

Live-In Program

The Guyasuta Volunteer Fire Department (GFD) sponsors a unique program that provides students rent-free accommodations in return for service as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician. Our location, just 15 minutes from the City of Pittsburgh (Oakland Area, CCAC, The Center, and the University of Pittsburgh) makes us very convenient for students who wish to combine their education with exciting on-the-job training from one of the most progressive fire departments in the region.

In order to be eligible for live-in status, applicants must be enrolled at an educational institution or hold a part-time or full-time job. Live-in members are required to participate in scheduled department training sessions. Also, live-in members are required to be on duty at least four nights per week and at least one full weekend a month. Most importantly, members are required to respond to all types of alarms when they are at the fire station. Also, live-ins must perform basic station duties such as cleaning, vehicle maintenance, and apparatus inventories/checks.

Once approved for live-in status, members are provided with living quarters in the bunkroom. Live-in members are also provided with a work area for studying which includes a computer with high-speed Internet access. The fire station has a full service kitchen, washer & dryer facilities on-site, and an exercise facility. Live-ins also receive free off-street parking.

The Live-In program provides individuals who wish to gain firefighting and EMS experience the opportunity to do so in a relatively short period of time. Many former GFD live-in members have gone on to successful fire/EMS service careers. Alumni of the GFD can be found as far away as Vermont and Colorado.

In addition to living at the firehouse free of charge, students are eligible to participate in the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy and Allegheny County Fire Academy fire/rescue training programs. Guyasuta offers a Tuition Reimbursement Program for students participating in fire/rescue training. Full-time and part-time students apply for reimbursement for each fire/rescue class that they attend. These applicants are required to pay upfront for each class and then, after successfully completing the class, the students are reimbursed for their tuition. The program is very successful and has allowed many of our members to expand their fire/rescue training for free.

About the Department: The Guyasuta Fire Department is located in O'Hara Township approximately six miles from downtown Pittsburgh. O'Hara Township encompasses seven square miles and includes 9000 residents and several hundred businesses. Our coverage area encompasses residences, apartment complexes, retirement homes, schools, part of Route 28, and many industries and businesses including RIDC Park and the Fox Chapel Plaza area. Guyasuta provides fire suppression, vehicle/technical rescue, and a department of health certified medical Quick Response Service and Advanced rescue service. Guyasuta's apparatus includes: an engine, a heavy rescue truck, a 100' aerial ladder truck, QRS squad, and a technical rescue truck. The department trains constantly which includes a mandatory Wednesday night training session. Guyasuta runs a variety of emergency calls that range from medical assists and fire alarms to vehicle crashes, structures fires, technical rescues, and hazardous materials incidents.

For more information on our Live-in program please contact us at the fire station or send us an email.

Guyasuta Volunteer Fire Department

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