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Youth Corps

Thank you for your interest in the Putnam Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps' Youth Corps!

Purpose: The purpose of the PVVAC Youth Corps is to provide a positive experience for Putnam Valley area youth, in which they can better become self-reliant, responsible and contributing members of the community. Specifically, teenagers in the PVVAC Youth Corps have an opportunity to learn basic emergency medical skills necessary to ride as "crew" on an ambulance, and are given many opportunities to provide service to the community by participation in PVVAC activities, civic programs and events. Youth will also have an opportunity to explore and develop confidence in their own abilities, as well as skills in communication, teaching, and leadership through the regular activities of the Youth Corps.

How to Join: To join the PVVAC Youth Corps, applicants must be between 14 and 18 years of age and have an interest in both community service and in learning the skills necessary to ride as part of an ambulance crew. However, serving as a part of an ambulance crew is *not* a requirement for membership in the Youth Corps. Members may participate in any or all of the activities of the Corps at their own level of comfort. Applicants to the Youth Corps are expected to exhibit maturity, a commitment to the PVVAC Youth Corps program, and a proven ability to behave responsibly. Applicants are not required to have any previous first aid training or certifications. Interested youth are welcome and encouraged to attend a few meetings of the Youth Corps to learn more about the program. To initiate the application process for becoming a member, please complete the *Youth Corps Application* form and either bring it to a Youth Corps meeting, or submit it via e-mail or postal mail.

Regular Meetings/Drills & Training: The PVVAC Youth Corps typically has two regular meetings per month - the first and third Sundays, from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. On days when training for a certification takes place, such as CPR training, the meeting will likely be longer. Meetings are usually held at the PVVAC Headquarters building at 218 Oscawana Lake Road in Putnam Valley. Occasionally the Youth Corps' Sunday program may take place at a different location. Such occurrences are announced in advance and assistance with transportation can usually be provided when necessary.

Senior Corps Meetings/Drills & Training: Youth Corps members are also invited to attend the regular monthly meeting of the PVVAC Senior Corps, typically held on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month at 7:00 pm. Likewise, the Senior Corps holds their own drills and training, often on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm, and Youth Corps members are invited to participate. All such events are announced in advance and will appear on the PVVAC calendar. An e-mail notification will usually be sent out as well.

Social Activities & Community Service: Throughout the year there are a variety of activities planned and held outside of the PVVAC Headquarters building. These include participation in civic events as well as social activities just for fun. Examples include local parades and fairs, visits to local EMS-related sites such as the Emergency Services Center in Carmel and neighboring Ambulance Corps. and emergency rooms, a local service project, and a Youth Corps trip to an amusement park and even a rafting or camping trip. Our own PVVAC also holds a number of barbecues, an *Awards Dinner*, a *Holiday Party*, and other events throughout the year.

Riding: Youth Corps members become eligible to serve as part of a crew on the ambulance once they reach the age of 17, have mastered certain first aid and CPR skills, are familiar with the proper use and location of emergency medical equipment on the ambulances, receive a recommendation from the Youth Corps Advisors, and are approved to do so by the Captain of the Senior Corps. However, becoming a riding member of the PVVAC is *not* a requirement for membership in the Youth Corps. Even PVVAC members over the age of 18 may choose between becoming Riding Members serving on the ambulance or Associate Members providing other services to the Corps. Members are encouraged to participate in the activities of the PVVAC at their own level of comfort.

Code of Conduct: The purpose of the Youth Corps' *Code of Conduct* is to clearly identify the Corps' expectation with regard to each member's behavior and actions. It is not the Corps' policy to monitor a Youth Corps member's academic standing. We wish each Youth Corps member the highest success they are able to achieve with regard to their academic studies.

Supervision: Youth Corps activities are supervised by Senior Corps members serving as advisors to the Youth Corps. They are appointed by the PVVAC Board of Directors and report to the PVVAC Captain. Adult supervision is always present at Youth Corps meetings, training, drills, and all other PVVAC activities taking place both within and outside of the PVVAC Headquarters building.

Cost: All training and PVVAC uniforms are provided free of charge. In some instances, Youth Corps families may be asked for a contribution towards the cost of social activities or trips, however, no one will ever be denied participation due to inability to pay.

**For more information about the Putnam Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps' Youth Corps:
e-mail Youth@PVVAC.org, or call (845) 526-3119**