

West Wildwood Fire Department Junior Firefighter Constitution and By-Laws

Article I Name

This is a youth organization and shall be called The West Wildwood Fire Department Junior Firefighters.

Article II Purpose

The purpose of The West Wildwood Fire Department Junior Firefighters will be to train its members for future admission into the West Wildwood Fire Department when all requirements are met.

Article III Membership

3.1 Applicants will be able-bodied male or female residents of the island, between the ages of 14 and 17 years and have three (3) adult references.

3.2 The procedures for joining the junior membership shall be as follows:

- A. Applicants will receive an application and a parent release form from the chief's office and will return it back to the chief's office.
- B. If applicant is approved by the chief's office, he/she shall become a probationary member for a period of three (3) months during which time he/she must keep 60% of all junior activities.
- C. If in the final decision on the application be rejected, the applicant shall be notified in writing and an explanation shall be attached.

3.3 At the end of his/her probationary period, the chief's office shall review the progress of the member. If such progress is deemed satisfactory, he/she shall continue junior membership. If same progress were deemed unsatisfactory, the applicant shall be ordered to show cause why he/she should not be released from the junior membership. If his/her cause is deemed reasonable, he/she shall be instructed to upgrade his/her progress within an extra three (3) months probationary period. Should the excuse of the junior member be found unsatisfactory, he/she shall be released from the junior membership with written explanation.

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3.4 Any probationary member or regular junior member may at any time when due cause is found and after proper procedure is followed, may be suspended or expelled from the junior membership.

3.5 When a vacancy appears in the junior membership, applicants will be considered by order of date in which applications were filled.

3.6 The membership of the West Wildwood Fire Department Junior Firefighters membership shall not exceed six (6) members.

Article IV Property

4.1 All property of The West Wildwood Fire Department shall be used only as authorized by the chief's office.

4.2 All equipment issued to a junior member must be returned upon termination of membership.

4.3 It shall be the responsibility of each junior member to maintain all equipment issued to him/her.

Article V Duties and Responsibilities

5.1 Each member will be expected to cooperate with fellow junior members, fire department personnel, and fire department officers.

5.2 Each member will be responsible for the equipment assigned to them, and to keep it in top condition at all times.

5.3 All junior members are to strive to keep the fire department in high regard and be dedicated to helping others at all times.

5.4 Each junior member shall be expected to place school work above junior activities.

5.5 It must be understood that the junior member shall place home and school life before firehouse activities.

5.6 In order to remain a junior member, a minimum of 60% of all fire and drills must be kept.

Article VI Junior Rules

6.1 No member shall follow the trucks(s) or any other fire department member's cars to or from alarms. This creates a hazard at the scene for both apparatus and members.

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6.2 Any junior member caught bringing alcohol beverages or drugs into the firehouse will be expelled from the junior membership immediately and will not be re-admitted.

6.3 Any junior member using or passing drugs or any other illegal substance will be expelled from the junior membership and reported to the police department for legal action.

6.4 Obscene books or pictures will not be permitted in the firehouse. Profanity must be avoided at all times.

6.5 Non- members (visitors) shall be permitted in the firehouse only with a member of the department, this does not include juniors.

6.6 Members shall be neat and presentable at all times when representing the West Wildwood Fire Department. His/her conduct at these times must be befitting a firefighter; any action or speech to the contrary will be grounds for disciplinary action.

6.7 When members use these facilities, they shall leave them in better condition than they found them.

6.8 Fire department business of any nature is strictly confidential. No junior member shall repeat anything he/she hears from department personnel. No member shall start or carry rumors or anything he/she is not totally sure of any other junior member, firefighter, or department officer. No junior member shall repeat anything he/she hears from any fire department personnel. In short, "what is said here stays here".

6.9 Fire department business is just that, fire department business. No junior member shall have the right to voice opinions there of, criticize, or take action on such. The junior member will be informed of department activities when and only when it is deemed proper by a department officer.

6.10 No horseplay whatsoever shall be tolerated at any time.

6.11 From time to time, events of special or unusual nature will require permission slips. At such times, permission slips will be distributed and must be signed by a parent or guardian before the member can participate.

6.12 All junior members will be required to vacate the firehouse at such time as deemed so by the firefighters.

6.13 All junior members will be expected to do his/her part in maintaining fire department equipment, under guidance by firefighters and/or the fire officers.

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6.14 Any member failing to adhere to junior regulations, or failing to meet junior standards, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

6.15 Junior members will come to the chief's office with any problem or questions.

6.16 At no time will any junior member enter the firehouse without a regular member of the department present.

6.17 At no time shall a junior member tell his/her parents that he/she is going to the firehouse and then go elsewhere without parental permission.

6.18 All members must come to the firehouse first to get their gear in the event of a fire and must wear their full turnout gear.

6.19 If at the station when a call comes in, you may ride in Engine 2138 if that truck is not full of firefighters and in any other of the apparatus there after if first out piece is full of firefighters.

6.20 At a fire scene, the junior member must stay at the first arriving apparatus or Command 2111 and not fight any fires.

6.21 If any junior member is not doing well in school, your junior activities with the fire department may be limited or even suspended by orders from the chief's office.

6.22 Upon receiving your driver's license, you cannot use any type of emergency lighting on your vehicle; this also includes utilizing your headlights, horn or four ways when coming to the firehouse.

6.23 At the age of 18, the junior member must fill out a regular application and get a physical as if you were a new member. Upon completion, you will be placed ahead of any other applicants.

6.24 Junior firefighters cannot fight fire or operate any kind of machinery.

6.25 You can respond to fires on school days from the time you get out until 10:00 P.M. If you fail to go to school, you are prohibited to come to the firehouse. During summer vacations and the times you are off from school including weekends and holidays you can respond at anytime with approval of your parents.

Article VII Discipline, Resignations, Charges, and Expulsions

7.1 Disciplinary action against a member will take place as follows:

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- A.** The member or firefighter bringing the charge(s) must sign a report in writing
- B.** This report must be submitted to the Chief's office. The recommendation will be discussed among the Chief's office and a mutual agreement will be made.
- C.** The junior member is to be notified in writing of the charges being brought against him/her.
- D.** The Chief's office reserves the right to expel the member.

7.2 Reasons for disciplinary action can be as follows:

- A.** Failure to obey the rules and regulations of the junior membership and fire department.
- B.** Destruction or misuse of fire department property, building, or equipment.
- C.** Telling your parents you are coming to the firehouse and then being elsewhere.
- D.** Use of profane language.
- E.** Arrest for crime.
- F.** Failure to show respect to the authority of the fire department officers, or members.
- G.** Failure to attend at least 60% of the department drills, training sessions, etc. without valid excuse.
- H.** Horseplay in or around the firehouse.
- I.** For other reasons stated or implied in this constitution and by-laws.

7.3 Should a member be expelled from the junior membership, he/she would be denied re-admission.

7.4 Should any junior member receive serious disciplinary action more than twice in any twelve month period, he/she shall automatically be expelled from the fire department.

7.5 Verbal reprimands shall not be considered as disciplinary actions with reference to 7.4.

7.6 A member may not bring formal charges against a firefighter but shall have the right to discuss any problems with the Chief's office. The Chief's office shall then decide if he/she wishes to speak with that firefighter involved or take any other action.

7.7 Any member wishing to resign shall submit notice of his/her intention in writing to the Chief's office.

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7.8 Any member wishing to take a leave of absence must state his/her intention in writing to the Chief's office.

Article VIII Penalties

8.1 For gross misconduct, E.G. drugs, crime, or creating extreme hazard to health and safety of people encountered by the member; **immediate expulsion**.

8.2 For minor misconduct, the Chief's office will meet as outlined in 7.1 and decide on a specific penalty

8.3 Once a precedent is made, I.E. once the Chief's office decide on a certain penalty for a certain act of misconduct, the penalty and punishment shall be recorded and used as a guide for similar situations that may arise in the future.

8.4 He/she shall be subjected to expulsion if he/she were found violating suspension.

Article IX Amendments to the By-Laws.

9.1 No amendment to the by-laws can be made without the approval of the Chief's office in writing.

9.2 Each amendment change must be done in writing and given to the Chief's office for further review.

9.3 Any new amendment added or changed must be attached to the original copy of the by-laws.

9.4 It shall be part of the junior member's equipment that a copy of the by-laws be included.

9.5 No part of this article shall be constructed to limit the power of the Chief's office in his/her right to change, add, or formulate new rules.

9.6 Interpretation of these Constitution and By-Laws shall be left to the Chief's office.

West Wildwood Fire Department Junior Firefighter Parent/Guardian Consent Form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hereby give my consent and permission for my son / daughter to become a member of the Junior Firefighter program of the West Wildwood Fire Department.

I hereby release West Wildwood Fire Department, and all of its officers, members, agents, or employees and the corporation itself from any liability in case of injury or harm occurring in any manner whatsoever to my son / daughter as a result of participation in the junior firefighter program.

I am willing for my child(ren) to be involved in the program knowing that if any injury or harm of any type whatsoever arises from his/her participation, that the West Wildwood Fire Department, and its officers, members, agents, or employees and the corporation itself, will not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

The borough of West Wildwood will provide medical coverage. This coverage is limited to health care policy, medical expense portion of the coverage and accidental death and dismemberment coverage allowed by the policy.

Parent/Guardian _____
Print Name

Signature

Address (City, State, and Zip)

Phone Number(s)