



## **Sisters-Camp Sherman Resident Volunteer Program**

### **Resident Volunteer Program Goals**

The intent of the Resident Volunteer Program is to provide knowledge of the operating principles of the fire and emergency medical service through day-to-day operations, hands-on experience, and classroom time. Resident Volunteers learn the principles of firefighting, fire prevention, fire control, rescue and emergency medical services.

### **Resident Volunteers will:**

- Respond to medical emergencies and motor vehicle accidents on a transporting ambulance
- Actively engage in structural and wildland firefighting as a part of a team
- Drive and operate emergency equipment, including:
  - o Fire engines
  - o Ambulances
  - o Water tenders
- Receive training and certification in structural and wildland firefighting
  - o Certification is provided through DPSST and transferrable throughout the State
- Be assigned to shift rotation working 48 hours on with 96 hours off
  - o Resident volunteers are excused from their shift requirements to attend classes
  - o A limited amount of additional time off is allowed
- Have opportunities for promotion, supervision, and leadership within the resident volunteer program



**The Resident Volunteer experience begins:**

Resident Volunteers are chosen through the Joint Recruitment process. The process is administered by Central Oregon Community College (COCC) on behalf of the Central Oregon fire agencies. Recruits selected by Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District (SCSFD) then participate in a comprehensive firefighter academy that teaches the basic components of structural and wildland firefighting as well as emergency vehicle driving. The academy begins in June and ends in mid-August.



**Housing:**

Resident Volunteers are expected to live in district housing starting at the beginning of the recruit academy. The district provides private bunkrooms with plenty of storage space and comfortable common living quarters. Common spaces include a spacious kitchen, large dining area, spacious day room with pool table and big screen TV, both male and female bathroom facilities, library/study room, and gym facilities.



**Scholarship Details:**

Resident Volunteers receive a scholarship covering tuition, books, and fees at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, Oregon. They are required to be enrolled in the Structural Fire Science and/or Emergency Medical Services Programs and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours per academic term and maintain a GPA of 3.0 and above. Completion of the program generally takes three years depending upon prior college credit earned. Resident Volunteers receive a monthly mileage and meal reimbursement of \$350 during the first year and up to \$550 per month in additional years depending on station assignment. Resident Volunteers may be allowed to use a district vehicle to drive back and forth to classes. District uniforms are provided and consist of: t-shirts, polo shirts, class-B uniform shirts, Nomex pants, jacket, hat, belt, and boot reimbursement.



### **Promotional Possibility:**

The District has a fourth-year scholarship opportunity that was started in the 2015/2016 budget year. This scholarship is available to one existing resident volunteer, based on budget conditions, and allows them to remain in the program for one additional year and earn a bachelor's degree in Fire Service Administration or EMS Administration from Eastern Oregon University. A promotion to Resident Volunteer Lieutenant comes along with the fourth-year scholarship. While working under the direct supervision of the Deputy Chief of Operations, the Lieutenant is responsible for many administrative functions within the Resident Volunteer Program. The Resident Volunteer Lieutenant may also be delegated incident management functions under the direct supervision and mentorship of the shift commander.



### **Additional Opportunities:**

In 2015 SCSFD entered into an international exchange program with Hampshire Fire Rescue Service (HFRS) in the southern UK. HFRS sent five firefighters to Central Oregon to learn about American wildland firefighting. In the years since the program began, SCSFD has sent multiple firefighters, including several resident volunteers, to Hampshire to see a different way to fight fire and serve the community. It has been a career-altering experience for all that have been a part of it.



**About the Fire District:**

Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District is a combination department serving an area over 55 square miles with an ambulance service area of approximately 800 square miles in scenic Central Oregon. The District provides structural and wildland fire suppression, fire prevention and education, and ambulance service to the community with advanced life support emergency medical services and rescue services. The department serves two communities (Sisters and Camp Sherman) and adjacent rural areas with a combined population of approximately 6,500 permanent residents out of three stations. Along with the resident population, the area is recognized nationally as a tourist destination and local events can draw as many as 20,000 tourists at a given time.



**Current staffing includes:** Fire Chief, Deputy Chief of Operations, Executive Assistant, part-time Finance Manager, part-time Fire Safety Manager, part-time Office Assistant, part-time Recruitment and Retention Coordinator, three Captain/Shift Commander-Paramedics, six Firefighter-Paramedics, seven Resident Volunteers, approximately 48 Volunteer Firefighters or EMT's and 28 Fire Corps members.



The Fire Corps provides essential non-emergency services to the district such as:

- Smoke detector installation
- Rural address signs
- Community CPR and 1st aid training
- Community blood pressure screening
- Car Seat Installation & Safety Checks
- Operational support for training and emergency incidents **Questions???**

If you have any questions regarding Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD or if you'd like to visit the station and take advantage of our ride-along program, please contact the Recruitment Coordinator by phone at:

Office Phone: 541-549-0771 or email [recruitment@sistersfire.com](mailto:recruitment@sistersfire.com).