

Halesite Fire Department

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS PROGRAM



*To promote leadership and personal growth for teenagers
through firematic training and life learning activities.*

Letter from the Chief



Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for your interest in the Halesite Fire Department's Junior Firefighter Program. This Program Guide will give you a clear picture of what to expect when becoming part of this organization.

Simply put, joining Halesite's Juniors is a way for young people to serve their community while at the same time meet new people, learn valuable skills, life lessons and have fun. Our Program Advisors are Halesite firefighters who represent a diverse group of mentors that are qualified to train Junior firefighters in not just emergency response, but also in leadership and the importance of community service.

The Halesite Fire Department has a long tradition of Junior Firefighting programs. Over the years several of Halesite's Juniors have gone on to careers in firefighting. Although not required, Halesite's Juniors have chosen to become members in Halesite or in neighboring Departments once they turned 18. Several of Halesite's Juniors have gone on to become Chief of our Fire Department, including me.

If you have any questions after reading through this guide, please don't hesitate to contact the program's coordinator by phone at 631-427-1910 or by e-mail at juniors@halesitefd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel P. McConnell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Daniel P. McConnell
Chief of Department

The purpose of the Junior Firefighter Program:

The program is intended to allow teenagers the opportunity to gain technical and life skills not otherwise available to them and to develop and build teamwork, leadership, confidence, responsibility and the ability to stay calm in an emergency situation. These skills will be developed through training drills, coaching, the example set by senior members, and other Department and program activities.

Leadership

Juniors will institute an officer system electing a Junior Captain, Lieutenant, and Secretary. Juniors will, with guidance, conduct their own meetings, set their own priorities, and develop fundraiser and volunteer events.

Teamwork

The importance of cooperative effort will be stressed. Junior firefighters will assist in the training of new Junior recruits.

Responsibility

Juniors will be responsible for their program. They will learn the appropriate methods for caring for and maintaining all gear, apparatus and equipment.

Community Service

Juniors will be encouraged to organize community service projects beyond the fire Department.

Work Ethic

Juniors will learn the values associated with being a volunteer first responder and the feelings of accomplishment and pride that follow a job done well.

Expectations

- Juniors must be between the ages of 13 and 17 or age 12 and in the seventh grade.
- New members must reside in the Halesite Fire District or, with the consent of the Chief, in a neighboring district.
- Juniors must obey the rules of the Halesite Fire District and the By-Laws of the Juniors Program.
- Juniors will take responsibility for the duties assigned to them by a Junior officer, Advisor, or other Halesite personnel designated to supervise a Junior Program activity.
- Juniors must attend at least 50% of the meetings, training drills, and sanctioned activities to stay in good standing.
- School grades must be maintained at a level set by the Chief; generally at least 75%.
- Parents will accompany the Junior to their first meeting where they are sworn in.
- Juniors will NEVER respond to the scene of an incident.
- Juniors will only ride on fire apparatus under non-emergency conditions (e.g. parades) and must wear seat belts.
- Juniors are expected to complete Core and Advanced skills and will receive certifications for these accomplishments.
- Juniors are expected to act in a manor representative of the Halesite Fire Department's high standards of personal conduct.

The Role of the Advisor:

A panel of adult Advisors, appointed by the Chief and approved by the Board of Commissioners, will oversee the Juniors program. The Advisors will be members of the Halesite Fire Department and/or Rescue Squad. All Advisors must complete mandatory training as dictated by the Halesite Fire Department, renew that training every two years, and are subject to a background/criminal investigation. At least two Advisors will be present at all Juniors functions at all times.

The Advisors will mentor and coach the Juniors. They will be present at any organized meeting of the Juniors and will conduct training drills and accompany Juniors on field trips. They are responsible for the safety of the Junior Firefighters.

What skills will the Junior Firefighter learn?

Basic Skills

- **Chain of command** - Juniors will gain knowledge of the command concept utilized in the fire Department and understand the role of the incident command position.
- **Fire Apparatus** - the different types of trucks and their specific functions.
- **Hand tools** – introduction to the unique hand tools used on the fireground (i.e. halligans, axes, mauls, etc.) and procedures for replacing and cleaning after use.
- **Fire prevention and safety** - the importance of exit plans, pre-plans and the common causes and prevention of fires.
- **Firehouse safety** - how to safely mount and dismount apparatus.
- **Portable extinguishers** - inspection, application, and operation of various types of fire extinguishers.
- **Ropes and knots** - Juniors will learn the various knots and procedures used to raise or secure equipment.
- **Fire behavior** - the study and understanding of heat, combustion and fuel. Also, the understanding of how fire and smoke travel through a structure.
- **First aid** - under EMT supervision, Juniors will learn basic first aid, including CPR, use of the AED, and emergency bandaging.
- **Fire ground communications** - proper protocols for use of radios and signals used.
- **Physical fitness & nutrition awareness** – Juniors will learn about the physical demands of the fire service and the importance of eating right and staying physically fit. Demonstrations will be given on exercise techniques for the fire service.

Advanced Skills

- **Ladders** - the ability to use ground ladders safely, including raising, extension, climbing and determining stability.
- **Hydrant operations** - how to safely hook up to a hydrant and get water to a pumper.
- **Hose & nozzle operations** - including stretching, advancing and packing hose lines.
- **Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)** - Juniors will learn about the air packs firefighters wear in smoke filled environments.
- **Search & rescue** - proper use of thermal imaging camera, communications, tools, and hose operations during a search.
- **Forcible entry** - the types of tools used for forcible entry, methods used and when forcible entry is necessary.
- **Ventilation** - vertical, horizontal, hydraulic and mechanical ventilation techniques and tools.
- **Automobile extrication** - stabilization, victim removal and safety concerns.

What types of activities will the Juniors become involved with?

- **Drills** – Hands-on experience with tools and apparatus used in firefighting and rescue.
- **Fundraising** – Juniors will be encouraged to raise funds for program purposes such as field trips, clothing purchases and donations to community causes. Examples include car washes, pancake breakfasts, raffles, etc.
- **Field Trips** – Juniors will have the opportunity to visit FDNY fire houses in New York City, neighboring fire houses and ambulance squads, fire museums on Long Island, in New York City, and other destinations.
- **Leadership Seminars** – Juniors will hear from guest speakers who are leaders in their field. Workshops will be held to train Juniors in the basics of leadership.
- **Team Building** – Juniors will be encouraged to plan and participate in fun team building activities like laser tag, miniature golf, bowling, organized runs (i.e. 5k), etc.
- **Annual Banquet** – Juniors will plan and conduct an annual banquet where Juniors will be recognized for their accomplishments and stand for their annual inspection. This will be open to all family members of Junior Firefighters and program Advisors.
- **Parades** – Juniors will march with the Halesite Fire Department in the annual St. Patrick's Day and Memorial Day parades. They will also be able to ride on fire apparatus during the annual Holiday Parade in Huntington village.
- **Memorial Day Ceremony** – Juniors will be invited to join Halesite firefighters in the annual Memorial Day gravesite visitations where flags are placed at the graves of former members. Also that weekend, Juniors and their parents are invited to join members of the Halesite Fire Department at its annual Memorial Day services and BBQ immediately following the parade in Huntington Village.
- **Blood Drive** – Juniors will be invited to assist the Ladies Auxiliary in the Department's blood drives in January and August of each year.
- **Drill Team** – There is an active Junior Firefighter drill team circuit in the Township including a competition held each year at the Greenlawn Fire Department. Halesite's Juniors are encouraged to field a team and compete.
- **Disaster Drills** – Juniors will be able to assist in Townwide disaster drills serving as victims for Mass Casualty Incident training.
- **Fire Prevention Open House** – Juniors will be able to participate in the Halesite Fire Department's annual Fire Prevention Open House by hosting a Fire Prevention table.
- **Annual Kids Picnic** – Juniors will be able to help organize and run the Department's annual kids picnic for members' children.
- **Holiday Decorations** – Juniors will be able to assist the Department's members in decorating fire headquarters for the holidays.
- **Christmas Tree Sale & Children's Holiday Party** – Juniors will be invited to help sell Christmas trees and participate in the Department's annual Children's Holiday Party in early December.

Frequently asked questions

Are there any fees the Junior firefighter has to pay?

No. There are no fees to be a Junior Firefighter. In fact, Junior Firefighters are eligible to apply for certain fire-service related academic scholarships.

Will the Junior Firefighters be able to ride the fire trucks or ambulances to real emergencies?

Absolutely NOT. The only time Junior Firefighters will be permitted to board a truck or ambulance is during training exercises or during parades. Seat belts must be worn at all times. In addition, Juniors are specifically prohibited from responding to fire or rescue alarms.

Will the Junior Firefighters have uniforms?

Yes. Once Junior firefighters satisfy their basic training, meeting attendance and grade average requirements, they will receive shirts, pants, badges, and ties for use at organized functions and parades. They will also be issued bunker gear (protective firefighting gear) to be used during training exercises, and to be stored on racks designated for Juniors at the firehouse.

What sort of time commitment is involved? How often do they meet?

Junior firefighters will be expected to attend one meeting each month (at 7:00 P.M. on the second Monday of each month) and one training drill each month. Beyond that, there may be field trips or organized events they are invited to attend. Each meeting will be approximately 1 – 1.5 hours in duration.

Will the Juniors always be under adult supervision?

Yes. At least two adult Advisors, who are members of the Halesite Fire Department, will be at all Junior Firefighter activities. In fact, Junior Firefighters are not permitted in the fire house unless they are attending an organized function. They may not “hang out” at the fire house.

Will Junior Firefighters automatically become members of the Halesite Fire Department when they turn 18?

No. There is a separate application process a Junior Firefighter will have to go through in order to become a member of the Halesite Fire Department.

Does my child have to join the Halesite Fire Department after they finish the Junior Program?

No. There is no obligation to join the Halesite Fire Department after completing Halesite's Junior Firefighter Program. That said, Junior firefighters will be encouraged to be involved with community service throughout their lives.

Will my child be covered by insurance?

Yes. All Juniors will be covered under the insurance policy of the Halesite Fire District.

How will you communicate with my child? How will I know what's going on?

Halesite's Junior Firefighter Advisors will communicate directly with all parents about any activity taking place with the program. Additionally, to foster leadership and communication skills, the Officers of Halesite's Juniors will take the lead in communicating with the membership. This may take the form of e-mail and/or text message.

How does my child apply for membership in the Juniors Program?

An application can be downloaded from the Halesite Fire Department's website at www.halesitefd.org under the menu labeled "Juniors".

Where can I go for more information about the Juniors Program?

Please visit www.halesitefd.org for more information about the Juniors Program. Click on the menu labeled "Juniors". You can e-mail the Juniors Advisors at Juniors@halesitefd.org or you can leave a message for the program coordinator by calling the Halesite Fire Department at 631-427-1910.