



Maintaining a Program



As your junior firefighter program continues to grow, it is important to keep youth members active and interested in the program. This document offers some ways you can maintain or expand your existing program through increased activity offerings and youth leadership roles within the program.

Offering an increased number and variety of activities to your youth members will help to maintain their enthusiasm, ensure they feel connected to your organization and allow them to learn valuable information that can assist them in preparing for a future in the fire and emergency services.

- ▶ *Competitions – You can create your own competition by dividing your youth into teams to compete against each other in different categories. If other departments in your area have junior firefighter programs, they may be interested in joining in the competition as well. Some ideas for events include:*
 - ▶ *Dragging a hose a set distance*
 - ▶ *Using a stream of water to knock down objects/targets*
 - ▶ *Blindfolding team members and requiring them to work together to find an “object” and drag it back to their starting point.*
 - ▶ *Tying specific knots*
- ▶ *Conferences/Trade Shows – These may be a good opportunity to send your junior firefighters with department members or other adult supervisors to learn more about the fire and emergency services. Consider taking all your youth members on a field trip to a trade show. The equipment, trucks and energy at the show may inspire many of the youth.*
- ▶ *Fire Museum Tours – You may want to schedule a special trip for your junior firefighters once a year. Fire museums provide a close look at how firefighting equipment and techniques have evolved over the years. Visit the Fire Fighters Museum of Winnipeg website www.winnipegfiremuseum.ca .*
- ▶ *Training Facility/College Tours – If your department has youth members who are high school students, consider scheduling a visit to the Manitoba Emergency Services College for a tour. Depending on the time of year, your junior firefighters may be able to sit in on a class with the Public Fire Paramedic Program students. Visit the MESCC website www.firemedic.ca . Parents may also want to accompany them on the visit, which would assist with supervision.*
- ▶ *Fundraisers – Your youth can help raise money for the program if your department does not have the resources to support the activities junior firefighter program. They may surprise you with the number of fundraising ideas that they can generate. There were some fundraising ideas listed in the Activities document.*
[insert website link]



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- ▶ *Scholarships – There may be scholarship opportunities available to your junior firefighters. Although the requirements for the scholarships vary, many are intended for students who are pursuing or will pursue training in fire protection, fire safety or emergency services or for youth who participate in community service activities. Visit www.manitobascholarships.ca for more information.*
- ▶ *Leadership Roles – You can create leadership roles within the youth program to encourage your junior firefighters to remain active in the program. You can have a chief, deputy chief, captain, lieutenant, etc. These positions can be determined yearly by level or participation, experience, or by vote of their peers. Establish a list of duties for each position and, if possible, a badge or some special indicator of the position held.*
- ▶ *Skills Training – You can offer some training programs that can assist them in preparing for their future. Some ideas for skills training include:*
 - ▶ *First Aid/CPR/AED Training*
 - ▶ *Pleasure Craft Operator's Card (Boat Operator's Licence)*
 - ▶ *Swimming Instructor Certification*
 - ▶ *Babysitter Instructor Certification*
 - ▶ *Amateur Radio Operator Certification*
 - ▶ *Forklift Operator Certification*
 - ▶ *Skidsteer Operator Certification*
 - ▶ *Manitoba Health Certified Food Handler*
 - ▶ *Air Brake Endorsement for Driver's Licence*
 - ▶ *MESC Basic Firefighting [\[insert link to document\]](#)*