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October 1, 2010

Dear Fire Chief:

To assist in the recruitment and retention of South Carolina Firefighters, a collaborative effort occurred several years ago between the states fire service and SC LLR, Division of Fire & Life Safety. At that time the Learning for Life Explorer Program was embraced permitting academy training for 16 & 17 year old youth. That change allowed 250 participating youth to successfully complete a myriad of classes that has, or will shortly validate upon their 18th birthday.

Building upon that success, the "Future Volunteer Firefighters Act 159 of South Carolina" was passed this legislative session which now expands SC Fire Academy training opportunities for 16 and 17 year old youth through the Junior Member Program.

Effective October 1, 2010 the BSA Exploring Program and Junior Member Programs will permit qualified participants to attend 27 fire academy courses. This allows 16 & 17 year old participants to complete academy courses to attain levels of training up to and including NFPA Firefighter II. Additional academy courses and specialty classes are also offered for the benefit of the participating youth.

The attached guideline AG-007 describes the programs in detail. Phillip Russell has been designated as the Administrator of Youth Training Programs for the SC Fire Academy and may be contacted directly for further information at 803-896-9893.

I sincerely thank the SC Firefighters Association for their commitment and dedication in making this change possible through a unified effort. I encourage both career and volunteer fire departments to consider these training opportunities and prepare for the future. Providing guidance and instruction to the youth today will certainly create a better and safer tomorrow.

Respectfully,

John G. Reich
Deputy Director / State Fire Marshal

DIVISION OF FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

VOLUME 1

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINE

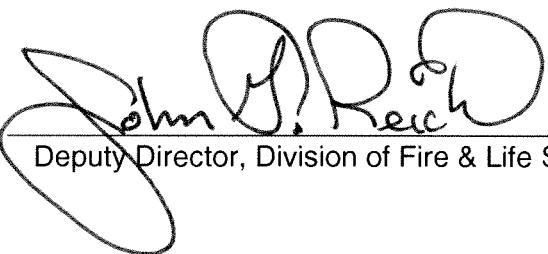
AG-007

LEARNING FOR LIFE EXPLORING PROGRAM AND JUNIOR MEMBER
TRAINING FOR 16 AND 17 YEAR OLD

REVISION 2

Effective Date October 1, 2010

RECOMMENDED BY:  9/22/10
Superintendent Date

APPROVED BY:  9/22/2010
Deputy Director, Division of Fire & Life Safety Date

LIST OF EFFECTIVE PAGES

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1.0 Purpose

South Carolina Department of LLR, Division of Fire and Life Safety acknowledges that the future of the state's fire service depends upon today's youth. To meet the needs of our state's diverse fire service, it is imperative that fire academy will offer training programs to encourage young persons to pursue fire-oriented service in both volunteer and career departments. This program will offer youth to complete training to NFPA Firefighter II level and other academy courses. The South Carolina Fire Academy offers two avenues for training for 16 and 17 year old persons to enhance the recruitment and retention of firefighters in South Carolina:

1. Learning for Life Exploring thru the Boy Scouts of America allows young
2. Junior Member Training for 16 and 17 year old students

NOTE

This training is provided so an Explorer or Junior Member Firefighter Qualified Youth can obtain training to prepare them to the NFPA Firefighter II level for a volunteer or paid department once they are 18 years of age. This training does not certify or qualify a Junior Member Qualified Youth or Explorer to fight fires. It is the Fire Chief's responsibility to qualify and certify his personnel to the job assigned and to ensure compliance with South Carolina Child Labor Laws.

2.0 References

1. Act 159 approved May 12, 2010 to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina as follows:
Section 1. This act shall be known and cited as the "Future Volunteer Firefighters Act of South Carolina"
Section 2. Chapter 21, title 41 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:
Section 41-21-110 (A) The Director of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, in cooperation with the State Firefighters Association, may establish a junior firefighters program, consistent with all applicable state and federal child labor laws, for the purpose of encouraging, educating and training qualified youth to enter the fire service as a career. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, qualified youth under eighteen years of age shall be allowed to participate in training activities offered by local fire departments, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. As used in this subsection, the term "qualified youth" means an uncompensated fire department or rescue squad member who is between fourteen and eighteen years of age.
(B) Participants in the junior firefighters program are not considered employees of the State and are not considered eligible for unemployment compensation upon termination from the program; however, participants are entitled to all other work benefits, including workers compensation or its equivalent.
2. SC State Firefighters' Association Junior Member Standard, September 2010. Please review this standard as it relates to your Junior Members.
3. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division 29 CFR Parts 570-579 Child Labor Regulations, Orders and Statements of Interpretations: Final Rule Federal Register/ Vol. 75, No. 97/ Published May 20, 2010 Effective July 19, 2010.
4. Boy Scouts of America Exploring Information

3.0 Definitions

1. Boy Scouts of America, Learning for Life Exploring - A program licensed by the Boy Scouts of America whose purpose is to help young people mature and prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. The Explorer program has been endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Volunteer Fire Council, and the US Fire Administration National Fire Academy.
2. Chartered Fire Department Sponsored Exploring Program - An Exploring group registered with the Boy Scouts of America that is sponsored by a Fire Department
3. Qualified Youth – means an uncompensated fire department or rescue squad member who is 16 or 17 years of age.

4.0 Scope and Responsibilities

1. This guideline applies to fire departments with a Junior Member program with Qualified Youth or a Chartered Exploring program with Explorers who are 16 to 17 years of age who may attend SCFA courses listed on Attachment 6.3.

5.0 Procedure

5.1 Persons 16 and 17 years of age who are registered members of a Chartered Fire Department Exploring Program or Qualified Youth Junior Firefighters who are members of a fire department or rescue squad may attend South Carolina Fire Academy courses listed in Attachment 6.3. It is recommended that participating youth complete the 1152 course first before attending any of the other courses listed in Attachment 6.3. This is the basic fundamentals course that includes firefighter safety and will provide a good foundation to build on. It is also recommended that the participant complete the 2147 course prior to attending 2000 level courses listed on Attachment 6.3.

5.2 To register as an Explorer for courses listed in Attachment 6.3 the Explorer must complete the SCFA Exploring Program Registration Form (Attachment 6.1), sign where applicable, and have their parent or guardian review and sign the application. The Fire Chief of the fire department sponsoring the Chartered Exploring Program must also sign the registration form. Once registered and confirmed in the course requested, the Explorer will be notified. The Explorer must attend the training like all other students and participate in all aspects of the course. Upon successful completion of a course, the Explorer will receive an Academy provisional certificate which will validate on the Explorer's 18th birthday, and will be clearly printed on the certificate. These courses are designed for local fire department delivery. Explorers 16 or 17 years old may attend the courses and evaluations for the courses listed in Attachment 6.3 at the SCFA, but will not be allowed to stay overnight at the academy dorm

5.3 To register as a Junior Member for courses listed in Attachment 6.3 the Junior Member must complete the SCFA Junior Member Program Registration Form (Attachment 6.2), sign where applicable, and have their parent or guardian review and sign the application. The Chief of the Junior Member's department shall also sign the registration form. Once registered and confirmed in the course requested, the Junior member will be notified. The Junior Member shall attend the training like all other students and participate in all aspects of the course. Upon successful completion of a course, the Junior Member will receive an Academy provisional certificate which will validate on the Junior Members 18th birthday, and will be clearly printed on the certificate. These courses are designed for local fire department delivery. Junior Members 16 or 17 years old may attend courses and evaluations for the courses listed in Attachment 6.3 at the SCFA, but will not be allowed to stay overnight at the academy dorm.

5.4 Explorer participants are not firefighters, and are not considered an employee of a fire department. Registered Exploring participants and advisors are insured under the insurance provided through the Boy Scouts of America, Learning for Life Program.

5.5 Junior Members attending our courses are not considered employees of the State and are not considered eligible for unemployment compensation upon termination from the program; however, participants are entitled to all other work benefits, including worker's compensation or its equivalent. 41-21-110 (B). **The South Carolina Fire Academy is not authorized to provide travel, medical, health or worker's compensation insurance.**

5.6 Youth in the 1152 course will be issued an IFSTA Firefighter Essentials Manual and Performance Task Manual. For other courses they will receive books and course materials. These books and course materials are provided for the youth to keep and will be required for them to have when they attend the 1153 and 1154 courses.

5.7 To receive detailed information about the Learning for Life Exploring Program, contact the Boy Scouts of America, 803-750-9868. Additional information on the Learning for Life Exploring Program may also be found at: www.learningforlife.com.

5.8 To receive information about the Junior Member Standard, contact the South Carolina State Firefighters Association, 803-454-1800 or visit their web site at www.scfirefighters.org

5.9 For information, assistance or questions from the fire academy related to the Explorer or the Junior Firefighter programs please contact our Junior Member/Explorer coordinator at 803 896-9800.

SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE ACADEMY LEARNING FOR LIFE EXPLORING PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Course Code- Section Number _____ Course Title _____ Date _____ Location _____

Social Security Number _____ Male ___ Female ___ *Date of birth: _____ Age _____
* This applicant must be at least 16 years of age to enroll in the course.

Minor's Last Name _____ First Name: _____ Initial: _____

Mailing Address _____ email: _____

City: _____ SC Zip: _____ County _____

Daytime Phone/Work: _____ Home Phone _____

Fire Department Sponsoring the Chartered Exploring Group: _____

FDID: _____ Dept. Phone _____

BSA Post # _____ BSA Council Name _____

Parental Statements / Release / Authorization

Exploring, Learning for Life participants in the South Carolina Fire Academy courses must be at least 16 years of age. The Explorer must read and sign this form where indicated. A parent or legal guardian must review and sign this form in the designated areas. The Fire Chief of the Fire Department sponsoring the Chartered Exploring Group must sign this form also.

The South Carolina Fire Academy is authorizing the above applicant, who is at least 16 years of age and a registered participant of the Learning for Life Exploring Program, to participate in a SCFA Course. The course certificate is not valid until the Explorer's eighteenth (18th) birthday.

In consideration for participation in South Carolina Fire Academy training, I hereby release, indemnify, and covenant not to sue the South Carolina Fire Academy, S. C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the State of South Carolina, their officers, agents or employees (Releasees), as well as any other students or instructors, from any liability, claims, cost and causes of action arising out of, or related to, any property damage or personal injury, including death, that may be sustained by this minor while participating in such activity, or while on the premises owned, leased or used by Releasees.

I acknowledge the training involves physical and strenuous activities in which the minor is capable of fully participating. I know of no heart disease, epilepsy, emphysema, lung disease or other physical or mental condition that would preclude the minor from full participation in this training. I understand that the nature of the tasks the minor will have to perform while involved in this training may require a high degree of physical fitness, agility, and dexterity, and that this may include rigorous exercises which requires physical fitness, strength and stamina while wearing full protective clothing and a self-contained breathing apparatus. I am fully aware of the risks and hazards associated with fire and rescue training, including, but not limited to, burns, heat stroke, heart attack, heat exhaustion, falls, and other related injuries, and I choose to voluntarily allow this minor to participate in the activity with full knowledge that said activity may be hazardous to the minor and their property. I verify that my minor child has had a medical evaluation by a physician or other licensed health care professional within six (6) months of the course start date that meets the requirements of OSHA 1910.156 for fire brigades and 1910.134 for wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus. By my signature below as parent/guardian I verify insurance coverage and accept responsibility for all related medical charges.

SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE ACADEMY JUNIOR MEMBER PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Course Code- Section Number _____ Course Title _____ Date _____ Location _____

Social Security Number _____ Male ___ Female ___ *Date of birth: _____ Age _____

* This applicant must be at least 16 years of age to enroll in the course.

Minor's Last Name _____ First Name: _____ Initial: _____

Mailing Address _____ email: _____

City: _____ SC Zip: _____ County _____

Daytime Phone/Work: _____ Home Phone _____

Department name: _____

FDID: _____ Dept. Phone _____

Parental Statements / Release / Authorization

Junior Member participants in the South Carolina Fire Academy courses must be at least 16 years of age. The Junior Member must read and sign this form where indicated. A parent or legal guardian must review and sign this form in the designated areas. The Department Chief of this Junior Member must sign this form also.

The South Carolina Fire Academy is authorizing the above applicant, who is at least 16 years of age and a registered participant of a Junior Member Program, to participate in a SCFA Course. The course certificate is not valid until the Junior member's eighteenth (18th) birthday.

In consideration for participation in South Carolina Fire Academy training, I hereby release, indemnify, and covenant not to sue the South Carolina Fire Academy, S. C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the State of South Carolina, their officers, agents or employees (Releasees), as well as any other students or instructors, from any liability, claims, cost and causes of action arising out of, or related to, any property damage or personal injury, including death, that may be sustained by this minor while participating in such activity, or while on the premises owned, leased or used by Releasees.

I acknowledge the training involves physical and strenuous activities in which the minor is capable of fully participating. I know of no heart disease, epilepsy, emphysema, lung disease or other physical or mental condition that would preclude the minor from full participation in this training. I understand that the nature of the tasks the minor will have to perform while involved in this training may require a high degree of physical fitness, agility, and dexterity, and that this may include rigorous exercises which requires physical fitness, strength and stamina while wearing full protective clothing and a self-contained breathing apparatus. I am fully aware of the risks and hazards associated with fire and rescue training, including, but not limited to, burns, heat stroke, heart attack, heat exhaustion, falls, and other related injuries, and I choose to voluntarily allow this minor to participate in the activity with full knowledge that said activity may be hazardous to the minor and their property. I verify that my minor child has had a medical evaluation by a physician or other licensed health care professional within six (6) months of the course start date that meets the requirements of OSHA 1910.156 for fire brigades and 1910.134 for wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus. By my signature below as parent/guardian I verify insurance coverage and accept responsibility for all related medical charges.

Courses Approved for 16 and 17 Year Old Learning for Life Explorers and Junior Member Training

Course	Title	Prerequisite:
1152	Fundamentals of Firefighting	None
1136	Flammable Liquid/Gas Firefighting	1152
2722	Hazardous Materials: Operations	1152
*2727	Hazardous Materials Awareness	1152 preferred
*2728	Hazardous Materials Operations	2727, 1152 preferred
1153	NFPA Firefighter I	1152, 1136, 2722, CPR/First Aid
3330	Basic Auto Extrication	1152 preferred
1154	NFPA Firefighter II	1153, 3330
3310	Rope Rescue Low Angel Operations	1152 preferred
1139	Rescuing the Rescuer	1152, 1154 preferred
1140	Rapid Intervention Crew	1139
1160	Truck Company and Support Operations	1154 preferred
1176	Pipeline Emergencies	1152 preferred
1177	Responding to Utility Emergencies	1152 preferred
8118	Positive Pressure Ventilation	1152 preferred
8335	Intro to Wildland/Urban Interface	1152 preferred
1205	PO Vehicles Emergency Response	1152 preferred
2113	FSS: Increasing Personnel Effectiveness	1152 preferred
2114	FSS: Increasing Team Effectiveness	1152 preferred
2130	Building Construction: Noncombustible	1152 preferred
2132	Building Construction: Combustible.	1152 preferred
2147	NIMS: ICS for the Fire Service	1152 preferred
2172	Leadership II: Personal Success	1152 preferred
2139	Intro to Fire Inspection Principles	None
2751	Emergency Response to Terrorism Basic Concepts	1152 and 2722 preferred
8511	SC Fire Incident Reporting System	None
8520	Spray It Forward	None

NOTE

- It is recommended that the Junior Member/Explorer complete the 1152 course before attending any of these courses that do not require 1152 as a prerequisite.
- It is recommended that the Junior Member/Explorer complete the 2147 course prior to taking any of the 2000 level courses.
- Additional special courses not listed above may be offered to Junior Members/Explorers subject to Fire Academy management approval.

*These courses will not be available until July 1, 2011.