

**\*\*\*Please Note: ALL Juniors MUST fill out an adult application when they turn 18\*\*\***

Junior Firefighter Auxiliary  
Rutherford Fire Department  
Standard Operating Procedures 36

**Rules and Regulations of the Rutherford Junior Firefighter Auxiliary**

**1.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

- 1.1.1 Applicant has a physical, using the New Jersey State Firemen's Association form.
- 1.1.2 Application for membership shall be the same as that of an adult applicant, accompanied by a parental permission and release form.
- 1.1.3 An applicant must be 16 years of age or older. Proof of age is required.
- 1.1.4 No Junior Firefighter member may remain as a Junior Firefighter member after the latter of his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 1.1.5 The Junior Firefighter applicant must appear before the Department's Junior Firefighter Committee for an interview. The parent or guardian must be present during the time of the interview. The committee will consist of a representative from each company, the chief of the department and or his designee.

**1.2 TRAINING**

- 1.2.1 Training to include instruction concerning:
- 1.2.2 After acceptance as a Junior Firefighter member and a commitment to the completion of a Junior Firefighter Firefighting course based upon the NFPA requirements at the Bergen County Fire Academy Junior Firefighter Program or at another recognized education institution providing equivalent training. This shall be optional for all members under age 18. Upon turning 18 years of age, the member has 12 months to complete Fire Fighter One as per the department Firefighter/Fire Officer requirements of the Rutherford Fire Department.
- 1.2.3 Junior Firefighter members shall not perform any task or participate in any activity prohibited by applicable State and Federal laws.

**1.3 DUTIES**

- 1.3.1 Junior Firefighter members shall obey all lawful orders given to them by any Line Officer in authority of the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department.
- 1.3.2 Junior Firefighter members shall, in the firehouse, obey all orders of any executive officer of the firehouse including any other member(s) in authority.
- 1.3.3 Junior firefighter members may ride on the fire apparatus in seated positions and inside other Department vehicles. (Safety belts shall be worn at all times).
- 1.3.4 Junior Firefighter members may ride to fires on apparatus only when prescribed seating is available just prior to apparatus leaving the firehouse. No Junior Firefighter member shall, at any time, ride on the outside of any apparatus or vehicle.
- 1.3.5 Junior Firefighter members may wash and roll hose, re-pack hose, clean equipment and put equipment away on the fire ground as long as they are well away from contaminated areas.
- 1.3.6 Junior Firefighter members may observe at a safe distance established by the Incident Commander.
- 1.3.7 Junior Firefighter members may not participate in Department activities more than eight (8) hours per day or forty (40) hours per week, or participate in any activities prior to 6:00 am or after 11:00 pm.

- 1.3.8 While performing any training duties or riding on the apparatus, or working on the fire ground, all Junior Firefighter members shall comply with the Department rules and regulations concerning protective clothing.
- 1.3.9 Junior Firefighter members, when responding to the fire station in a personal vehicle, shall obey all traffic regulations and speed limits. Junior Firefighter members shall not use blue lights and permits shall not be issued.
- 1.3.10 When a Junior Firefighter member is assigned by a Line Officer to assist a firefighter in a task, the Junior Firefighter member shall follow all instructions given, provided such instructions do not place the Junior Firefighter member in a contaminated area or in other physical danger.
- 1.3.11 Junior Firefighter members are subject to the By-Laws and Constitution of the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department and the rules and regulations of the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department and the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Company, which they belong to.
- 1.3.12 Junior Firefighter members shall attend drills of the Department, except for good cause; (school requirements, religious requirements, JV or Varsity sports, band practice or team games, etc.).
- 1.3.13 If a Junior Firefighter member is aboard the apparatus and an active firefighter needs his seat, the Junior Firefighter member shall relinquish his seat.
- 1.3.14 Junior Firefighter members shall not assist or participate in any drill or exercise in any other jurisdiction, unless it is with his/her own department attending as a department.

#### 1.4 ACTIVE STATUS

- 1.4.1 When a Junior Firefighter member reaches his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Junior Firefighter member is eligible to apply for membership in the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department. Junior Firefighter members seeking to join the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department must satisfy all requirements of the Department and will be considered for membership, in part, based on the Junior Firefighter member's performance as a Junior Firefighter.
- 1.4.2 Upon reaching the age of 18, junior members will submit a letter to the Officers Association for acceptance into the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department as an Auxiliary Member.

#### 1.5 RULES

- 1.5.1 No Junior Firefighter member shall be in the firehouse without the presence of at least two (2) active (non-probationary) members. Junior Firefighter members cannot invite guests into the firehouse.
- 1.5.2 No Junior Firefighter member shall consume alcoholic beverages. Any member found in violation of this rule will be subject to immediate dismissal.
- 1.5.3 No Junior Firefighter member may remain in the firehouse after 11:00 pm or report to the firehouse prior to 6:00 am.
- 1.5.4 Junior Firefighter members may be permitted to attend meetings of the Department but shall not have a vote on any fire department matter.
- 1.5.5 No Junior Firefighter member, under suspension, shall respond to any fire alarm, call, drill, training session or meeting or be in the firehouse at any time.
- 1.5.6 No Junior Firefighter member shall participate in any Department activity or respond to alarms or be in the firehouse when required to be at home or at school.
- 1.5.7 No Junior Firefighter member shall start, drive, or in any way move, any of the Rutherford Fire Department's fire apparatus.
- 1.5.8 The Chief of the Department will issue all Junior Firefighter members a complete set of protective turnout gear, which will consist of the following: helmet, hood, turnout coat, bunker pants with fire boots, gloves and accountability tag. All gear that is issued to Junior Firefighter

members is, and shall remain, property of the Rutherford Fire Department and shall be returned upon request of the Chief of the Department or upon termination of the Junior Firefighter member's participation as a volunteer with the Department for any reason.

- 1.5.9 The Junior Firefighter member shall not be required to buy a dress uniform, but can participate in functions that require one by wearing a dark suit or sports jacket with dark pants, white shirt and dark tie if they so desire.
- 1.5.10 The Junior Firefighter member shall not borrow or use any Department equipment or materials for personal use under any circumstances.
- 1.5.11 Junior Firefighter members shall not make or issue any public statements on behalf of the Department concerning any emergency incidents. All requests for comment are to be referred to the incident commander or to the Chief of the Department.
- 1.5.12 During a water or ice rescue, Junior Firefighter members must remain on shore at all times. Junior Firefighter members shall not ride on a fireboat under any circumstances.
- 1.5.13 Junior Firefighter members may climb ground ladders or aerial ladders for training purposes only under the direct supervision of a fire officer or his or her designee. While training with ladders, the Junior Firefighter member with the consent of a fire officer from the department that owns the equipment, or in conjunction with an organized, approved Junior Firefighter training program.
- 1.5.14 Junior firefighter members may utilize any non-powered hand tool and change SCBA bottles only if the Junior Firefighter member has received training to do so. Junior Firefighter members must wear full turnout gear, when operating such equipment.
- 1.5.15 Pursuant to applicable child labor laws, and subject to change if out of compliance, under no circumstances shall a Junior Firefighter utilize any power or hydraulic equipment including but not limited to the Jaws of Life, cutting torches or welding equipment, or "come along" device.

## **1.6 SUSPENSION AND REMOVALS**

- 1.6.1 The Chief of the Fire Department may suspend any Junior Firefighter member for good cause including, but not limited to:
  - (1) Disobeying direct, valid, legal orders.
  - (2) Failure to obey the rules and regulations of the Department.
  - (3) Responding or participating against the explicit instructions of parents (guardians) or sponsors.
  - (4) Failing to maintain a "C" average or better (or the equivalent) in school or failure to attend school as required. Parents shall be responsible to monitor the junior's school grades.
  - (5) Conviction of a crime or misdemeanor.
  - (6) Divulging confidential information of the Department.
  - (7) Conduct unbecoming to the good reputation of the Rutherford Fire Department.
  - (8) The Chief of the Fire Department may also remove any Junior Firefighter member for good cause including, but not limited to, the items in Section 1.6.1.

## **1.7 PRIVILEGES**

- 1.7.1 Junior Firefighter members may be issued a Fire Department pager if they are available; which pagers must be surrendered at the discretion of the Chief of the Department or upon termination of the Junior Firefighter member's participation as a volunteer with the Department for any reason. Junior Firefighter members shall not take a Department issued pager to school.