

## The Somers Volunteer Fire Department Squad II Program Guidelines

### General Requirements:

The Squad II Program is open to high school students ages 16-18 who would like to gain practical knowledge as a Fire Fighter and/or an EMT/MRT within the Somers Volunteer Fire Department. The Squad II Program falls under the administration of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department Chief, and is implemented both by the Fire & Ambulance officers and the Fire & Ambulance body. The Chief will designate one or more officers to manage the program. Overall Squad II membership will be limited to 15 (fifteen) members and all members must abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department. Students who are currently residing in the town of Somers will be given preference over non-residents for any open Squad II position.

All Squad II members must maintain a "C" grade or above in all of their high school classes in order to maintain an active status in the program; upon request report cards will be shown to the Chief or his/her designated officer each marking period. All Ambulance Squad II members must be enrolled in an EMT/MRT class as soon as possible after joining the program, and must show proof of State certification upon completion of the class. All Fire Squad II members must be enrolled in a Healthcare Provider CPR class as soon as possible after joining the program, and must show proof of State certification upon completion of the class. Members will also be required to attend the same Fire and/or Ambulance meetings and drills as regular members.

### Social Aspects:

Squad II members will maintain their appearance and demeanor in such a manner as to be a good representative of the department.

Squad II members will be invited to all departmental social events in accordance with the rules and guidelines for regular members. Squad II members will have the same firehouse privileges and responsibilities as regular members with the following exceptions that will be enforced for all events/firehouse visitations: a curfew of 10 p.m. for all Squad II members when the next day is a school day, 11 p.m. for 16 year old members on a non-school night and midnight for 17 year old members on a non-school night.

One guest may accompany each member with the understanding that his/her actions will be the member's responsibility.

Upon a successful 6 month review, Squad II members will be provided with a Fire Department jacket. Squad II members will qualify for the quarterly stipend and gas allowance.

The Squad II membership may hold separate meetings at the firehouse one night per month with the permission of the Chief or his designee. An officer will be present at these meetings; he/she

will provide leadership both during the meetings and any other activities the Squad chooses to plan.

The Squad II membership may have their own treasury. All such money will be kept in a separate account under the management of the Fire Department Treasurer; the Chief or an appointed designee must approve all expenditures. A report of activity in this account will be made each month at the regular meeting.

The Squad II membership may have their own officers to provide leadership to the group. These may include the following: Captain, Lieutenant, Secretary, Treasurer. These positions do not have to be filled at all times. The positions will be elected by the Squad II members. Each term will last for one year, or until the person elected becomes a probationary or regular member of the Fire Department or Ambulance Divisions, whichever comes first.

#### Training:

Squad II members will be expected to train at Department drills, once they have completed the mandatory training and obtained medical clearance. Fire Squad II members will be allowed to participate in training, as regulated by the CT Department of Labor's "Guidelines for Junior Firefighters". Ambulance Squad II members will receive the same training through a state certified EMT or MRT program as the regular ambulance members. All Squad II members will receive training during monthly and joint drills, along with the regular members.

#### Response to Emergency Calls:

##### General:

Squad II members may not respond to calls during adverse weather conditions or between the hours of 10pm and 6am on school nights. Extended hours (as noted above) will be allowed for non-school nights.

##### Fire:

All Fire Squad II assignments at emergency scenes and training activities will be strictly monitored under the direct supervision of a fire department member with Fire Fighter I training as a minimum. Any assignment given must be in the "Cold Zone" as provided for under the department SOPs. The regular members and officers of the Department will supervise all assignments given on scene. Squad II members will not be allowed to enter a burning or smoke-filled building. All other restrictions for assignments will be at the discretion of the line officers.

In the event of an alarm, Fire Squad II members shall report to the Firehouse in order to ride on an apparatus. If all apparatus have left the station, they may drive to the incident scene in their personal vehicle, following all traffic laws. Once on scene, all Fire Squad II members will report to the appropriate staging area, usually R-146. They will remain there until given an assignment and will return to the staging area upon completion of the assignment.

Fire Squad II members will be issued bunker gear and a pager at the sole cost of the department on an "as available" basis.

EMS:

All emergency care provided by a Ambulance Squad II member to a patient will be strictly monitored and only under the direct supervision of a regular ambulance department member with an equal or higher level of training. Due to the limitations of their state training, Ambulance Squad II members may only respond to calls as a third crew member or as an observer on R546/R646.

Once on scene, all Ambulance Squad II members must stay with the regular crew or at R546/R646, until given an assignment. Any assignment given must be in the "Cold Zone" as provided for under the department SOPS. The regular members and officers of the Department will supervise all assignments given on scene. All other restrictions for assignments and patient care will be at the discretion of the regular crew.

Ambulance Squad II members will be issued a duty uniform and pager at the sole cost of the department on an "as available" basis.

Parental Responsibilities:

This program is designed to provide students 16 through 18 years of age with knowledge regarding the operations of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department. This program will be conducted in the safest manner possible, and in an extremely structured environment. However, parents need to realize before allowing their child to join this program that there is some risk involved. Emergency calls can become dangerous, and will be unpredictable. Therefore, each parent/guardian must understand that he/she is ultimately responsible for their child's safety and well being. They must give their consent to allow their child to participate, and they must be aware of their continuing responsibilities while their child is a Squad II member.

I have read and understood the above guidelines and would like to participate in the Squad II program as provided by the Somers Volunteer Fire Department.

Squad Member's Full Name  
(please print)

Squad Member's Signature

Date:

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I have read and understood the above guidelines and would like my child to participate in the Squad II program as provided by the Somers Volunteer Fire Department

Parent/Guardian's Full Name  
(please print)

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date:

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Reviewed and Accepted By:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to participate in the **Fire**, **Ambulance** or **Both** Squad II programs  
(Please circle one).