



OBSERVER APPLICATION



BRIDGEWATER VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, INC.

10 Volunteer Drive • Post Office Box 268

Bridgewater, Virginia 22812

Emergency 9-1-1

(540) 828.3395

www.bridgewaterrescue.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Volunteers

Senior Membership is available to persons aged sixteen (16) years or older. Senior Volunteers are required to attend monthly training drills, participate in fundraising activities, and pull twelve (12) hours of duty every other week for a total of 24 hours each month. Senior Volunteers must obtain Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification within six (6) months of joining and Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or EVOC certification within two (2) years of joining. Members under the age of 18 who have not yet graduated from high school or obtained a GED must be students in good standing in an academic environment. They must maintain a passing average in all subjects as well as a minimum 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in school. Members in high school are only required to pull one half of the required duty during the academic year (September to May).

Associate Emergency Responder

Associate Emergency Responder Membership is available to persons aged sixteen (16) years or older as an alternative to Senior Membership. Associate Emergency Responders are required to attend monthly training drills, participate in fundraising activities, and pull six (6) hours of duty every other week for a total of 12 hours each month. Associate Emergency Responders must obtain Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification within six (6) months of joining and Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or EVOC certification within two (2) years of joining. Members under the age of 18 who have not yet graduated from high school or obtained a GED must be students in good standing in an academic environment. They must maintain a passing average in all subjects as well as a minimum 2.0 grade point average (GPA) in school. Members in high school are only required to pull one half of the required duty during the academic year (September to May).

Support Member

The Support membership category is for persons who wish to help out with various tasks such as administrative work (data entry, paperwork, grant-writing, etc.), lawn care, facilities management, childcare or vehicle maintenance. Support membership is available to persons aged sixteen (16) years or older. Support members have no required duty or training requirements, but will assist the rescue squad as needed. Support members are not required but are encouraged to attend monthly training drills and monthly meetings. Support members do not respond to emergency calls.

Observer Program

The Observer Program was developed to allow persons with an interest in the rescue squad to receive some “hands-on experience” in the operations of a rescue squad before making a commitment and/or applying for membership.

Community Auxiliary

The Community Auxiliary of the Bridgewater Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. is a separate but integral part of the rescue squad. The Auxiliary raises funds to help support the rescue squad, and they assist the rescue squad during significant rescue incidents, severe weather, and social activities by preparing food for members. Persons interested in joining the Community Auxiliary should complete an Auxiliary Application that may be obtained through an Auxiliary member. Contact any rescue squad officer for more information.

BRIDGEWATER VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, INC.

Our Mission

The Bridgewater Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. will provide, without charge, the highest quality professional pre-hospital emergency medical care and rescue services to all citizens of the community in time of sudden illness, injury, or disaster. These services are made possible through the efforts of volunteers who donate their time to respond to emergency calls and maintain high training standards, as well as the voluntary financial contributions of the community.

OBSERVER APPLICATION

Dear Applicant:

You must complete all sections of this application and sign the Observer Guidelines and Agreement included. Please print or type the required information. Participation in the Observer Program with the Bridgewater Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. is at-will. No application, policy, procedure, or any statement made by a member or officer should be construed as a contract for any specific duration. Observer privileges may be terminated at any time with or without cause. Observer privileges are granted for a period of 30 days. Any extension of this 30 day period must be approved by the Membership Director. An Observer Card, issued upon approval of this application, must be presented to the ambulance crew each time before riding along on an emergency call.

PERSONAL RECORD

Name: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Work Telephone: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Gender: Male Female

Are you currently enrolled in a First Responder or EMT-B class?

Yes No

If yes, please list instructor's name: _____

Have you ever been a member of, or applied for membership to, this rescue squad or any other fire, rescue, EMS, or emergency services agency?

Yes No

If yes, please list: _____

Have you ever been convicted of any crime(s)? Include misdemeanors, traffic offenses, and/or felonies. Affirmative answers do not necessarily disqualify applicant.

Yes No

If yes, Please explain): _____

In case of an emergency, contact:

Name: _____

Relation: _____

Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Work Telephone: _____

EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING

List all fire, rescue, EMS, and/or emergency services training, experience, and certifications you hold. Include expiration dates and certifying state, department, or agency:

CERTIFICATION

Attention: This statement must be signed. Please read the following statement carefully before signing.

I hereby certify that the facts set forth in the above Application for Membership are true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I have not intentionally omitted any information. I further certify that there are no willful misrepresentations or falsifications of the above statements and answers to questions. If an investigation discloses such misrepresentations, omissions, and/or falsifications, my application could be rejected, and I will be disqualified from ever applying for membership with this rescue squad in the future. I understand that if I am accepted into membership, falsified statements on this application or omission of information may result in immediate dismissal.

The Bridgewater Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. is hereby authorized to make any investigation of my personal history, criminal history, driving record, and employment history. I consent to the release of information concerning my capacity and fitness by employers, educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, and other individuals and agencies duly accredited.

I understand that membership is at-will and the Bridgewater Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. or authorized representative may terminate my membership with or without cause and with or without notice at any time.

Signature of Applicant

Date

OFFICE USE

Membership Director/Committee Action

Observer Application Approved: Yes No Date: _____

Observer Extension Approved: Yes No Date: _____

OBSERVER GUIDELINES AND AGREEMENT

Please read the following information carefully and sign where indicated.

- a. Observers will follow the Code of Conduct for this rescue squad.
- b. Any person wishing to ride with the rescue squad on calls only to observe will be classified as an Observer. The Observer Agreement and Application must be filled out and returned to a member of the Membership Committee of the Bridgewater Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. before the Applicant will be allowed to ride along on an emergency call. If a person does not wish to ride as an Observer prior to being considered for membership, it is not necessary that he/she complete the Observer Agreement.
- c. An Observer Card must be presented to the ambulance crew each time before riding along on an emergency call. There will be a maximum seven (7) day processing period for the Application before a card can be issued. If approved, the Applicant will receive his/her card at the end of the processing period. Observer badges shall be worn when running calls.
- d. Observers will not be allowed to ride along on calls that possibly involve violence (i.e. fights, gunshot wounds, suicides, etc.) or on obstetrical calls.
- e. Recording devices or cameras are not allowed on any call. This includes the use of cellular telephone cameras or recording technology.
- f. Observers will be assigned to a rescue squad member on each call. The Observer must follow any and all directions given to him/her when on a call. There may be some situations when the assigned rescue squad member will ask the Observer to remain at a certain location or to assist in some way.
- g. Observers are encouraged to ask questions about the work the rescue squad does. The Observer should refrain from asking questions about a patient in the presence of the patient or the patient's family.
- h. Observers are reminded that any and all information about a patient and his/her condition is confidential.
- i. Observers must be at least sixteen (16) years of age to observe or become a member of the rescue squad.
- j. The Observer will ride in the back of the ambulance on the way to a call. The Observer may be asked to ride in the front on the way to the hospital, depending on the number of crewmembers and the situation.
- k. The rescue squad members on any call reserve the right to deny the Observer the opportunity to ride along. If the situation merits additional members on the crew, the Observer may be asked to stay behind.
- l. Observers are not allowed to be on rescue squad property, in an ambulance, etc. without the presence of a Senior, Associate Member, or Active Life Member.
- m. Observers may not be on rescue squad property, in an ambulance, on calls, or at rescue squad functions within eight (8) hours of consuming alcoholic beverages.
- n. The normal hours for observing are 1800-2200 hours. If it becomes necessary for an Observer to observe at hours other than those stated (for instance, during daylight hours), he/she should contact the Membership Director in order to make other arrangements. Observers may stay past 2200 hours if approved by the crew leader and if a full member remains in the building with the Observer.
- o. At any time, either party may terminate this agreement for any violation of the Observer Agreement, Standard Operating Procedures or Constitution, or any concern revealed by the investigation of the Application for Membership.
- p. If the Application is approved, the Observer Card will be issued for a period of no longer than thirty (30) days. At the end of the period, the Observer agrees to turn in his/her Observer Card to the rescue squad. If he/she wishes to extend the Observer period, he/she must submit a request to the Membership Director. Only one (1) extension is allowed, and will last no longer than thirty (30) days.

I have read and understand these guidelines, and I will adhere to them. I agreed not to hold the Bridgewater Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. liable for any injury, illness, disability, or loss of limb or life that I might sustain while participating in the Observer Program.

Signature of Applicant

Date