Cadet Program

 The City of Yuma Ambulance Service Cadet Program was established by the City of Yuma Ambulance Service in an attempt to demonstrate the dedication, collaboration, and teamwork it takes to provide a professional emergency medical response. The Cadet Program provides a great opportunity for those interested in moving toward a long life career.

***Cadet Program Pledge***

1. We will provide the basic foundation from which interested people can obtain support in seeking a career opportunity as an emergency medical technician.

2. We will make every attempt to provide a positive, non-threatening, and educational environment for our Cadets.

 3. We will provide youth services to the local communities.

4. We’ll provide a sense of awareness about health matters as well as illness/injury prevention that Cadets can take with them into the community.

5. We will give Cadets an opportunity to witness firsthand, patient interaction and treatment modalities, educationally demonstrating pre-hospital management of the sick and injured.

6. We will give Cadets an active, yet limited role in patient management providing them an opportunity for self-evaluation.

1. We will assist in providing certification, training, and continued education for active members of the Cadet Program.

**Cadet Program - Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: Can anyone join the Ambulance Service Cadet Program?**

*A: Anyone ages 15-19 can join our program. If you’re under the age 18, you’ll need your parent’s consent. Applicants older than 19 who wish to participate may submit an application.*

**Q: How much time will I have to commit to the Cadet Program?**

*A: Cadets must do a minimum of 8 shift hours per month, and attend 80% of PR events and the monthly meetings held the second Tuesday evening of each month.*

**Q: Do I have to pay for a uniform or equipment?**

*A: Cadets are issued a uniform just like the ambulance employees. Cadets are required to provide black shoes/boots to complete the uniform. Other equipment such as stethoscopes, trauma shears, or pulse-ox are on each unit for cadets to use while on shift. If the cadet would prefer their own personal equipment they must provide their own.*

**Q: What if I’m uncomfortable about getting too close to the actual emergency?**

*A: As emergency responders, we respond to all types of emergencies which vary in severity. Being in a small community, we often respond to friends and/ or family members as well. As a Cadet, we would never intentionally put you in a situation you were uncomfortable with; however, Cadets could unpredictably find themselves in the midst of a stressful situation at any given moment. Cadets are allowed to sit in the cab of the ambulance if a situation becomes too much for the cadet to handle.*

**Q: Will I be doing actual patient care?**

*A: Cadets are riding primarily as an observer. As Cadets become more and more familiar and comfortable, we encourage them to participate in non–invasive procedures.*

**Q: What’s a typical shift?**

*A: A Cadet’s shift varies depending upon the day of the week and/or if school is in session. During the school year, Cadets must do a minimum of 8 shift hours a month. During the summer months cadets are encouraged to increase their shift hours.*

**Q: Will this interfere with my schooling**?

*A: We take great pride in making sure our Cadets understand that school comes first and thus, this program should not interfere with your schooling. Cadets are encouraged to work on homework and or any other school assignments while they’re on shift if need be. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 is required to enter the cadet program.*

**Q: My long-term goal is to become a nurse, would being a Cadet benefit me?**

*A: The Cadet Program is a great opportunity for you to familiarize yourself with the basics of medicine. Depending upon your motivation, you could enter nursing school far ahead of someone with this experience. The Cadet Program is a great way to get started and could provide a great foundation in the medical field.*

**Q: When could I become a certified EMT?**

*A: You can take an EMT class at any time; however, most states and the National Registry of EMTs won’t allow you to certify until you’ve reached 18 years of age*. *It’s not recommended you take and or finish the class before your 18th birthday.*

**Q: Is there an advantage to being a Cadet during the ambulance hiring process?**

*A: Yes there are several advantages. First of all… if you’ve been a Cadet in good standing with YAS for at least one year, and you’ve completed the state EMT course, you’ll be eligible for hire at age 18.*

**Q: What kind of calls could I expect to see while riding as a Cadet?**

*A: We respond to various calls every day both trauma and medical with no two days being alike. Some have better outcomes than others. Calls will range from medical emergencies or local hospitals to metro hospital transports.*

**Q: Will I be allowed to drive the ambulance?**

*A: No, Liability and insurance will not allow Cadets to drive.*

**Q: How long is an EMT course and how much does it cost?**

*A: An EMT course is 175 hours of training with an accredited school followed by clinical training. Paying for an EMT course out of your own pocket will initially cost you approximately $1500 but there are many grants available to assist you with costs. If you’re a Cadet in good standing, after one year of service, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of your successful EMT training.*

**Q: What are the risks for exposure to blood borne or communicable disease?**

*A: Ambulances respond to a variety of situations that put us at risk of blood and airborne diseases. City of Yuma Ambulance Service will provide protective equipment such as gloves, face masks, etc. to all employees. In addition, aggressive treatment and immediate steps are taken should an employee be exposed.*