REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Riverdale Fire Department is open to persons who are at least 16 years of age and desiring to serve the citizens of Riverdale Park and the surrounding communities in the capacity of a firefighter or emergency medical technician. There are also positions available that do not require riding emergency apparatus or interaction with the public (such as administrative support). Whether you are new to the area (i.e.: new homeowners, college students) or a life-long Riverdale Park resident, we are sure there is a place for you in our department.

Applications are available from the station and the approval process includes a criminal background check which typically takes between 2 to 4 weeks. During this period, prospective members are encouraged to participate in other department activities and introduce themselves to the members they may meet. Once the background investigation has been completed, you are required to take a medical physical (free of charge) to determine your fitness for the duties that await you.

Upon successful completion of the physical, operational members are required to complete training provided by the Prince George's County Fire Department, Maryland Fire and Rescue and Institute and other training agencies. Training includes Volunteer Recruit School (VRS), Firefighter I and Emegency Medical Technician courses at a minimum.

While we do not require our members to commit to a "duty night", participation between the hours from 7-11 p.m. weekdays, an occasional weekend, and a sleep-in once or twice a month is appreciated.

There are many opportunities for advancement and responsibility in the department, all it takes is determination and dedication.

Addidtional benefits of becoming a member of the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department include:

- Free training -- firefighter, EMT, and other related courses.
- TAX BREAK -- $3,500 income credit for Maryland residents.
- LOSAP -- Volunteer Retirement Program funded by the State of Maryland.
- LIVE-IN PROGRAM -- Semi-Private dormatory housing (almost everything, except board).

- Uniforms and Personal Protective Gear provided at no cost.
- PRIDE in yourself, COMRADERIE with your fellow firefighters, DEDICATION to the citizens we serve, RESPECT from all
- Many other benefits....just ask any of our members!

If you are a hard worker, willing to serve your fellow citizens, and love to run fire/medical calls (1000 + a year), then we may have a place for you.