

TRAVIS COUNTY

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1

Junior Firefighter Program



New Members Booklet

New Member,

As the Coordinator of the Junior Firefighter Program, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you as a Junior member of Travis County Emergency Services District #1! For many, this program will be the first step in the career to the fire service, whether volunteer or paid. I honestly believe that you as an active participant in this program are the future of this fire department, and a hero of tomorrow.

When people do not know where to turn for help, quite often their response is to call the local fire department. They expect us to fix their emergency, or to at least make things better for them. Therefore, the firefighter has traditionally performed many tasks other than just fighting actual fires, and is held in high esteem by many people. As a member of the Junior Program, people will look to you as a representative of this department. Therefore, it is important to follow the code of conduct and to be courteous and respectful to all, especially when wearing your uniform.

As a new member of the Junior Program, you will be required to participate in trainings, meetings, drills, fundraising events and station projects. There are also many other activities and opportunities available to you, that I hope you will take advantage of.

As a member of this department I take a great deal of pride in it and the community that surrounds it. You will be expected to do the same. As a member; strive for excellence; be the best that you can; be proud of what you are doing it for; promote department pride by example; and most of all have fun and be safe. Again, from myself, the Officers, the Chief, and the entire department we welcome you.

Sincerely,

Lance R. Little

Coordinator/Advisor
Travis County Emergency Services District #1,
Junior Firefighter Program

Table of Contents

	Page
Mission and Values Statement	1
Code of Conduct	2
PAT Tags	3
Meetings and Trainings	4
Uniforms and Protective Equipment	5
FAQs	6
Ride-Out Policy.....	7
Acknowledgement Form.....	8

Mission and Values

Travis County Emergency Services District #1 and its *Junior Firefighter Program* work in cooperation to **Educate, Protect and Serve** the youth of the Travis County Emergency Services District #1 and surrounding communities.

The following statements are upheld by Travis County Emergency Services District #1:

MISSION STATEMENT

To maintain a safe environment for youth to gather within the community to learn about many aspects of the Fire/EMS service and to provide avenues for positive social interaction for youth within the program, and for youth within the community.

VISION

We will be a model for Fire/EMS departments with a Junior Firefighter youth program; to introduce the youth of the community to the Fire/EMS service and to provide a safe environment for social activities for youth within our community.

CORE VALUES

Recognizing the dedication, skill and value of all members; we will create and maintain an environment of individual safety, well-being and trust. We are guided by: ***Service to Others, Team Work, Compassion, Integrity, Safety, Honesty, Accountability, Professionalism and Respect.***

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

The members of the Travis County Emergency Services District #1 Junior Firefighter Program demonstrate commitment to our community through:

- Providing an opportunity for youth to serve the community.
- Respectful and courteous treatment of all people.
- Accountability for our actions.
- Open honest communications.
- Educating peers about fire safety and prevention.
- Providing a safe environment for youth activity within the community.

Code of Conduct

As a member of Travis County Emergency Services District #1 Junior Firefighter program, you are expected and required to:

- Abide by all of the Standard Operating Procedures and all other rules and regulations of the Active Department, as well as those of the Junior Firefighter Program.
- Conduct yourself in a professional and courteous manner that will reflect well upon you and the entire department, especially when in uniform.
- Demonstrate honesty, fairness and integrity.
- Treat ALL people with courtesy and respect.
- Recognize the value and worth of each individual.
- Dress in your uniform for department functions that you attend.
- Refrain from cussing, cursing or using otherwise foul language while in uniform, at the station, and while participating in department functions.
- Work as a team with others.
- Participate in training, meetings, and fundraisers.
- Obey the chain of command.
- Wear your uniform when coming to the station and any department functions that you attend or assist with.
- Always bring required gear to trainings.
- Always bring your PAT tag with you to the station and department functions.
- Notify an Advisor or Officer upon arrival and departure from the station and department functions.
- Immediately report any problems to an Advisor.

PAT Tags

Personal Accountability Tags (PAT Tags) are ID cards that are used in the fire service to keep track of people during an Incident. These tags typically have an ID number, rank, and the department with which they are affiliated. These tags are given to the officer in charge of the crew, who in turn may hand them to an accountability officer, depending on the incident size. If a firefighter gets injured or lost, the information on the PAT tag can be used to identify the injured or missing firefighter, and to access other important information about the firefighter.

In the Junior Program, we have implemented the PAT tag system to keep track of members at any emergency scene, community work event or other activities in which they ride on apparatus.

The Junior is expected to keep their PAT tag with them at all times and have it with them ANY time they are coming to the station. When a Junior is conducting a “ride-out”, they are required to place their tag on the accountability board of the apparatus they are riding.

At the end of each event or ride-out, it is the responsibility of the Junior member for picking up their PAT tag before leaving.

Meetings and Trainings

Trainings are held on every other Monday from 6:00 p.m. until approximately 7:30 - 8:00 p.m., unless otherwise stated. Meetings and training are generally conducted by the Post Advisor.

The training program for the Junior Firefighters is structured to introduce Junior members to the fire service. Junior members that join the regular department are at an advantage since the Junior Program introduces them to the tools and skills that are used in firefighting and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). During training, you will learn about firefighting, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the use of tools, and related skills. You will also learn how to work as a team and HAVE FUN!

Quite often the training will include some physical or hands on activity and/or lesson. At times, an educational field trip may be substituted for the regularly scheduled training.

The following is the uniform that **MUST** be worn during Junior Trainings:

- Uniform pants with black belt
- Gray short sleeve uniform shirt with department t-shirt underneath.
- Black boots

In addition, your PAT Tags and any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that has been issued to you must be brought to each training.

Uniforms, Appearance & Protective Equipment

Uniforms and Protective Equipment are issued to Junior members by the Junior program Coordinator. All issued items remain the property of Travis County Emergency Services District #1, and must be surrendered upon completion of the program (or termination of the membership).

A uniform will be issued. The uniform includes:

- Gray, Short Sleeve uniform shirt (for meetings, trainings and ride-outs)
- Gray, Long Sleeve uniform shirt w/black tie (all formal events and official photos)
- T-Shirt (for trainings/other functions)
- Black uniform duty pants
- Name plate and badge

Black boot (military/police style) footwear and black belt must be purchased by each individual. J

Junior members are encouraged, *however not required*, to purchase a black pair of (5.11 style) tactical pants for training. They can be any brand. Again, these pants are not required.

You are responsible for the care and maintenance of your uniforms. They are to be worn when participating in any departmental function or activity where you will have contact with members of the public. Uniforms are also required to be worn during training, unless told otherwise by the Advisor. The uniform is not provided for your daily wear. **It is not to be worn while off duty except to travel to and from the station.**

Junior members personal appearance should always be a professional one. Males should have a neat haircut, off the shirt collar and clean shaven (if applicable). Female hair should be worn off the shirt collar. Jewelry is limited to watches, neckless and stud earrings (for females).

Personal Protective Equipment will also be provided for you. The Personal Protective Equipment consists of the following:

- Protective Gloves
- Fire Helmet
- Turn-Out Pants
- Turn-Out Coat
- Boots

You are responsible for the care and upkeep of your safety equipment. All equipment **MUST** stay at Station 102, unless otherwise instructed.

Frequently Asked Questions

This is a list of the questions asked most often by new Junior Members:

Q: What activities do you have in this program?

A: We hold trainings, social activities, fundraising events, public service projects, and other things that a firefighter does except for fighting fires.

Q: Do we get to participate in parades?

A: Yes. The Junior department will typically ride along in department apparatus with the Crew. Juniors MUST have a uniform issued to them before they are able to participate in a parade.

Q: How will I find out about different events taking place?

A: Events are announced at trainings, meetings, e-mails and in newsletters. In addition, you may be contacted by the other Junior Firefighters within the program.

Q: What is the cost of the program?

A: Dues are \$25.00 each year. In addition, you are responsible for the cost of any field trips, and uniform items not provided by the department.

Q: When can I start fighting fires and perform emergency medical services?

A: On your 18th birthday you are eligible to apply to the active department. At that time, you may begin the required formal training to be certified as a Firefighter and/or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). The Juniors have an advantage in that the program makes them familiar with many of the tools, techniques, and safety issues required for Firefighting and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Q: Can I participate in the Junior Program after my 18th birthday?

A: After your 18th birthday, you must apply to the Active Department as an active Volunteer member in order to participate. Upon acceptance into the Active Department, you must resign as a Junior Member. However, former Junior members are strongly encouraged to help with the Junior Firefighter Program.

Q: If I have questions or problems, who do I talk to?

A: The Program Coordinator and advisors will help you with any questions, any problems and conflicts.

Q: Do I have to participate in trainings and other events?

A: YES! The goals of the Junior program cannot be met for an individual who does not participate in the trainings or other events. Individuals who regularly do not participate in the Junior department activities without notifying an Advisor may be dropped from the program.

Q: Can I ride the apparatus and fight fires as a Junior Firefighter?

A: YES! Once you receive the required basic classes you can participate in a ride-along. Not only CAN you participate; you are STRONGLY encouraged to do so.

Ride-Out Program

Our program allows for Junior Firefighters to come to any station, with the approval of the on-duty Batt. Chief, Truck Officer and notification of the Program Coordinator, ride-out on department apparatus.

Prior to receiving approval to do ride-outs, the Junior Firefighter member must complete the "Ride-Out Requirements" and the form must be signed by the member, Program Coordinator and a Chief Officer.

Only once these requirements are met, may a Junior member ride-out.*

No Junior member, while on a Ride-Out, will respond to a HAZARDOUS MATERIALS emergency call. The Junior member will remain at the station and immediately contact the Post Coordinator.

Note:

*THERE ARE NO EXEMPTIONS FROM THIS POLICY.

**New Member Booklet
Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge that I and my son/daughter have received a copy of the Travis County ESD #1 Junior Firefighter Program New Member Booklet and have reviewed them prior to signing these documents.

Junior Firefighter Name

Parent/Guardian Name

Junior Firefighter Signature and Date

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date

Received By: _____