

OPPORTUNITIES AFTER EXPLORING

Many explorers have asked “What do I do now until I can get a position on Springs Fire?”

To assist our youth, here are a few avenues they might look at following High School graduation.

FURTHER EDUCATION: If the explorer has not yet completed their Associate Degree or begun college level courses, now would be the time to begin the process. Many explorers participate in the AVP program while in High School and complete their degree in Fire Science within a year of High School graduation. EMT training is offered through community colleges and various local hospitals. Once nationally certified, EMT’s, depending on their age, can find employment with hospitals or ambulance services as well as other health related businesses.

FIRE RESIDENCY PROGRAMS: This is a program offered by many volunteer departments to assist with their staffing needs. Like an unpaid internship available through businesses, a fire residency program provides a candidate with housing and fire classes while working shifts as a firefighter. Many departments assist their residents in locating job opportunities in their areas. The experience and certificates that these programs offer aides in explorers testing better than many for paid positions in the fire service.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Local fire districts are always recruiting volunteers. Many former explorers have found that a position as a volunteer firefighter is extremely rewarding and offers them the option of pursuing other avenues of employment while giving back to their community.

MILITARY: Careers in the military service can provide an explorer with training that can be transferred back to civilian life. Firefighting while in the military can provide the experience needed to be successful in obtaining a position in the fire service across the country.

WILDLAND: There are opportunities for positions with many fire departments, as well as the US Forest Service, to work in wildland mitigation or firefighting. Many of these positions are seasonal and a person must be willing to relocate for weeks on end.

TESTING FOR OTHER DEPARTMENTS: Explorers are encouraged to test for a number of departments that advertise openings. There are usually many applicants for each position, so it is important to not be discouraged and stick to it until an acceptance is received.