

**DEPARTMENT:** FIRE DEPARTMENT

**TITLE:** **Junior Firefighter Program Policy**

Minutes reference date: 26 September 2011

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**PURPOSE:**

To establish a policy for the governance of the Amherst Junior Firefighter Program.

**BASIS:**

The Junior Firefighter Program is designed to attract youth 16 - 19 years of age from the Amherst schools; it will provide them with extra credits in the school curriculum and encourage them to apply to be full time volunteers when they graduate.

**ROLE OF PROGRAM:**

1. The Junior Firefighting Program will introduce youth to the fire service and provide a safe environment for social activities for youth within our community.
2. The Junior Firefighting Program will serve as a recruitment and succession tool for the Department.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

1. Junior members shall be between the ages of 16 and 19 (inclusive), be of good character from within the community and must maintain such standing while active in the program. Any change in such good character, or action which may bring discredit upon the Program or the Fire Department as a whole, may be reviewed by the Junior Advisory Committee, and lead to discipline or expulsion from the Program.
2. A person desiring membership shall submit a Volunteer Firefighter application to the Senior Program Advisor (SPA). All applications must be accompanied by a completed Parent/Guardian Consent Form.
3. The SPA or designate shall interview the applicant and at least one parent/guardian to ensure they are familiar with all details of the program and to obtain parental consent (signed consent by both if possible) for participation.

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4. The SPA or designate will present the application with a recommendation for or against acceptance to the Advisory Committee, who shall then make the recommendation of acceptance of members to the Fire Chief.
  
5. New members will serve a probationary period of three months. At the end of the probationary period the SPA shall make a recommendation to the Advisory Board regarding the continuation of the member in the program.

**ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Junior members must attend a minimum of training activities and scheduled Junior Program activities conducted each year. Junior members are not required to respond to emergency alarms or department business meetings. Participation of junior members shall be monitored annually in accordance with department policy.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Senior Program Advisor (SPA)** - Shall be the Chair of the Advisory Committee and be appointed by and report to the Chief. He/she will be an active firefighter from the local fire service with a minimum Level 1 qualification and two years experience.