

FAQs About Joining Whitehouse Rescue Squad

Membership Categories

Junior Member (Ages 16–17)

Open to individuals ages 16 or 17 who are interested in learning about EMS and rescue services.

Standard Member (Ages 18+)

Open to individuals 18 years or older. Members are expected to obtain New Jersey EMT certification within one year of joining Whitehouse Rescue Squad.

Rescue Member (Ages 18+)

For individuals interested in technical rescue disciplines. EMT certification is not required but is highly encouraged.

Associate Member (Ages 18+)

For individuals who already hold EMS or rescue certifications and wish to respond to calls but cannot meet the time commitment required of Standard Members.

Paid EMT Positions

Limited full-time and per diem positions are available based on operational need.

Minimum Requirements:

- New Jersey EMT Certification
- Valid Driver's License
- BLS CPR certification recognized by the State of New Jersey
- Minimum age of 18

Supportive Member (Ages 18+)

Do not respond to emergency calls but support the squad through fundraising, administrative work, community events, and other support roles.

Application Process

After submission, applications are reviewed by the onboarding team. Applicants are typically contacted within 1–2 weeks.

The process includes:

- Reference checks
- Background review
- Township-required police background check

Onboarding may only proceed after successful completion of the Readington Police Department background check. If a recommendation not to proceed is issued, the process will be discontinued.

Eligibility

Readington Township residents are eligible for volunteer positions provided they:

- Pass a background check
- Demonstrate commitment aligned with squad requirements

Due to high applicant volume, out-of-town and out-of-county positions are limited.

EMT School Information

When Will I Be Sent?

Applicants must complete onboarding and begin riding before being sent to EMT school.

Typically, members are sent to EMT school **4–6 months** after beginning to ride, based on:

- Progress
- Performance
- Initiative

Program Length

Approximately **220 classroom hours**, including:

- Practical skills evaluations
- Written examinations
- 10 clinical hours in the Emergency Department at Hunterdon Medical Center

The course is demanding and requires schedule planning.

Training Costs

For Active Riding Members

Training is almost always provided at no cost.

Hunterdon County Training Center offers many EMS, rescue, and fire-related classes free to agency members.

EMT School Tuition

Whitehouse Rescue Squad utilizes South Branch Emergency Services for EMT training.

- If attending through South Branch: WHRS pays tuition upfront.
- If attending elsewhere: Member pays upfront. Reimbursement occurs after:
 - Achieving EMT-2nd status
 - Completing 120 riding hours

Note: Members certified prior to joining are not eligible for tuition reimbursement.

EMT-2nd candidates must:

- Complete the full EMT-3rd program
 - Demonstrate proficiency
 - Be at least 18 years old
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Member Progression

EMS Progression

1. **Observer** – Assists with non-EMT tasks while learning operations.
2. **EMT-3rd** – Rides with experienced crews after certification to build skills and confidence. Only occurs after obtaining EMT certification.
3. Advancement occurs after successful completion of the EMT-3rd checklist and evaluation.

Promotion is based on initiative, reliability, and performance.

Rescue Services Progression

Members without prior certifications must obtain **two operations-level rescue certifications** within their first year.

Time Commitment

All volunteer members (Junior and Standard) must submit **24 hours of duty availability per month**.

Rescue Services:

- Conducts ongoing training throughout the year
- Requires participation in scheduled drills
- Assigns duty crews for focused events (e.g., adverse weather)
- Expects responses to calls outside of drill time