Media Release

Durham Fire Department

For Immediate Release: February 4, 2016

Jr. Fire Marshal Academy Seeks Future Firefighters

Application Deadline March 7 for Free Spring Break Program

DURHAM, N.C. – If you have a youth interested in what it takes to become a firefighter then the City of Durham Jr. Fire Marshal Academy is one opportunity not to be missed.

The Durham Fire Department and Durham Parks and Recreation are joining forces to host the 2016 Jr. Fire Marshal Academy and provide interested 11-to-15 year olds with a memorable and educational spring break experience.

This year's academy, previously known as the Jr. Fire Marshal Program, is a free program that takes place during spring break. It allows participants to explore careers in the fire service industry and other service-related careers while learning to become safety ambassadors for the community. This year's theme is "Public Safety Tribute" and EMS, police, and sheriff representatives will be making guest appearances to contribute to the week's activities.

According to Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal Edward Reid, the academy is designed to offer participants interested in firefighting a sneak peek inside the fire services industry. "An actual fire academy is extremely fast-paced and you're exposed to information about a myriad of different topics. Our approach is to mirror some of those same experiences for Jr. Fire Marshal participants to give them an idea of what it's like to be in a real academy," said Reid.

This year's academy will take place Monday, March 28 through Thursday, March 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pick-up and drop-off each day will be at the Lyon Park Recreation Center, 1309 Halley

St., Durham. Participants must attend each day of the program in order to graduate as a Jr. Fire Marshal. The program is free of charge and lunch will be provided daily. The first 25 students to apply will be considered for the academy, and applications must be submitted by March 7.

According to Reid, the ultimate goal is to have a Jr. Fire Marshal participant come back to the department when they're 18 years old to become a Durham firefighter. "This is the eleventh year the City has offered this experience and we are optimistic about the academy becoming a successful recruitment tool for us," Reid said. "This academy will also help to prepare participants for a new high school public safety and firefighting program set to begin next year at Holton Career and Resource Center. The high school program is aimed at helping juniors and seniors earn firefighter certifications, which could ultimately make it easier to become a Durham firefighter."

Parents and/or guardians should register their child through DPR's Play More Online catalog and use registration code 21504. For more information, visit the Durham Fire Department's Web page or contact Public Education Coordinator and Public Information Officer Sierra Mckoy with the Durham Fire Department at (919) 560-4233, ext. 19242 or by email.

About the Durham Fire Department
The Durham Fire Department strives to provide a cost-effective level of service designed to protect and prevent the loss of life and property from the adverse effects of fires, medical emergencies and exposure to dangerous conditions created by either man or nature. The department offers fire education and suppression programs; enforces state and city fire codes; investigates arson and the causes of fires; provides basic training skills to recruits and in-service personnel and conducts a preventive fire maintenance program to ensure equipment is dependable and efficient. To learn more, visit the department's Web page or like on Facebook.

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