



**Note to prospective cadets and their parents:**

It is vital for our community to have emergency medical services. In New Jersey suburbs and rural areas EMS is provided by volunteers. Our volunteer members enjoy the personal challenges, the camaraderie, and the opportunity to serve others. Cadet members are for the most part treated as adult peers and they enjoy the same benefits as the adult members.

Most programs for children exist for the benefit and growth of the child. The Plainsboro Rescue Squad has as its first and only mission quality emergency medical service to the community. Therefore, the cadet organization also exists for the benefit of the community – not for the benefit of the cadets. The cadet organization does not exist to enhance college or scholarship applications. Letters of recommendation may include the grades that the cadet has received from the squad (see below).

Parents who join with their children have benefitted greatly by learning together, studying together, and providing a vital community service together. Parent/child teams grow closer while riding and their relationship remains closer for many years – even after the cadet has left for college or graduated and moved away.

An additional benefit of the cadet program is as a feeder to Plainsboro and other volunteer EMS agencies. We are looking for individuals who will continue to provide emergency medical services into their adulthood. The cadet's desire to become a doctor is in itself not fulfillment of this goal.

Note that this is not an auxiliary organization. The cadets will go on real 9-1-1 medical emergencies and will be required to act maturely and provide emergency medical care as directed by the officer in charge (OIC). Cadets less than 18 years old will be excluded from riding on calls involving substance abuse, hazardous materials, violence and crime scenes.

While the squad members do care about each other (including the cadets), it is important to keep in perspective that there is often a waiting list of students who want to become cadets. Cadets who become a distraction from the primary mission of the squad will be expelled and replaced by a candidate on the waiting list. The by-laws allow for an appeal of expulsion to the general membership, but the captain has absolute authority over who can ride on a crew and no appeal process exists.

Parents should understand that squad membership is a commitment. The cadet will have a required shift and the cadet must fulfill his/her shift or find a suitable replacement. This requirement is critical to the cadet maintaining his/her membership regardless of any restrictions made by the parents. That is, if the parent prevents the cadet from fulfilling an obligation, it will be considered that the cadet his/herself has failed to fulfill the obligation.

When the cadet arrives at the building, the adult staff will do their best to keep the cadet safe and may order them to stand down from potentially hazardous scenes. When a cadet is due to be at the building, they must arrive on time. Using the squad as an excuse to be away from home when not attending a squad function is a punishable offence.

All members are advised of HIPPA privacy laws and cadets are no exception. It is illegal to reveal information about patients that we treat or otherwise contact. That includes immediate family members. Furthermore, there are other events at the squad are to be kept confidential. Your rights as a parent of a cadet member are limited to being able to restrict your child from attending events, and you can withdraw your child from membership. Lawful and proper orders given to your child in their duties and any disciplinary action regarding your child remains between your child and the squad leadership. The squad leadership is not obligated to discuss those matters with you as the child's parent.

While all of this seems very negative, we hope that the cadet does enjoy performing emergency medical services and the camaraderie of the other members. Emergency Medical Service isn't for everyone, but those involved get a great deal of personal satisfaction from their involvement in Plainsboro Rescue Squad.

### **Training Requirements**

Every riding member is expected to become an Emergency Medical Technician within one year of becoming a member. There are a number of options including weekend-only classes, two evenings per week, and summer daily classes. The summer classes fill up very quickly and it can be difficult to register.

The format and content of EMT classes is strictly regulated. If the student misses a class for any reason -- that class must be made up. Classes can be made up by attending the same module at another location somewhere in the state. Make up classes are difficult to find and may be either inconvenient or nonexistent. In addition, the student will have to study to pass the course and certification exams. Many of our past cadets have managed a full load of honors classes while attending EMT class two evenings per week and keeping their riding shift.

### **Cadet Membership Guidelines**

- 1) Cadets may range in age from 3 months prior to their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday to 22 years old.
- 2) There are two cadet categories:
  - a. Local Active Riding – able to ride a weekly shift
  - b. Absent Active Riding – away at college, but returning on breaks
- 3) The executive board will set a limit on the number of Local Active Riding cadets. The limit will normally be 7 – one cadet per weekly shift.
- 4) 18 year old cadets will have all of the riding privileges of adult members, but will not have individual voting rights.
- 5) Cadets may apply for adult membership after reaching the age of 18 and graduation from high school. Cadets are not encouraged to apply for adult membership if they are going to attend college out of the area. Once a cadet returns to long-term local residence, he/she should apply for adult membership status. Cadets going to college locally, or who can return to the squad weekly may become adult members while in college.

### **Cadet Responsibilities**

- 1) Cadets are required to become eligible to ride within 4 months of becoming members.
- 2) Cadets must fulfill a regular duty shift consisting of at least 8 PM to 10 PM one night per week. If the cadet must miss his/her shift, the cadet must find someone of equal or higher qualifications to cover the shift. The OIC must approve of the substitution.

- 3) All riding members (including cadets) are also required to ride at least three weekend days per quarter. A weekend day shift runs from 8 AM to 8 PM.
- 4) Cadets will be required to change their riding night each quarter. If there are unavoidable conflicts, a specific night (or two) can be avoided, but it is not acceptable for a cadet to be available only one night per week for an entire year.
- 5) Each cadet is required to become a member of at least one committee. As a committee member, the cadet must attend meetings and contribute to the committee's goals.
- 6) Cadets are required to attend most monthly cadet meetings, cadet drills, and regular squad drills.
- 7) Cadets are required to be active in other cadet activities that are held for community or squad benefits.
- 8) As with adults, cadets are required to become EMTs within the first year of membership.
- 9) Cadets must maintain good grades in school. Academics remains a top priority. While other extracurricular activities are acceptable (chorus, music lessons, scouting, etc.), they must not interfere with the cadet's obligations as a squad member.

### **Application Process**

- 1) Cadets may apply for cadet membership at any time. However, the candidate must reach the age of 15 years and 9 months prior to becoming a cadet member.
- 2) An interview process will rank all prospective cadet members. The rankings will be indicated by a grade from A through F. Any cadet with a grade below B will be encouraged to withdraw his/her application.
- 3) Cadet applications will be ordered based on qualities identified in the interview and references. Length of time on the waiting list will only be used in the event of a tie.
- 4) Once a position is open, the cadet will be invited to attend the next general meeting to be voted into membership. If the cadet is not available, the next candidate on the list will be invited to attend.

### **Maintaining Membership**

- 1) Cadets involved in criminal activity, vandalism, behavioral problems, or substance abuse will immediately be expelled from the cadet program. There will be no second chances.
- 2) The cadet advisor(s) will issue two grades (A-F) each quarter or more frequently if the advisor(s) deem appropriate. One grade will be for participation and the other for effective contribution to the community and the squad. Any cadet receiving a grade below C should be consulted for improvement and considered for expulsion.
- 3) When the cadet receives training (First Aid, CPR, BBP, etc.) two grades (A-F) will be issued by the instructor(s). One grade will be for the cadet's effort and the other for the cadet's skills. Any grades below a C should be reported to the cadet advisor(s) and executive board for appropriate action.
- 4) The OIC should issue two grades (A-F) each quarter. One is for the cadet's effort and promptness, and the other is for the cadet's contribution to the crew. If a grade below C is being given, the cadet should be consulted regarding his/her performance and the line should be notified. The cadet should consider the consultation as a probationary warning.
- 5) At least two times per year, the executive board should review all cadet grades along with the cadet advisors. Any cadets with substandard performance should be expelled from the cadet program.

- 6) Any cadet holding a leadership position (President, Vice President, Captain or Lieutenant) will be evaluated by the squad President and squad Captain. If the cadet leader is found to not be providing adequate effort or not meeting the requirements or the position, he/she will be removed from that position by the Executive Board.

**Weekly Riding Hours**

At least one parent or guardian is required to sign this permission form before a cadet is allowed to join the squad. The parent can restrict the hours that the cadet rides, but it must allow at least from 8 PM to 10 PM one night per week. The choice of nights that the cadets ride will be negotiated to meet the needs of the squad and the cadet. If a shift ends at 10 PM, that means that the last call taken will be at 10 PM. Most calls are completed in under an hour, but it is possible (though rare) that a call could go on for 2 hours.

A cadet may ride all night on non-school nights if he/she has reliable transportation to respond to a call, or if an adult member agrees to stay with the cadet at the building. If practical, a crew member may drive the cadet home at the conclusion of the call or shift.

The signature below will also acknowledge receipt and understanding of this document.

I understand the guidelines for cadet membership at Plainsboro Rescue Squad and I grant my child \_\_\_\_\_ permission to ride with Plainsboro Rescue Squad on 9-1-1 emergencies from the hours of 8 PM to \_\_\_\_\_ on school nights and from 8 PM to \_\_\_\_\_ on non-school nights.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cadet Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cadet Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date