

**SHERWOOD VILLAGE
DEFIANCE COUNTY, OHIO**

ORDINANCE NO. 25-07-01

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ESTABLISHING A JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER
PROGRAM FOR THE VILLAGE OF SHERWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, Council of the Village of Sherwood, Ohio recognizes the value of cultivating interest in public safety and fire service among its youth; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Junior Firefighter Program provides a safe, supervised opportunity for young community members to learn about fire service, serve their community, and build character and leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council desires to formally authorize and structure such a program within the Sherwood Fire Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Sherwood that:

SECTION 1. Establishment - There is hereby created within the Sherwood Fire Department a Junior Firefighter Program for educational, training, and service participation by youth under supervision and in accordance with the rules herein established

SECTION 2. Eligibility – To be eligible for participation in the Junior Firefighter Program applicants must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and no older than eighteen (18) years of age unless still continuously enrolled in and regularly attending classes at an accredited high school or vocational school on a full-time basis. Applicants must also reside within the fire coverage area of the Sherwood Fire Department. Applicants must maintain passing grades and prioritize school attendance and performance.

SECTION 3. Appointment and Structure – Junior Firefighters shall be appointed by the then acting Fire Chief of the Village of Sherwood Ohio upon recommendation by program advisors and completion of all necessary application and parental consent forms. The program shall be administered by a Program Coordinator appointed by the Fire Chief, and supervised by designated Advisors who are members in good standing of the Sherwood Fire Department.

SECTION 4. Duties and Limitations – Junior Firefighters shall: (1) participate in all scheduled trainings, meetings, drills, fundraising events, and other approved activities unless duly excused by the Fire Chief (2) Be prohibited from entering ILDH (Immediate Danger to Life or Health) environments or participating in active fire suppression (3) be expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Conduct, Department Rules, and Standard Operating Procedures (4) at all relevant times wear department issued Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

including when participating in trainings or public-facing events. (5) not operate emergency vehicles, apparatus, or equipment unless expressly permitted during training under direct supervision.

SECTION 5. Hours of Participation – Junior Firefighters shall not report to the station before 6:00 a.m. or remain past 10:00 p.m. on any given day. Junior Firefighters shall not leave school, school functions, or compromise any educational obligations for fire department activity.

SECTION 6. Code of Conduct – All Junior Firefighters shall: (1) abide by all Sherwood Fire Department rules and regulations, including those specific to the Junior Firefighter program (2) refrain from profanity, disruptive behavior, or inappropriate use of department-issued clothing or insignia (3) notify an advisor upon arrival and departure from the station or an event (4) not post on social media or speak with the media regarding any emergency incident or internal department matters without prior written approval from the Fire Chief.

SECTION 7. Program Resources – Junior Firefighters will be issued PPE which remains the property of the Village. Members must maintain issued gear in a clean, serviceable condition and return all items upon termination from the program. Members shall receive Personal Accountability Tags (PAT Tags) for use in drills or department activities.

SECTION 8. Dismissal and Discipline – Failure to maintain academic eligibility, attend required trainings, or comply with conduct standards may result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the program at the discretion of the Fire Chief and program advisors.

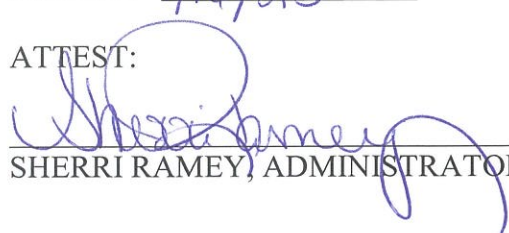
SECTION 9. Liability and Insurance – The Village shall ensure that Junior Firefighters are covered by appropriate liability insurance for all officially sanctioned events and activities. Parents or legal guardians shall sign a release and waiver of liability form prior to any participation by the Junior Firefighter.

PASSED:

7/16/25


DAVE WEANER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


SHERRI RAMEY, ADMINISTRATOR/FISCAL OFFICER