



ACTIVITIES



The types of activities you may want to consider for your program's participants as well as related concerns to keep in mind were previously discussed in the Handbook. Activities will vary from program to program and will be affected by things like participant age and skill level, liability concerns and the department's needs. Regardless of the activity list you create for your youth members, you should schedule regular events with your participants to keep them active and engaged in the program. While activities should take place throughout the month, you should also hold program meetings at least once a month as well as find ways to reward or recognize youth members for their participation in program activities.

Departments should schedule a regular monthly meeting for youth program participants. These meetings can be strictly informational or may include basic training coursework for participants, a fixed activity, or something that relates to your organization and its youth participants.

It is also a good idea to conduct, monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly orientation events specifically for new or potential members of your program. These events should allow interested youth and their parents/guardian to tour your facility, learn about the program and the expectations for youth members, and complete all paperwork for joining the program.

Offering incentives or rewards to your youth members is a great way to keep them interested and motivated, as well as to recognize their hard work. Here are some example incentives that you could provide:

- ▶ *Provide youth members with a basic uniform or unique t-shirt*
- ▶ *Create a points system based on hours of participation or projects completed, with special rewards when reaching certain benchmarks.*
- ▶ *Create special awards such as Junior Firefighter of the Year or periodic achievement awards.*
- ▶ *For recruiting purposes, consider special recognition for participants who bring in the most new or potential recruits.*
- ▶ *Recognize the success of your participants' achievements outside of the program.*
- ▶ *Treat the members of your program just as you would the full members of the department; make them feel like part of the "family".*
- ▶ *Create special incentives for parents to be involved in fundraising, recruiting or other activities.*



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Community Involvement Activities

1. *Perform home safety checks for residents.*
2. *Install smoke alarms for at-risk residents in the community.*
3. *Paint house numbers on curbs to increase visibility.*
4. *Promote Fire Prevention Week in October.*
5. *Distribute Fire Prevention pamphlets to the community.*
6. *Plan and execute fire safety skits for local schools and daycare centers.*
7. *Hang Fire Prevention posters in recreation centers, senior citizen centers, gyms, and grocery stores.*
8. *Distribute flyers about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.*
9. *Distribute door hangers in neighborhoods, reminding residents to test their smoke alarms monthly and to change the batteries twice a year.*
10. *Read well-acclaimed fire safety books to children at local elementary schools.*
11. *After snow falls, send a team out to clear the sidewalks at the homes of senior citizens in the community.*
12. *Make baskets with necessity items for fire victims.*
13. *Collect stuffed animals to give to children who lose all their toys in fires.*
14. *Organize a drive to collect necessity items for people involved in natural disasters.*
15. *Survey community members to determine who has special needs and store the information in a database so the department can quickly and efficiently assist residents in natural disasters.*
16. *Install carbon monoxide detectors in homes in high-risk areas of your community.*
17. *Write fire safety tips in chalk on the sidewalks in your community.*
18. *Create a packet that includes safety information relevant to your area (what to do during earthquakes, wildfires, mudslides, floods, tornados, hurricanes, etc...) and distribute to realtors to share with new transplants to the region.*
19. *If you live in an area prone to wildfires, distribute pamphlets for households to learn how to landscape and design the exterior of the home to increase safety.*
20. *Prior to the holidays, distribute information about holiday safety, including the dangers of candles, dry Christmas trees, and cooking fires.*
21. *Organize a Winter Blanket Drive to acquire blankets for the homeless in your community.*
22. *Have someone from the department dress as Santa Claus and let your community's children come visit and have their picture taken.*
23. *Organize a contest to have students at nearby schools submit a family fire escape plan to be entered in a drawing to have a fire truck visit their class.*
24. *Decorate a float for your town's parade and distribute fire safety information.*



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Fire Hall Activities

1. *Plan a community BBQ at the department.*
2. *Give tours of the fire station.*
3. *Host a fire station cleaning day.*
4. *Give the outside of the first station a new coat of paint.*
5. *Repaint the interior walls of the fire station.*
6. *Maintain the landscaping around the fire department.*
7. *After a snowfall, shovel the sidewalks and driveways at the fire station.*
8. *Decorate the fire station with lights in December.*
9. *Collect and place recycling bins next to the trashcans at the station.*
10. *Design a web site for the department.*
11. *Design a Junior Firefighter program web page on the department's web site.*
12. *Create a Facebook group for the Junior Firefighter program.*
13. *Host a department open house.*
14. *Host a department open house geared towards the ethnic communities in your area.*
15. *Take photos at scheduled events or unusual calls and assemble a department scrapbook.*
16. *Assemble recent photographs of Junior Firefighter volunteers in action and assemble a department scrapbook.*
17. *Solicit local businesses for donations to be given in appreciation to department members on National First Responder Day (September 25).*
18. *Play the role of victims in the community's mock disaster drills.*
19. *Repaint fire hydrants to make them easier for first responders to locate.*
20. *Staff a recruitment table/booth at your town's county fair, market days, or other event.*
21. *Provide rehabilitation services for the department members during long calls.*
22. *Make hot chocolate and distribute to first responders during long calls in cold weather.*
23. *Take refreshments to first responders who are on stand-by at local events such as parades, festivals, or rodeos.*
24. *When you know of department members who are sick or injured, prepare a special dish and deliver it to their homes.*
25. *Host a "Picture with a Firefighter Day" at the station and bring in area children to meet firefighters, have their pictures taken, and send safety information home with the caregivers.*
26. *Organize a community picnic at the station and provide games for the children.*



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Fundraising Activities

1. *Host a silent auction fundraiser.*
2. *Host a fundraising bake sale for the department.*
3. *Replace all incandescent light bulbs at the station with low-energy light bulbs.*
4. *Organize a haunted house to benefit the nearest burn center.*
5. *Plan a regular bingo fundraising night at the department and invite the community.*
6. *Sell wickless candles as a department fundraiser.*
7. *Create a calendar with photos from the department and sell as a fundraiser.*
8. *Host a fundraising car wash.*
9. *Organize a 5k or other short race to raise funds for the department.*
10. *Design a t-shirt or bumper sticker for community members showing their support for the fire department and sell as a fundraiser.*

Training Activities

1. *Organize a children's one-day safety camp and have activities to promote learning of safety in all areas.*
2. *Host a CPR class for the teachers at local schools.*
3. *Host a fire extinguisher training class for local teachers.*
4. *Host a Babysitting Course for interested teens, including infant and child CPR and First Aid.*
5. *Host a children's safety day and bring in organizations and practitioners of all kinds for booths to promote health and well-being of your community's children (could include doctors, hospitals, dentists, etc...).*

Special Skills Training

1. *First Aid/CPR/AED Training*
2. *Pleasure Craft Operator's Card (Boat Operator's Licence)*
3. *Swimming Instructor Certification*
4. *Babysitter Instructor Certification*
5. *Amateur Radio Operator Certification*
6. *Forklift Operator Certification*
7. *Skidsteer Operator Certification*
8. *Manitoba Health Certified Food Handler*
9. *Air Brake Endorsement for Driver's Licence*
10. *MESC Basic Firefighting [insert link to document]*