

## ***RGV Youth in Emergency Preparedness Camp Application Guidelines***

The Rio Grande Valley Medical Reserve Corps and our local RGV businesses will scholarship teams of 10 individuals (9 youth and 1 adult) to attend camp, which will take place June 23 – 27, 2019 at Camp Thicket Weslaco, TX. Scholarships include camp fees, lodging and meals, all training materials, and a CERT backpack with equipment. The only cost to teams will be transportation to and from the camp.

Camp participants (including the adult sponsor) will receive a full 20-hour-Basic CERT program that includes a certificate of completion. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) curriculum educates individuals about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training, CERT members can assist individuals in their school or community following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members are also encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their school or community. Additionally, the participants will develop a project and acquire the leadership skills needed to address emergency preparedness in their schools and/or communities when they return home—all of which will be achieved while having one of the most exciting weeks of summer!

Youth with an adult sponsor should apply as a group and submit all application materials together. The application is to be completed by the youth team members with the assistance of their adult sponsor. The youth team members should have an active role in the writing of the abstract for their project and the process of obtaining letters of support (evidence of this will be used in the selection process).

The application has three parts: 1) Adult Sponsor Information, 2) Youth Team Member Information, and 3) Additional Team Information. The first two sections will ask for demographic and contact information for the adult sponsor and each youth team member. If your group has less than 10 members, fill in the information for the number of team members your group has (teams with 10 members will be given priority). The third part of the application will ask for information pertaining to past training that the members of the group have received, school or community projects that the group has been involved with, an explanation of why the group would like to attend camp, an abstract of the group's proposed action plan, and two letters of support. It is the group's responsibility to ensure all necessary materials have been received by midnight on April 15, 2019. Groups will be notified of whether or not they have been selected to attend camp no later than April 20, 2019.

There will be a mandatory meeting for the Adult Sponsors on April 25, 2019 at 6:00pm. Location is the Weslaco Public Library Auditorium 525 S. Kansas St. Weslaco Texas.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to contact **Rich Stubbs**, Weslaco Fire Department and RGV MRC Coordinator, by email at **[rstubbs@weslacotx.gov](mailto:rstubbs@weslacotx.gov)** or by phone at **(956) 447-3287**.