



ARCATA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“JOIN OUR TEAM” CAMPAIGN FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

ARCATA, CA- (August 15, 2013)- The Arcata Fire Protection District (AFPD) has launched a brand-new “Join Our Team” campaign to recruit new applicants to train and serve the community as volunteer firefighters. Bright blue banners, recruitment decals on fire engines, and a dynamic new interactive website are putting the District’s message out to the public.

Battalion Chief Sean Campbell, who began his career as a volunteer and now oversees the District’s volunteer programs, said that the new campaign’s slogan, “*Make Friends. For Life. Volunteer.*”, summarizes the feelings of many firefighters. “You join because you want to serve your community and save lives”, he said, “but many volunteers end up making lifelong friends with other firefighters.” Campbell said that the positive experiences of some Arcata firefighters have kept them volunteering with the District for more than 40 years.



Arcata Firefighter Dimitri Sakkis hands out information about volunteering with Arcata Fire, near the Arcata Plaza.



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Arcata Fire has always had a strong core of volunteer firefighters to complement its limited career staff, but recent increases in calls for service in the 62-square mile fire district have stretched volunteer resources close to their limit. The new campaign, funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, seeks both established community residents and college students to consider volunteering with the Fire District.

The campaign culminates with a free “Information Night” slated for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 29, at the downtown Arcata fire station, 631 9th Street. Application forms will be available at the Information Night, or online at the new website, arcatafire.org. Applicants must be 18 years or older, and available to serve the communities of Arcata, McKinleyville, Bayside, and Manila. No prior training or experience is necessary.



Battalion Chief Campbell addresses a group of interested applicants at the District's volunteer Information Night last March.

In exchange for a three-year commitment, successful applicants receive a medical exam, extensive training, uniforms, and equipment without charge. Volunteer firefighters train weekly and are expected to staff an engine at a District fire station for 12 to 24 hours a month, as well as to respond to emergencies. Although volunteer firefighters do not receive a salary, they may be eligible for reimbursements of personal expenses related to certain types of calls and training.

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For more information about the Arcata Fire Protection District visit www.arcatafire.org or follow us on  www.Facebook.com/ArcataFire