Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department, Station 35

5200 Southwestern Boulevard, Arbutus, MD 21227 Phone: (410) 887 – 1471 Emergency: 911

Application for Regular Membership

Rules for Members of the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department Between the Age of 16 and 18

Membership in a volunteer fire department requires a tremendous commitment of responsibility, maturity, time, and effort. While the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department welcomes members aged 16 to 18 years of age, we believe it is vital that the duties of this volunteer service do not interfere with this critical stage of development. Therefore, these rules have been established for the well-being of all members in this age group.

1. The applicant must provide the Captain with a copy of their most recently issued report card from the school where they are currently enrolled. The applicant must have a "C" average or better in all subjects to be eligible for probationary membership. Should an applicant not be presently enrolled in a daily school program, they must possess an official high school diploma (e.g., graduated "early"), or they must possess an official GED, or they must be enrolled in a certified GED program. If they are enrolled in a GED program, the instructor of the program must provide a signed and dated letter advising that the student is maintaining a satisfactory progress level. If home-schooled, adequate quarterly progress and activity must be maintained to an acceptable degree to be determined by the captain and the parent/guardian/instructor.
   All probationary members enrolled in school must present a copy of each quarterly report card they receive to the Captain within five (5) days after receiving it from school. Students who are enrolled in a GED program must present either a report card or a signed and dated letter from the instructor each quarter indicating satisfactory progress. Failure to maintain a "C" average or satisfactory performance level in school, home-school, or a GED program shall result in immediate suspension from all activity related to the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department. If this happens, the probationary member shall not be permitted on the property, nor may they participate in any activities related to the department without expressed permission of the Captain or President. This suspension will remain until the student again achieves at least a "C" average and his/her parents or legal guardians agree that fire department activities may resume.
   These regulations also apply to summer school, evening school, and alternative school programs.
2. All probationary members under the age of 18 shall leave the fire department premises before 10:00 pm (2200 hours) on any evening school is scheduled for the following day. In general, this involves Sunday night through Thursday night. In addition, all probationary members under the age of 18 shall provide the captain a copy of their class schedule at the beginning of each semester. Probationary members under the age of 18 may not be present on the property during times when they are scheduled for classes, study periods, work/study periods, or school lunch periods.
3. When school is not scheduled the next day, probationary members under the age of 18 may remain until 11:00 pm (2300 hours), unless permission to spend the night is granted (see below).
4. Probationary members under the age of 18 may only spend duty nights at the department if they fulfill all the following: A.) they have permission from the Captain, B.) they have permission from their parent/legal guardian, and C.) they are cleared to ride an ambulance, engine, or rescue squad in at least TRAINEE capacity.
5. During the summer when regular school is not in session, probationary members under the age of 18 may spend a maximum of two (2) duty nights per week if they meet all requirements of Rule #4.
6. At least one (1) parent or legal guardian shall join applicants under the age of 18 for their interview with the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee may require additional meetings with applicants under the age of 18 and their parents/legal guardians in addition to the standard interview.
7. The probationary period for members under the age of 18 lasts from the time they are approved for probationary status by the membership until either A.) they reach the age of 18, or B.) a 365-day period has elapsed. The longer of these two conditions shall apply, after which the member shall be eligible for vote for regular membership at the next regular business meeting.

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Agreement for Applicants and Members of the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department Who Are Between the Ages of 16 and 18

I understand that I am undertaking a large commitment of responsibility, maturity, and public trust. I understand that my commitment to the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department is second to my commitment to success in my education and my responsibilities to my parent/s or legal guardian/s. I understand that to continue activities at the fire department, I must succeed in my education.

I understand that there are risks associated with emergency service, including such potential exposure to environments containing immediate dangers to life and health (e.g., fire, hazardous materials, and body substances), encountering persons who are traumatically injured or deceased, and the emotional stress that is a natural result of these situations. I promise to talk to my parents/guardians and my officers about anything of this nature that is troubling to me.

I understand that I must comply with all rules and regulations of the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department, including the abovementioned rules applying to members under the age of 18. I understand that to remain a member during my probationary period, I must comply with all rules. I understand that if I violate any rule, I may be suspended from the premises and all activities, or my membership may be terminated.

_____	_____	_____
Applicant's Name (Print)	Applicant Signature	Date

Agreement for Parent/s or Legal Guardian/s of Applicants and Members of the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department Who Are Between the Ages of 16 and 18

I understand all the rules and regulations governing the probationary membership regarding the applicant for which I am responsible. I understand that to continue membership, the applicant must comply with all rules of the department, as well as all rules pertaining to members under the age of 18. I further understand the risks, and the graphic and emotional situations to which the applicant may be exposed.

I authorize my child/legal ward to pursue membership with the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department of Baltimore County, Maryland, which may include training and response to emergency calls when sufficient training is complete.

I agree to hold harmless the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department of Baltimore County, Maryland, and all its Officers and Members for any injuries and/or damages, both physical and mental, sustained by my child/legal ward in the course of training, emergency response, or other activities related to or sponsored by the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department.

_____	_____	_____
Parent/Legal Guardian of above (Print)	Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian	Date
_____	_____	_____
Membership Committee witness (Print)	Signature of Membership Committee	Date