BENEFITS OF BEING A VOLUNTEER

Presented by MSFA Marketing Committee
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Scholarship & Tuition Reimbursements

- MSFA offers scholarships to Maryland’s colleges & universities.
- Many training courses are eligible for college credit with Maryland Fire-Rescue Institute (MFRI).
- Active members who enroll in Fire Science or EMS curriculums are eligible for tuition reimbursement from the State Scholarship Board.
Length of Service Awards (LOSAP)

Many jurisdictions in Maryland offer LOSAP programs where volunteers are paid a monthly cash award (amount varies by County) after serving a target number of years.
**FINANCIAL BENEFITS**

**Income Tax Deductions**
- Maryland allows active volunteers a $3,500 income subtraction on their Maryland Tax Return for meeting local eligibility requirements.

**Mileage Deductions**
- Volunteers are allowed to deduct mileage expenses on both Federal and State income tax returns for documented participation.
Clothing & Equipment Distribution

- In most companies or departments, uniforms, equipment & fire gear is issued at no cost to members.

Municipal Tax Incentives

- Some municipalities offer property tax reductions to active volunteers.

Bessie Marshall Benefit Fund

- The Bessie Marshall Benefit Fund provides financial assistance to members in need who are sick or injured from causes not related to volunteer service.

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Training to State/National Standards

- All training is offered at no or nominal cost - from new recruit to Paramedic to Fire/Rescue Chief.

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Professional Development

- From initial recruit training through advanced courses - all provide valuable education and experience toward a career in any chosen field, be it emergency services or another professional vocation.

College Credits

- Many fire and rescue courses offered to volunteers through their local training academy or through the MFRI qualify for college credits.
High School Programs

- Many County school systems offer students the opportunity to train as cadets, working in a fire/rescue station with experienced firefighters and medics during school hours.
- High School Cadet programs allow a high school senior to graduate with as many as 20 college credits.
Credit Unions

- Many state and local credit unions offer membership to volunteer fire and EMS members.
Banquets & Awards Programs

- Member companies, including the MSFA, honor volunteers through banquets & awards programs, recognizing length of service milestones, acts of valor, and outstanding service.

- Counties and municipalities also acknowledge acts of valor, “Members of the Year” and service “above and beyond” the call of duty through local Chambers of Commerce, Kiwanis & Lions Clubs.
SOCIAL & FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Station Live-In Opportunities

- Many stations located near college campuses provide students the opportunity to save dormitory fees by living at the fire/rescue station.
Social & Fellowship Programs

Government/Business Discounts

- Several businesses offer volunteer fire & rescue workers sizable discounts on food, merchandise and other professional services.
- Some local governments also provide free or discounted services to volunteers, including municipal bus service & community pools.

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OTHER TANGIBLE BENEFITS

Insurance & Workers Compensation
Member Assistance Programs
Vehicle License Tags

- Specialty MSFA or local volunteer organization license plates are available to active members.

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INTANGIBLE BENEFITS

- Friendship
- Fellowship
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Accountability
- The opportunity to do meaningful work, while giving back to the community.
- Family

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Our Mission:

The mission of the MSFA is to Serve, Promote, Advocate and Represent the interests of all the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Companies or Departments of Maryland.

Facts about the MSFA:

- There are 365 member companies.
- There are more than 25,000 members.
- The MSFA is the voice of the Fire, Rescue, and EMS Volunteers in Annapolis.
- The MSFA has formed strategic partnerships with other organizations including local, State, and National agencies to better protect our members and the community.

MSFA... Here for you
“YOU MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT YOU GET.
YOU MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT YOU GIVE.”

WINSTON CHURCHILL

To learn more about the MSFA or Volunteering, go to www.MSFA.org or stop by your local station.