

## **Welcome to the Junior Firefighter and the Parents!**

Dear Parent-

To comply with the laws established under the Pennsylvania Child Labor Act (CLA), the Lititz Fire Company No. 1 will base its rules and regulations for Junior Firefighters upon those provided in the CLA. The parents of the applicants for Junior Firefighters should read these rules carefully and ask the Fire Chief or a member of the Membership Committee any questions that you might have before granting permission for your child to join the fire company. You also have the right to remove your child from participation at any time from membership or participation with the fire company. Membership in the fire company is voluntary and can be terminated at any time.

It is very important to us that the parent(s) are just as committed as partners in this relationship. We need you to be supportive of your child's time spent with us as they will be spending time training with us, maintaining and cleaning equipment, taking classes at the station or out of the area and responding to emergency incidents. There will also be times that your child will "just be hanging out" at the station. This time is valuable as well, as he/she might be spending that time speaking with other members, reviewing equipment with other members during unscheduled training times, or simply watching television with other members. This is all part of what we call the "Brotherhood". Building friendships is one of the most lasting benefits of being in the fire service and we want your child to experience all the good that firefighting offers.

However, we also need your help. Your child's education is more important than any amount of time at the fire station. It is extremely difficult for us to always stay on top of the grades of the Juniors. We expect that you, as the parent, will be focused on making sure your child is maintaining the proper and acceptable grades that you wish to see. If the grades start to suffer due to time spent at the fire station, we encourage you to step in and get involved. We will support any decision you make if you need to remove your child from service for any amount of time.

Also, the safety of our members is our highest priority and we take the responsibility of caring for your son or daughter very seriously. As a volunteer organization, we are constantly looking for new members and our goal is to bring in new volunteers, young and old, educate them, train them and hope that their service with us and to their community is a long-term commitment. We are focused on protecting your child in all that we do. This is our commitment to you. Please make sure you are driving safely and following all traffic laws if you are bringing your child to the fire station for fire calls. If they are riding a bike or driving themselves, please encourage them to follow the laws and to use common sense and good judgement. We need our members to arrive safely at the fire station and to return home safely after each fire call or fire company activity. We can't help anyone in need if we don't get there safely.

The following rules for Junior Firefighters (Junior) will be observed by the Lititz Fire Company No. 1. These rules are taken from the CLA, although they are brief summaries of the Act. A more detailed copy of the CLA is available upon request.

# Lititz Fire Company No. 1 Junior Firefighter Rules & Regulations

(Updated October 2016)

*(\*\* For ease of writing, the pronoun "He" will be used to represent either a male or female member. Also, Junior Firefighters at Lititz Fire Company are members of the ages of 16 & 17.)*

## 1) Required Documentation to Participate

- a. The Junior must have a work permit to participate in any fire company activity.
- b. The "Parent Authorization Form", permitting the Junior to participate in fire company activities, must be signed and submitted prior to participating in any fire company activity.

## 2) Hours and Times

- a. The Junior may participate between the hours of 6am-12am, except during a school vacation period when he will be permitted to participate until 1am. No night work is permitted. However, the work cannot interfere with regular school attendance, meaning that the Junior cannot respond to calls that will make him late for school, miss school or leave from school.
- b. The Junior may not be employed for more than eight (8) hours on a school day and no more than ten (10) hours on a day when there is no school.
- c. The Junior cannot work more than five (5) continuous hours without at least a thirty (30) minute break period for rest.
- d. The Junior may not be employed for more than twenty-eight (28) hours per week during a regular school week (Monday-Friday).
- e. The Junior may not be employed for more than forty-eight (48) hours during a week when school is not in session.
- f. **Exception:** If beginning operations at an emergency incident during legal hours, *the Junior will be permitted to continue activities until excused by the Fire Chief or the Office in Charge.* However, when released, the Junior must go directly home and may not respond to another incident until the morning hours of employment begin.

## 3) Permitted Activities

- a. General Rule – a Minor may not engage in firefighting activities unless all the following apply:
  - i. The minor is 16 years of age or older.
  - ii. The minor has successfully completed a course of training equal to the standards for basic firefighting established by the State Fire Commissioner. The Pennsylvania Entry Level Fire Training curriculum allows junior firefighters to take training and participate in "Exterior" fire suppression activities. The minimum approved Entry Level Training classes are *Introduction to the Fire Service, Fire Ground Support and Exterior Firefighter.*
  - iii. The minor has successfully completed a course of training equal to the standards for basic firefighting established by the Department of Conservation and National Resources (DCNR). These classes are PA-130, Basic Wildland Firefighting and S-190, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior.

**iv. Permitted activities** include, but are not limited to:

1. Attacking the fire with hose lines a part of exterior operations.
2. Setting ladders.
3. Setting up Positive Pressure Ventilation as part of exterior operations.
4. Exterior salvage operations.
5. Establishing water supply.
6. Assisting at vehicle extrication and other types of rescue, including use of air bags.

- v. The minor is under the direct supervision and control of the fire chief or an experienced line officer over the age of 21. Direct supervision means that the officer must be within speaking and touching distance of the junior member.

**4) Prohibited Activities**

- a. An individual who is more than 16 years of age and less than 18 years of age may not do any of the following:
  - i. Operate an aerial ladder, aerial platform or hydraulic jack.
  - ii. Use rubber electrical glove, insulated wire gloves, insulated wire cutters, life nets or acetylene cutting torches.
  - iii. Operate the pumps of any fire vehicle at the scene of a fire.
  - iv. Drive a fire truck, ambulance or Duty Vehicle.
  - v. Enter a burning structure.
- b. **Exception for training only:** interior fire attack is permitted if it is part of a Credit-earning course offered by a school district.

**5) Prohibited Activities for ALL Junior Firefighters (Designated as hazardous by CLA)**

- a. Juniors are not permitted to pilot or operate any water rescue boat or vessel.
- b. Juniors are not permitted to operate any aerial device mounted on a fire apparatus.
- c. Juniors are not permitted to operate elevators or participate in elevator rescues.
- d. Juniors are not permitted to perform rescue operations in tunnels, shafts or trenches.
- e. Juniors are not permitted to participate in emergencies at firework plants, retailers, or in support of public safety for a public display.
- f. Juniors are not permitted to perform emergency operations in or around mines, strip mines or quarries.
- g. Juniors are not permitted to participate in the response to incidents involving paint products.
- h. Juniors are not permitted to participate in the response to incidents involving radioactive substances.
- i. Juniors are not permitted to perform rooftop ventilation or any other work on any roof.
- j. Juniors are not permitted to operate acetylene torches, cutting or crushing equipment, or respond to structural collapse incidents.
- k. Juniors are not permitted to operate circular saws, band saws, guillotine shears, chain saws, reciprocating saws, wood chippers, and abrasive cutting discs.

## **Duties of a Junior Firefighter at the Lititz Fire Company No. 1**

In addition to the laws set forth by the Pennsylvania Child Labor Act, the following is a list of duties and expectations placed upon Junior Firefighters (Juniors) at Lititz Fire Company No. 1.

- 1) Juniors shall obey the By-laws, Standard Operating Guidelines and any other fire company documents enacted by the President or Fire Chief.
- 2) Juniors should make every effort to attend training sessions, work/service details and incidents when permitted by the Child Labor Law and fire company guidelines.
- 3) Juniors should follow the Chain of Command.
- 4) Juniors may attend company business meetings, but do not have any voting privileges.
- 5) All Juniors will log their hours whenever performing work duties with the fire company.
  - a. Time spent at the station socializing does not count towards work hours.
  - b. Time attending meetings and staffing the station should be applied towards work hours.
- 6) Juniors will serve a Probationary period as outlined in the Standard Operating Guidelines.
- 7) All Juniors must report to the fire station for all calls. Juniors are not permitted to drive to the scene of an incident in their personal vehicles. The Junior should remain at the station until the fire company returns from the call to assist with clean-up duties, unless the time extends beyond their permitted time to work according to CLA.
- 8) Juniors are not permitted to operate a blue light on their vehicle.
- 9) Juniors must obey all traffic laws when driving to the fire station.
- 10) Juniors will not board a piece of fire apparatus until told to do so by the officer of the apparatus.
- 11) Juniors shall don full protective gear prior to boarding the apparatus unless instructed otherwise by a line officer.
- 12) Juniors are not permitted to leave school to respond to any incidents.
- 13) Juniors are not permitted to wear their company-issued pager to school.
- 14) Juniors will not start, drive/operate or move any fire apparatus.
- 15) Upon arriving at the scene, the Junior will report to the officer of the apparatus for his assignment. If the officer is unavailable, the Junior should stay with the driver of the apparatus.
- 16) Juniors will not enter any burning structures.
- 17) Juniors are not permitted to respond to any incidents involving hazardous materials.
- 18) Juniors are not permitted to be at the fire station by themselves or without the presence of another senior member of the fire company.
- 19) No use of profanity, horseplay, wrestling, or fighting will be tolerated at the station or at an incident.
- 20) Junior members shall be respectful to all members and the public.
- 21) Hazing of Juniors or among Juniors will not be tolerated.
- 22) All equipment issued to the Junior will be kept in good repair and maintained to fire company guidelines. Personally-purchased equipment may only be used if the Fire Chief has given permission.
- 23) Junior members are not permitted to sleep overnight in the fire station.
- 24) When state junior firefighter rules / Child Labor laws do not prevail, fire company rules will prevail.
- 25) Failure by any Junior firefighter to abide by these rules listed above may result in discipline, including suspension and up to possible termination of fire company membership.
- 26) All rules and regulations governing Juniors are subject to change at any time, but will be properly displayed and promoted.



## **Lititz Fire Company No. 1 Junior Firefighter Rules and Regulations**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have received a copy of the Junior Firefighter Rules and Regulations set forth by the Lititz Fire Company No. 1 and I have read and understand these rules and regulations. By my signature, I attest that I will follow these rules and regulations and understand the consequences if I do not abide by them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Junior Firefighter Applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

As parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I have read the Junior Firefighter Rules and Regulations set forth by the Lititz Fire Company No. 1. I have read and understand these rules and regulations and I understand the expectation placed upon me as the parent of the junior firefighter. By my signature, I give my permission for my son/daughter to join the Lititz Fire Company No. 1 and to participate in all legal activities afforded to a junior firefighter as defined in the Pennsylvania Child Labor Act and the fire company rules.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or Guardian of Applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Contact Phone Number of Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email address of Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_