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PFD CELEBRATES 2ND SEASON OF TRAINING DIVERSE GROUP OF YOUNG HOPEFULS

Philadelphia, PA: On Saturday, November 21, Fire Commissioner Derrick Sawyer, the Philadelphia Fire Department (PFD) and the Citizens for Fire Prevention Committee will host their second Fire Explorers Program closing ceremony, where 50 participants (Ages 14-21) will celebrate their season of building skill in the area of Fire & EMS and life safety. The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Philadelphia Fire Academy – 5200 Pennypack Ave.

The PFD Fire Explorers Program – Post 1873, falls under the umbrella of the Learning for Life Organization which sponsors such organizations as the Boy Scouts of America and the Philadelphia Police Department’s Explorer Program. “In an age where much of Philadelphia’s youth suffers from a lack of solid educational and training options the Philadelphia Fire Department has done its small part and created a pathway of opportunity,” said Fire Commissioner Sawyer, “The Fire Explorer program presents an incredible option and exposes young inner city hopefuls to real life experiences, training, and exposure to career potential in the fire service.”

Akin to the longstanding Philadelphia Police Department’s Explorer Program, the newly created Fire Explorers program is playing catch up in exposing city youth to the emergency response profession. Under the implementation and direction of Fire Commissioner Sawyer and program director Captain Sean Mack, the program has witnessed overwhelming response. The 50 participants, trained by a staff of PFD firefighters, have been certified in CPR, First Aid and Community Risk Reduction (CRR). In addition, the program also includes Engine and Ladder training, SCBA procedures, physical fitness, Incident Command System, and hours of community service. Both the students and mentors have volunteered their time to be involved.

Captain Sean Mack, who also manages the Department’s Recruitment Unit, noted that, “the challenge of any fire department and emergency response organization is to recruit, promote, and retain a high level of skilled and motivated young men and women. It has been encouraging to train and educate these young Explorers and help to prepare them for a career in emergency services.”

Dignitaries from both the private and public sector have been invited to attend, as well as the family and friends of the Explorers. The ceremony will consist of awards presentations and promotions.

Fire Commissioner Sawyer wishes to remind all that Fire is Everyone’s Fight™

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