

REESE & COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

A Guide to joining one of the busiest Fire Companies in Carroll County, Maryland!



Are you ready to *Begin YOUR Journey*?

Welcome to the Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company (RVFC)!

We're delighted that you're taking the time to explore this guide and consider taking the next step toward becoming part of our organization. Joining an emergency services company like RVFC is a meaningful and rewarding commitment—one that will challenge you, inspire you, and lead to lifelong achievements.

This decision is an important one. Membership requires dedication, ongoing training, and a sincere desire to serve others. The time and effort you invest will not only strengthen your skills but also make a lasting impact on our community.

As a member of RVFC, you'll have the chance to build strong connections, gain valuable hands-on experience, and receive high-quality training—regardless of your prior experience in the fire service. Many of our members began with little or no background, and through our training and mentorship, they've grown into confident and capable responders.

We encourage you to review this guide carefully. It will help you understand what's expected of you as a Probationary Member and beyond. We hope you'll choose to join our family and help us continue our proud mission of providing professional and compassionate emergency services to our community.



Why Should I Volunteer?

Volunteering at a fire company offers the unique opportunity to serve your community in one of the most meaningful ways possible — by protecting lives and property when it matters most. It allows you to **develop valuable, real-world skills** in leadership, teamwork, emergency response, and problem-solving, all while gaining hands-on experience that can benefit you both personally and professionally. Beyond the training and skill-building, you'll form **lifelong friendships and a strong sense of camaraderie** with fellow volunteers who share the same passion for helping others. Many find that joining a fire company provides not only a way to **give back to their community**, but also a sense of belonging, pride, and purpose that few other experiences can match. It's more than volunteering — it's becoming part of a family dedicated to making a difference every day.

You can also take advantage of the **Maryland Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)** — a benefit designed to recognize and reward long-term volunteer service in the fire and emergency services. By earning at least **50 LOSAP points each year** for **three consecutive years**, you become eligible for a **Maryland State Income Tax Credit**. These points are accumulated through participation in training, emergency responses, drills, meetings, and other approved company activities/fundraising. LOSAP not only offers a financial incentive but also acknowledges your continued dedication and commitment to serving your community through volunteer service.









Our Mission

Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company strives to safely respond to those in need of assistance with professionally trained personnel – *every day*.

Our Vision

Our mission is to be a highly reliable and exceptionally trained team of emergency responders, dedicated to meeting the needs of our community and the surrounding areas. We strive to provide rapid, professional, and compassionate service in every situation. Long-term sustainability is achieved through the unwavering commitment of our members, strong and transparent leadership, and thoughtful, forward-looking planning. Together, we work to ensure that the Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company remains a trusted, enduring force for public safety and community support for generations to come.

Our Commitment to our Members

The Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company recognizes that our members lead busy lives outside the organization and that maintaining certifications, training, and skills proficiency requires significant time and dedication. Our leadership is committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment. We take pride in promoting teamwork and are dedicated to developing, supporting, and mentoring every member of our company.



Membership Opportunities

There are three levels of membership into RVFC:

Riding Member

This membership is for members wanting to be volunteer Firefighters and EMS providers. There is training that is required in order to ride emergency apparatus.



There are two main certifications; Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

To become an EMT or Firefighter, you will need:

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) - 208 Hours, Hazmat Awareness – 9 Hours, FEMA Online Classes IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800.

- Firefighter I – 135 Hours, Hazmat Operations – 45 Hours, FEMA Online Classes IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS800.

There are additional classes that can be taken by Riding Members, all free of charge.

**All riding personnel are required to complete a medical physical, annually.*



Sustaining Member

These dedicated members serve in vital support roles that keep the organization running smoothly behind the scenes. Rather than responding to emergency calls, they focus their efforts on essential administrative and operational functions such as human resource management, accounting, fundraising, information technology, marketing, public relations, grant writing, and community outreach. Their work ensures the company remains financially stable, well-organized, and deeply connected to the community it serves. Volunteering in this capacity offers a meaningful and fulfilling way to contribute to the mission—helping to strengthen the department and make a lasting impact without being on the front lines of emergency response.

Some of the fundraising includes BINGOs every Thursday night, the Carnival in the Summer time, Big Money, and the annual Car show.



Junior Firefighter Program

The Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company and its Junior Firefighter Program work in cooperation to educate, protect, and serve the youth of the Reese Community and surrounding communities. The Junior Fire Fighter program is implemented by the Reese and Community Volunteer Fire Company to recruit, educate, and guide the next generation of firefighters in the finest tradition of the fire service.

Our goal is to prepare this generation to be safe, educated, and well-trained firefighters so that they may help serve and protect the residents of our community and the other areas we serve.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will also be provided for you when needed.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be 12-15 years of age.
2. Must attend monthly meetings.
3. Must maintain 2.0 GPA.
4. Must provide a report card each marking period.

REASONS TO JOIN THE JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

1. Earn Service Learning Hours. (Needed to Graduate High School)
2. Resume Builder for College and Job Search.
3. Experience that will help you throughout your whole life.
4. Friendship between Firefighters.
5. Training.



Expectations of Our Members

Our organization thrives because of the dedication and commitment of our members. No prior experience is required to join — we proudly invest significant time and resources into training each new member to ensure their success. In return, we ask that you uphold a few simple expectations that reflect our values and standards. As you prepare to join the ranks of our dedicated team, please review the following expectations that apply to you and all members of the Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company.

- A professional appearance, good work ethic, **teamwork**, and the ability to work well under stressful situations.
- Pass a background investigation. Mandatory and ordered by the Carroll County Government DFEMS, required prior to the application process.
- Be at least 16 years of age and have a social security number. If between the ages of 16 and 17, a parent/guardian signature is required. Parent(s) is/are **REQUIRED** to be at the Membership Interview.
- If you are currently in high school, you are expected to provide the leadership with report cards to ensure you are maintaining adequate grades.
- For Riding Members - Maintain all training certifications, participate in company training, complete all annual refresher training, and be proficient in your skills.
- Riding members are expected to complete an annual physical, as well as required annual training.
- Sustaining Members are expected and encouraged to help out at fundraisers.
- Attend at least six (6) company meetings a year to remain active, and ten (10) company meetings to run for office or vote in the election of officers. You will also need 50 LOSAP Points to get the tax incentive after three years.



What is Our Process?

You have already taken the first step to “Begin YOUR Journey” by reviewing this guide. What is next?

1. Print and fill out our application. After completing the application, please monitor your email for further instructions. *All initial correspondence is conducted through email.*

2. A background check will take place, which is **REQUIRED** by Carroll County.

3. After a successful background check, we will review your application and you will be scheduled for an interview at our station. The interview is an important and required part of the process. This is a chance for you to interview us as well - Bring all of your questions!

4. If you are successful in your interview, your recruit packet will be brought to the Board of Directors, discussed, and voted on.

5. Your packet will go before the Membership and a vote will take place.

After successfully completing steps 1-5, you will be accepted as a Probationary Member. Please keep in mind, candidates can be disqualified during steps 1-5. Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company is an equal-opportunity organization. Operational personnel are required to pass a physical clearance.

You will attend New Member Orientation, likely during a BINGO (Thursday) night. During new member orientation you will complete additional paperwork for LOSAP. You will be assigned a “buddy” who will be able to answer all of your questions. Riding Members will be given an ePins, FEMA SID, and other things needed to succeed as an EMT or Firefighter. Pre-trained or experienced personnel will have a modified process.

6. Riding Members will have to schedule a physical before riding anything or taking class.



What can I do after getting my EMT and/or Firefighter I?

After you complete initial training and are cleared to function as essential personnel, you are able to advance through the ranks. Additional training is offered through www.mfri.org

EMS advancement includes:

- IV Technician
- Emergency Vehicle Operator (EVOC)
- Paramedic (Associates Degree/Certificate)
- EMS Officer (EMS Captain/LT)



Suppression advancement includes:

- Firefighter II, III, IV
- Hazmat Technician
- Emergency Vehicle Operator (EVOC)
- Pump Operator
- Fire Officer (Sergeant, LT, Captain, Chief)
- Safety Officer
- Rescue Technician



For additional information, please email us!

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