
*Your invitation to join in a century-old Larchmont tradition
that continues to make a difference today...*

Become a Volunteer Firefighter



Larchmont Fire Department

Volunteer recruiting hotline: 834-0471

JOINING IN A TRADITION OF SERVICE....

The idea of serving as a volunteer firefighter raises images of midnight alarms, evening and weekend training, and potentially hazardous and difficult service at fire scenes. However, the reality is different.

America has a long tradition of volunteer service. Volunteers fulfill a call to civic duty, receive the satisfaction of helping their friends and neighbors.

Volunteer or combination (mixed volunteer and career) departments are the most common approach to fire protection in smaller communities, especially in the Northeast. The Village of Larchmont's 100-year tradition of a combination department fits with the pattern of similar smaller communities. A 1996 study commissioned by the Village Board of Trustees found that Larchmont's combination department costs significantly less, each year, than the estimated cost of a fully-paid department.

Larchmont is subject to many demographic trends that have affected volunteerism. Residents balance family and community life with the demands of professional careers. The time and energy for volunteer service is limited.

Volunteer firefighters are not expected to give up their careers and family life. In fact, the minimum level of participation for voting membership in the Department is 15% of specified activities and alarms. Obviously, a volunteer's ability to respond to alarms is limited by being away from Larchmont for professional or personal reasons, being ill or injured, or having other pressing commitments that must receive priority. The basic idea is to have enough members so that, if each member responds when it is practical, the overall level of response to each alarm is sufficient.



ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Open to all residents of Larchmont over the age of 18.
- Open to a limited number of nearby non-residents.
- Men and women are encouraged to join.
- Youth ages 14-18 are invited to join the Explorer Troop.
- Explorer Troop has limited activities and hours.



THE SATISFACTION OF SERVICE...

So, why should you consider joining the Larchmont Fire Department?

Your experience as a volunteer firefighter provides an opportunity to serve your community, your neighbors, and your friends, at times when lives and property are at risk. Your service is rewarding because you are helping when they need help the most. You will share in the pride, professional spirit, and friendship among the career and volunteer members of the Department. Social and professional activities sponsored by the Department also enhance and enrich your experience

Fire Protection is also a very interesting field, applying advanced technologies and professional skills to help people when their lives and property are at stake. As a volunteer firefighter, you will learn about:

- the engineering of buildings and their protection systems,
- the operation of complex fire protection apparatus,
- the operation of advanced safety equipment,
- first response life support skills such

as CPR, and

- leadership and teamwork under conditions of challenge and stress.

Depending on your level of interest and available time, you will be eligible to participate in training programs at the local and regional level.

Your service as a volunteer enhances the quality of life in Larchmont. Our Village is a wonderful place to live not only because of the beauty of our homes, neighborhoods, and parks, but also because Larchmont is a place where people care about one another, and take an interest in the life of the community. Just as volunteering with the PTA and the Soccer League provides a connection between neighbors and community, volunteering in Fire Department provides another connection that enriches our community while preserving lives and property.

An opportunity to serve your community, your neighbors, and friends when lives and property are at risk...



Service in the Larchmont Fire Department can involve activities other than actual interior firefighting. We also need associate members who can assist in emergency planning and management, grant writing, administration, public education, training, and Explorer Troop activities.

THE ROLE OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

A volunteer firefighter is not expected or allowed to take inappropriate risks at a fire scene. There are many jobs to be performed at a fire scene, and only the most experienced and trained career and volunteer members of the Department are assigned direct firefighting responsibilities in challenging situations. Other firefighters perform essential supporting functions.

The basic approach to fire and emergency protection in Larchmont involves teamwork between career and volunteer members. The career firefighters provide ongoing coverage and operational support at the Fire Department, drive the fire apparatus to a fire scene in response to alarms, and initiate suppression of the fire. The career staff also serve as trained and qualified first responders to medical emergencies, responding within minutes to anywhere in the Village.

Volunteers report directly to a fire scene, responding to the Department horn as well as pagers. At a fire, the volunteer and career firefighters work as a team executing one of a range of attack plans depending on the circumstances. While volunteers can and do perform every function associated with fighting a fire, only those with considerable training and experience are positioned to attack the fire directly. There are many other essential functions at a fire scene involving connecting hoses, positioning and restocking equipment and supplies, as well as crowd and traffic management. Safety is paramount, and safety is achieved by careful planning, strict command and organization, and consistent preparation and training.

TRAINING

Effective training is essential to achieve timely, effective, and safe emergency operations. The Department requires new members to complete the "Essentials of Firemanship" course offered through the Westchester County Training Academy within 1 year of confirmation as a member of the Department. This is a 39-hour course that is frequently available in several schedule formats. For example, it can be completed during evenings over a period of weeks, over a series of Saturdays, or intensively over one week during regular working hours.

Volunteer firefighters are also expected to attend training activities provided at the Fire Department and at other sites in Larchmont. These sessions are conducted by members of the Department.

Additional training opportunities are periodically available for volunteers to learn how to operate firefighting apparatus, or to learn about new techniques and firefighting strategies. Members are selected for these special programs based on their interest, level of participation, and the needs of the Department.

BASIC OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

A volunteer member of the Fire Department, not serving as an officer, has the following obligations: **Initial Training:** Complete the "Essentials of Firemanship" course within the first year of service. **In-service Training:** Participate in regularly scheduled in-service training offered by the Department at least to the extent required for active membership as explained below. **Attendance:** Achieve and maintain an attendance level of 15% of the following activities: scheduled meetings, scheduled training activities, and alarms.

A volunteer member can maintain active status by attending two scheduled organizational and training meetings each month, and responding to several alarms per week, consistent with the volunteer's other obligations. While many of our members participate more frequently, the Department's basic expectations of volunteer members permit members to balance their service to the community with their family and career obligations.

Larchmont Fire Department

120 Larchmont Avenue
Larchmont, New York 10538

Recruiting Hotline: 834-0471

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