefits of becoming a member of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department include:

- **Free training** -- firefighter, EMT, and other related courses.
- **TAX BREAK** -- $3,500 income deduction for Maryland residents.
- **LOSAP** -- Volunteer Retirement Program funded by the State of Maryland.
- **LIVE-IN PROGRAM** -- Semi-Private dormatory housing (almost everything, except board).
- Uniforms and Personal Protective Gear provided at no cost.
- **PRIDE** in yourself
- **COMRADERIE** with your fellow firefighters
- **DEDICATION** to the citizens we serve
- **RESPECT** from all
- **Many other benefits....just ask any of our members!**

If you are a hard worker, a good student, willing to serve your fellow citizens, and love to run fire/medical calls (1000 + a year), then we may have a place for you. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be, please contact our Membership Committee or fill in this online form .