

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

The Weslaco Fire Department, Rio Grande Valley Youth Preparedness, Inc., 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
- Meals
- All training materials

The only cost to teams will be transportation to and from the camp.

Camp participants (including the adult sponsor) will receive a:

- CERT Certificate of Completion.
- A CERT backpack with equipment
- An experience that you will be able to use the rest of your life.

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
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Incident Command System
- All of this will be achieved while having one of the most exciting weeks of summer!

Additionally, participants will develop a Community Action Plan to address emergency preparedness in their schools and/or communities when they return home. On the second stage of the application, you will be asked to tell us about your Community Action Plan so start thinking about it now.

The application has 5 parts:

1. Initial Application
  - a. Once your initial application is done, you will be asked for demographic and contact information for the adult sponsor and each youth team member.
  - b. 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).
2. Adult Sponsor Information
  - a. Youth with an adult sponsor should apply as a group and submit all application materials together.
3. Youth Team Member Information
  - a. Youth with an adult sponsor should apply as a group and submit all application materials together.
  - b. The application is to be completed by the youth team members with the assistance of their adult sponsor.

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4. Community Action Plan & 2 Letters of Support
  - a. The youth team members should have an active role in the writing of the abstract for their project and
  - b. Two (2) letters of support.
    - i. The youth team members should have an active role in the process of obtaining letters of support (evidence of this will be used in the selection process).
    - ii. This could be from an Administrator from your school, Elected Official, Fire Chief, or other person of authority in your community.
  
5. Additional Team Information.
  - a. The 4<sup>th</sup> part of the application will ask for information pertaining to past training that the members of the group have received
  - b. School or community projects that the group has been involved with
  - c. An explanation of why the group would like to attend camp
  - d. An abstract of the group's proposed action plan

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 Youth Preparedness Coordinator, by email at [rstubbs@weslacotx.gov](mailto:rstubbs@weslacotx.gov) or by phone at (956) 447-3287.