



WAYNESBORO FIRST AID CREW, INC.

A Volunteer Organization Operated on Donations
Organized 1951

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Prospective Member Packet

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Welcome

Volunteering with a rescue squad is both a challenging and rewarding activity. Many consider the training hard, hours long, and work difficult. Nonetheless volunteering is a rewarding activity; the service we provide impacts the lives of our community in a positive way, often being the difference between life and death.

“Family” is often a word used to describe the camaraderie felt between Crewmembers. Unlike other community service, Crewmembers live and work together for long periods of time. This close association, along with the need to trust each other in life-threatening situations, builds friendships that last a lifetime.

Our rescue squad continues to earn the trust and respect of the public by being a proactive, innovative, aggressive, and team-oriented organization that keeps the best interests of the community as our mission. We do more than help with medical emergencies: we provide blood pressure checks, assistance to senior citizens, and teach classes in CPR. We help teach schoolchildren the proper actions for an emergency.

Throughout all we do we are guided by a few core principles. Compassion, respect, commitment, courage, integrity, diversity, and accountability help instill pride and self-esteem in our volunteers. Our volunteers do more than respond to emergencies; we form lasting bonds within our community and our family.

Membership Requirements

The Crew has different levels of membership. Each level has different commitments associated with it.

Senior Crew – at least 21 years of age

- Twelve hours a week duty commitment.
- Attend or be excused from all drills (first Thursday of every month at 1900 hours).
- Attend or be excused from all meetings (third Wednesday of every month at 1900 hours).

Associate Crew – at least 21 years of age

- Twelve hours a month duty commitment.
- Attend at least four drills a year (first Thursday of every month at 1900 hours).

Junior Crew – under 21 years of age

- Twenty-four hours a month duty commitment while in school, twelve hours a week duty commitment out of school.
- Attend or be excused from all drills (first Thursday of every month at 1900 hours).
- Attend or be excused from all meetings (second Tuesday of every month at 1930 hours).
- Be certified as (or enrolled in a course for certification as) an EMT-B or First Responder within one year of joining.

Application Process

The entire application process should take about a month to complete. Before becoming a member you are required to observe at least twenty-four (24) hours.

- Submit application
- Observe at least twenty-four hours
- Pass drug test*
- Pass criminal history record check*
- Be voted into probationary membership status

* Under certain circumstances you may be able to be voted in pending a satisfactory drug test and criminal record check.

The probationary membership period lasts for about six months during which time you are expected to familiarize yourself with our units and operations. Before becoming an active member you must successfully pass a three-month test on the location of equipment on the ambulances and a six-month test on equipment usage and operational procedures.

Once you become a probationary member you will be issued white coveralls and a jacket. After you become an active member you will be issued navy pants, the gray uniform shirt and a crew jacket. If you become certified as an extricator you will also be issued a pair of extrication coveralls and gloves. All uniforms are provided at no expense.

Observing

EMS is an exciting and challenging field. The stresses and rewards of emergency work are unique from other types of public service. Because of this, we feel that observing is an important step in deciding if EMS is right for you. You are required to observe at least twenty-four hours within a sixty-day period prior to joining.

Observation times must be scheduled in advance through the Membership Committee. Information on contacting the Committee is in the front of the membership packet. Before coming to observe, please make sure that you are prepared. Observers must be clean and neat in appearance. In addition, sandals or open-faced shoes are a safety hazard and may not be worn on calls. Observers not meeting these requirements will be asked to leave and may return after they meet these requirements. Observers will be supplied with appropriate identification to wear on calls.

Observers may assist on calls to the extent of their training. Under no circumstances will observers perform invasive care or treatments or drive Crew vehicles. Students precepting for classes or for release as an attendant will have priority in running calls over observers. At no time will observers and students precepting run on the same unit. Students precepting who are also interested in joining may accrue precepting time and observer time simultaneously with approval.

Other rules to keep in consideration:

- All observers must be at least sixteen years of age. Observers under the age of eighteen must have a parent or legal guardian sign the release form.
- Observers under the age of eighteen who are still enrolled in school must leave Crew premises by 2200 hours on nights prior to a scheduled school day.
- Previous members are not allowed to ride as observers.
- Observers are under the direction of the squad leader or

Training

All Crew training is provided at no expense to you. A variety of training opportunities are available to members. Most important is CPR, which is a requirement for all levels of membership. As an EMS agency, the Crew requires that you maintain certification in CPR at the healthcare provider level – known as BLS for Healthcare Professionals by the American Heart Association or CPR for Professional Rescuers by the Red Cross.

Other opportunities include training as an Emergency Medical Technician or EMT. The EMT class is a 110-hour class that culminates in a state test for certification as an EMT-B. EMT-B's can practice as attendants in the ambulance and administer oxygen and limited other medications. The EMT-B level is the starting point for advancement to advanced life support certifications.

The Crew also has advanced life support providers – EMT-E's, EMT-I's, and paramedics, who can administer more medications and diagnose three-lead EKG's in the field. Training classes for EMT-E and EMT-I are periodically offered in the area.

EVOC, the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, is a recommended course for all Crewmembers over the age of 18. All vehicles at the Crew require Class II EVOC to operate, except for Squad 2, which requires Class III EVOC.

As an added incentive for training, the Crew Dollars program keeps track of how many hours each Crewmember has trained and turns those hours into money. Crewmembers may purchase medical or rescue supplies from a variety of catalogs through the Crew Dollars program. All classes except for EVOC, EMT-B, and CPR accrue Crew Dollars at the rate of one dollar for every hour spent training.

Other training is available in areas such as rope rescue, vehicle extrication, cave rescue, water rescue, and confined space rescue.