

So, You Want To Be A Firefighter?

So, you want to be a firefighter?

Maybe not. Before you become one of us, we want you to know what you do not.

We cannot offer the pay or benefit packages of more typical employers.

That's why we're called "public servants" and "volunteers".

You should also know that you "volunteer" to belong -- everything that follows

in the fire service is "mandatory". It has to be.

The services we provide quite literally involve life and death; including your own.

Fire departments are not social clubs. The days of the "good old boys",

"bearded wonders", and "banquet firemen" are gone. It has to be.

Buildings burn with more intensity, hazardous material content, and

risk of collapse is greater than ever before.

Other organizations exist to fulfill your "party" needs.

Belonging will be time consuming. Training. More training. Always, training.

Firefighting is a "gamble". The only means you have of placing the "odds"

**in your favor is education. Knowing how fire burns, clues of
color and smoke,**

**building construction and ALL the other things that must be
learned**

may save your life, and the lives of others.

**It also takes time to respond to alarms, do your duty, and
then**

get all the equipment and tools of the trade back in service.

The work doesn't end when the fire goes out.

**Time is needed for vehicle and station maintenance,
prevention,**

inspections, investigations, record keeping, parades

and fund raisers.

There is never enough money.

Time... The fire service requires lots of time.

**Firefighting is physically demanding. Not all the time- just
each time you**

**step foot on the truck to answer a call. Your heart pounds,
adrenalin flows,**

**and if you are sane, you are also scared. You'll wear almost
50 pounds of**

**protective equipment. While wearing it, you will pull, push,
climb, stretch,**

**carry, lift, crouch, crawl, and breath harder than you thought
possible.**

Smoke and soot will become your cologne.

**You will learn a new meaning of what it is to be truly "cold",
"hot", "sore", and "tired".**

**You may bleed, you will sweat, and sometimes; you will shed
tears.**

**Firefighting can be ugly. It can be blinding bright, or blinding
dark.**

It can be deadly silent, or have a deafening roar.

**You will see suffering and carnage in fires of the future--like
those before.**

So, you still want to be a firefighter?

Then you might make it, you can make it; many have.

**The "bad" in firefighting is part of the "good". It is what
makes us different.**

**We do what others can't. If you become one of us, you'll
share challenges,**

**camaraderie, and when we're successful, a sense of
accomplishment**

that is second to none."

Your family becomes ours; and ours becomes yours.

**In our breed, you will experience an often strange sense of
humor,**

and you'll develop pride. Not boastful, bragging, cocky pride;

**rather an inner pride known only by those who have worn
the gear.**

**You will develop a respect for your co-workers across the
nation,**

and their job, that exists in no other profession.

It is often said that "firefighting gets in your blood".

That's not true.

If you become one of us, it gets in your heart.



A Firefighter's Wish

**Oh Lord, please help this firefighter
To be skillful and brave.
Please let me never falter
When there are lives to save.**

**Be with my fellow firefighters
And ride with us each run,
From the moment we "suit-up"
Until the job is done.**

**Be with me as I guide a child
Through the dark and smoky haze
Give me strength and courage
As I fight the deadly blaze.**

**Lord, I put my safety in Your hands,
But in the chaos and the strife,
Help me act with selfless courage
God, just let me save a life.**