



BAKER CITY FIRE

**Firefighter
Cadet Program
FAQ**

BAKER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

1616 2ND STREET
BAKER CITY, OR

This is a list of the questions asked most often by new cadet members or their parents:

Q: What activities do you have in this program?

A: The program will hold training, social activities such as field trips, movie nights, dinner parties, fundraising events, public service projects, and other things that a firefighter does except for fighting fires.

Q: Do cadets participate in parades?

A: Yes. Parades are usually held in the summer months. The Cadet department will typically march along with the advisors and any parents wishing to participate. Cadets **must** have a uniform issued to them before they are able to participate in a parade.

Q: How will I find out about different events taking place?

A: Events are announced at trainings, meetings, e-mails and in newsletters. Parents, if you provide the fire department with that information, please ensure that the Cadet Advisor is given this information). If there is a change or cancellation, the cadet will be contacted by the Cadet Fire Chief and the parents' will be notified by Cadet Program Advisor (either by text message or phone call).

Q: How do I, as a cadet, know how many points I have?

A: Points will be posted on the Cadet Program bulletin board.

Q: When can I, as a cadet, start fighting fires and perform emergency medical services?

A: On your 16th birthday you are eligible to test and apply for an Emergency Medical Responder, through the National Emergency Medical Technicians (www.nremt.org). At that time, you may begin the required formal training to be certified as a Firefighter and/or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). However, you may NOT be certified until you are 18 years of age in the state of Oregon.

Q: If I (as a parent or cadet) have questions or problems, who do I talk to?

A: The Cadet Program Advisor is available to answer questions and to assist you. In addition, the Fire Chief and the Baker High School Career Counselor will help you with any questions, and any problems or conflicts.

Q: Do I, as a cadet, have to participate in training and other events?

A: YES! The goals of the Cadet program cannot be met for an individual who does not participate in the training or other events. A lack of participation may result in the loss of certain privileges and/or the ability to participate in certain activities. Individuals who regularly do not participate in the Cadet Program activities without notifying an Advisor may be dropped from the program.

Q: Can I ride the apparatus and fight fires as a Fire Cadet?

A: Since firefighting is dangerous and requires specialized training, you must be at least 16 years of age, for city insurance reasons to participate in these activities. Quite often, Cadets are permitted to ride the apparatus that is not in service while going to and coming from parades, or other public service events.

Q: Will my young adult be fighting fires or any hazardous material incidents?

A: No. Fire Cadets will **not** be fighting any real live fire or managing any real-life emergencies. When the cadet is working on their Task Book to become a certified firefighter, there is a requirement to control a fire. This is accomplished using specially designed burn buildings and trainers that are controlled through propane.

Q: If they cannot fight live fires, what is the purpose of them participating in a ride-along?

A: The ride-along gives the Cadet an “up-close and personal” experience in the world of firefighting. They will be participating in a ride-along primarily as an observer. The cadet may be asked to do simple tasks (such as setting up additional air bottles, or pulling off the apparatus tools and equipment, or setting up a water/rehab area, or establishing a crowd control area using fire line tape). They will **NEVER** be asked to do something they are not trained for, comfortable, or dangerous.

Q: Is my child going to see gory, grotesque, or bloody scenes?

A: Every effort will be made to protect the cadet from violent and/or traumatic scenes and situations. This will be accomplished by not allowing the cadet into any situation that does/may involve violent situations, excessive trauma, or the potential of deceased persons. The Lieutenant, or Acting Lieutenant, will direct the cadet to stay next too or remain in the engine.