



Spanish Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program

The Spanish Fire Department wishes to establish a Junior Firefighter Program. The program is being established as a training program for young men and women aged 13, or enrolled in grade 8 to 17, interested in serving their community and preparing themselves to become active Volunteer Firefighters upon reaching the age of 18.

At age 18, the Junior Firefighter is eligible to apply to join as a volunteer recruit firefighter. As a Junior Firefighter, members do not respond to any actual emergencies but may serve in a supportive role for Volunteer Firefighters after emergency calls at the fire station and as a supplement to a formal training program and assist at community events.

The Spanish Fire Department Fire Chief shall be the primary contact for the Junior Firefighter, and shall serve as the Junior Firefighter training officer.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Any resident of the Town of Spanish, or non-resident as otherwise recommended by the Fire Chief, between the ages of 13 or enrolled in grade 8 – 17, may make application for membership to the Spanish Fire Department as a Junior Firefighter.
2. The applicant must be in good academic standing with his/her school at the time of application and during the period of membership.
3. The applicant must complete a Junior Firefighter application in its entirety, including the Agreement, Waiver and Release form that must be signed by a parent or legal guardian if under the age of 16 years.

GENERAL RULES

1. The general standard of conduct is to act in the manner of a professional. Junior Firefighters represent the SFD, and are expected to be courteous and respectful to fellow firefighters and emergency service personal and all citizens served. The SFD will not tolerate vulgar, offensive, discriminatory or threatening language or gestures at any time. Junior Firefighters may not wear any article of clothing that, in the opinion of the Fire Chief, would be offensive to the public served. Violations will result in disciplinary action, and may include suspension.
2. The SFD maintains a "Zero Tolerance" policy with respect to drug and alcohol use and violation of public laws. Any possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs, or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time while involved in SFD activities, on SFD property or in apparatus will result in immediate and permanent suspension from the SFD Junior Firefighter Program.
3. Junior Firefighters may not use or display emergency identification on their personal vehicle (e.g., green lights and fire department plates). Junior Firefighters may not wear clothing identifying them as a SFD firefighter, except assigned protective gear, uniforms or logo shirts/hats worn for official purposes only or as approved by the Fire Chief. Junior Firefighters will not be issued identification cards or badges.
4. Junior Firefighters may not enter a SFD fire station unless a senior member of the department is present, and then only for official business (training drill, department meeting or work detail). Junior Firefighters will not be given building keys or door lock combinations. Junior Firefighters may not bring friends into a fire station or permit them to be aboard fire apparatus.
5. Junior Firefighters must leave the station no more than 30 minutes following completion of the training session, department meeting, work detail or community event.
6. Junior Firefighters are not permitted to attend SFD activities, training sessions, meetings, or work details no later than 10:00 PM unless specifically authorized by the Fire Chief and the parents or guardian of the Junior Firefighter.
7. Junior Firefighters may not borrow SFD equipment for personal use.
8. Junior Firefighters may not operate SFD vehicles.
9. Power tools, hydraulic and pressurized air operated equipment, and cutting devices such as chain saws/roof saws, air bags and Hurst Tools are to be operated only under the direct supervision of a trained fire officer. Power tool use is for training purposes only. All required protective gear must be worn by the Junior Firefighter when operating any power tool, hydraulic or pressurized air operated equipment, or cutting devices.
10. Junior Firefighters may climb SFD ground ladders for training purposes only. Any ladder use must be under the direct supervision of a SFD fire officer or his/her designee.
11. Junior Firefighters are not to participate in any SFD activity during school hours. Junior Firefighters are not to leave school, or a school sponsored activity, for any SFD activity.

12. Junior Firefighters do not respond to emergency calls.
13. Junior Firefighters attending high school may collect the 40 volunteer hours that they need to graduate high school through the Junior Firefighter Program.
14. Junior Firefighters are responsible for the care of any SFD gear issued to them.
15. Junior Firefighters may not fill SCBA air bottles, and are to remain clear of the filling area when air bottles are being filled.
16. Junior Firefighters must report any injury to a SFD fire officer or safety officer.
17. No Junior Firefighter may accept monetary payment or gifts for services rendered as a firefighter. Any citizen offering payment of any kind should be advised that payment for firefighting services is not expected. Those individuals seeking to make a contribution should be advised to contact the Fire Chief of the department to make a voluntary contribution to SFD.