



**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

NUMBER

136.00

SUBJECT

Fire Cadets

EFF. DATE

05/20/16

Fire Cadets Ride Along Program

AUTHORIZATION

Jerome Gaines, Fire Chief

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the Tallahassee Fire Cadets along with the members of the Fire Department to allow Cadets to ride along with the Tallahassee Fire Department.

**POLICY:** This Department encourages Fire Cadets to familiarize themselves with the facilities, equipment and operations of the Tallahassee Fire Department. This is accomplished by touring station facilities and participating in the department's Fire Cadet Ride- Along Program.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Fire Cadets MUST be with the Tallahassee Fire Department Cadet Program Post 911. Cadets from other departments will not be allowed to ride. Cadets must adhere to the application and screening process outlined in Tallahassee Fire Department, SOP 126.00 – Ride Along Program.

1. A Cadet, who is the subject of an active criminal investigation or prosecution, or Convicted of a felony, shall not be permitted to participate in the program.
2. The Fire Chief, whose decision is final, will evaluate a Cadet for participation in the Program who has a prior arrest history for a misdemeanor.

Law prohibits denial of the privilege to participate in the program on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy, sexual Orientation and gender identity, or any characteristic protected by law. The Department retains the right to deny participation to any citizen for the reasons specified herein and to disclose only such information as may be required by law.

3. Fire Cadets will be scheduled only at Stations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 16 between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. Fire Cadets that have a parent or guardian that is actively employed with the Tallahassee Fire Department can schedule to ride for a 24 hour shift while the parent or guardian is on duty. This will be limited to one 24 hour shift per Quarter. If unable to participate on these days due to work commitment, exceptions will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.



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4. The on-duty Battalion Chief may, at his/her discretion, suspend a scheduled ride-along due to operational circumstances, i.e., riots, storms, disasters, etc.

**Fire Cadet Participant Responsibilities:**

1. Cadets will be responsible to report to the Captain or officer in charge upon arrival.
2. Cadets will be in proper / full uniform with proper gear and equipment.
3. Cadets will have a neat and clean appearance.
4. Cadets will help with all chores, cleaning of vehicles, daily truck checks and station duties.
5. Cadets will be under the direct supervision of the station Captain.
6. Cadets will adhere to and abide by the Tallahassee Fire-Rescue Services Rules and Regulations.
7. Cadets will be assigned to a specific person or persons per the station Captain.

**When operating on scene or at the station:**

1. Cadets will help with all chores, cleaning of vehicles, daily truck checks and station duties.
2. Cadets will not drive, move or park any fire department apparatus or vehicle.
3. Cadets will not climb aerial apparatus on the fire ground.
4. Cadets will not climb ground ladders on the fire ground.
5. Cadets will not enter a burning structure.
6. Cadets will not enter any structure that is not deemed safe by the officer in charge.
7. Cadets will not enter any area that requires SCBA.
8. Cadets will not operate any powered, hand, or cutting tools on fire ground.
9. Cadets will not operate a stretcher while a patient is on board.
10. Cadets will not handle any BIO-HAZARDS, contaminated articles, including, clothing, trash, clean up material or medical "sharps".
11. Cadets will not be permitted to clean or disinfect any equipment or vehicle for the purpose decontamination.
12. Cadets will not respond to any emergency in a private vehicle.



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13. Cadets will not respond to any emergency from their home, school, or place of employment.
14. Cadets will remain at their assigned vehicle unless otherwise instructed by the station Captain or officer in charge.
15. Cadets will be permitted to assist in carrying equipment, pushing a stretcher without a patient onboard, and observing on medical calls.
16. Cadets will be permitted to help move, roll or carry hose, carry, break down, deliver or return equipment to the staging area or to proper vehicles, and will assist the driver in putting the vehicle back in service.

**No Cadet will be permitted to report to or visit a fire station or ride on any fire or emergency apparatus when the cadet is scheduled to be in school.**