



# Juniors and Cadets

**The Reality:** Teens ages 14-18 are making important decisions about the careers they are interested in and how they can give back to their communities. One great way to learn more about a career is to volunteer and gain first-hand experience. Until age 17, Junior and Cadet members are limited in their exposure to actual incidents. However, youth ages 17 and up may be responding members of their companies.

**Commitment:** Junior and Cadet members should be committed to participating in every aspect of the fire and rescue company. They should attend appropriate classes and trainings and company meetings. They should help with the fundraising activities. These experiences will prepare them for choosing their future as dedicated staff, volunteer responders or associate members.

**Training:** Junior and Cadet members should make the most of their time in the fire station and learn at every opportunity. There are free online trainings through the FEMA website for Incident Management, and in-person CPR and other trainings through Warren County Fire and Rescue. At age 16, members may enroll in the EMT Academy and at age 17, members may participate in the Fire Academy. The academies are grueling, but the disciplined Junior members may achieve success when they work hard and ask questions.

**Work Ethic:** Junior and Cadet members should work hard to ensure their grades in school are kept up while they take part in company activities. They must be concerned about, and work hard to ensure, their safety and the safety of other members. They also should demonstrate the resolve to improve and maintain the professional appearance and efficiency of the company.

**Judgment:** Junior and Cadet members must be willing and able to receive instruction and direction from company leadership. They must demonstrate reasonable decision-making skills, making safety their top priority. Junior and Cadet members are tasked with thinking through challenges logically and should seek to address problems proactively.

**Teamwork:** Junior and Cadet members put the overall mission of their company ahead of personal interests and strive to work well with others. They demonstrate their support for fellow volunteers and dedicated staff by acting respectfully when differences of opinion occur.

**Communication:** Effective Junior and Cadet members recognize that tone of voice, body language, and written communication affect individuals differently. Therefore, they speak and write in clear, concise ways, remaining positive.

**Empathy:** Junior and Cadet members must respond to others appropriately, and respectfully, and attempt to be helpful. They must demonstrate compassion for others in the company and those they serve within the community.

**Concern for the Community:** Junior and Cadet members serve others by using their interests and talents to support all of the first responders who serve their community. The desire to protect and rescue those experiencing an emergency are crucial to top performance. They must show sensitivity to every citizen in need.