



VERNON

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Station 1

164 Breakneck Road
Highland Lakes, NJ 07422

Station 2

3 Baldwin Drive
Vernon, NJ 07462

Station 3

1 Drew Mountain Road
Sussex, NJ 07461

Effective Date: November 11th 2018	
Subject: Cadet & Junior Cadet	
Last Revised: 06/2019; 09/2020	Last Reviewed: 09/2024
Issued By: Chief Kevin Duffy	

I. PURPOSE

The Vernon Emergency Medical Services Cadet Corps is established to foster interest in public service among the youth of the community, ensuring a future supply of VEMS members. It is open to individuals aged 14 to 18.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all members of the VEMS Cadet Corps and their involvement in VEMS activities, training, and patient interaction.

III. APPLICATION PROCESS

Eligibility:

- Applicants aged 14 to 17 must submit a standard VEMS Membership Application.
- A meeting with the Cadet Liaison and Membership Committee will be scheduled with the applicant and their parent/guardian.

IV. CLASSIFICATION OF CADET MEMBERSHIP

JR Cadet:

- Age: 14 and 15
- Responsibilities: Attend meetings, training sessions, special events, community projects, team-building activities, and trips.
- Restrictions: Prohibited from riding in an ambulance during calls but may attend special events where no calls are handled.

Cadet:

- Age: 16 and 17, or 18 and still in high school
- Responsibilities: May ride on ambulances between 6 AM and 11 PM, in accordance with NJ Child Labor Laws (34:2-21.1 to 34:2-21.64).
- Extended Hours: With written permission from a parent/guardian, cadets may ride after 11 PM on non-school nights.
- Restrictions: Cadets are prohibited from driving ambulances or applying for a blue light permit, even if they hold a valid driver's license.

V. UPON ADMISSION

Issued Items for All Cadet Members:

1. Welcome Packet
2. Cadet EMS Shirt
3. "I Am Responding" Log-In Information
4. "When to Help" Scheduling Information

Additional Items for Non-JR Cadets:

1. Pager
2. EMS Chart Log-In Information

VI. REQUIREMENTS

Training:

Upon acceptance, all cadets must complete American Heart CPR/AED and First Aid training. Only cadets classified as "Cadet" (16+) can begin riding pre-scheduled shifts after completing training. Certifications must be kept valid and submitted to the Training Officer or Cadet Liaison.

School Performance:

Cadets must maintain a minimum "C" average to participate in VEMS activities. Those not meeting this requirement will be placed on leave until they show improvement.

Continuing Education:

Cadets aged 16+ who meet school performance requirements are eligible to enroll in NJ State EMT classes. VEMS will provide a signed NJ EMS Training Fund Form upon request, and cadets will be reimbursed for textbooks upon successful course completion.

VII. PRIVILEGES

Meeting and Voting Rights:

Cadets may attend meetings and contribute input but cannot vote or make motions if under 18.

Building Usage:

Cadets may use the building when other members are present, provided they maintain respect for property. Horsing around is prohibited. Quiet spaces, such as squad rooms, may be used with permission when no events are taking place.

VIII. RESTRICTIONS

Response and Interaction Restrictions:

- Cadets are prohibited from directly responding to emergency scenes.
- Cadets cannot visit another member's home unless in an official VEMS function with full crew approval.
- Cadets cannot wear uniforms or pagers in school except during approved events.
- Cadets may not sit in ambulances with pregnant or combative patients.
- Cadets cannot enter scenes of fatalities, active shooter situations, or large-scale hazmat events.
- Cadets may respond with the ambulance but must stay near the vehicle in fatality situations.
- All cadets must wear safety vests at motor vehicle accidents and fire scenes.

Substance and Behavior Restrictions:

- Smoking, vaping, and alcohol consumption while in uniform or on VEMS property are prohibited.
- Cadets cannot speak on behalf of VEMS to the media unless authorized by the Chief of Operations.
- Social media must not be used to tarnish VEMS's reputation.
- Cadets cannot operate stretchers to helicopters while they are running "hot."

IX. PATIENT INTERACTION

Supervision:

While on call, cadets are under the direct supervision of a certified EMT. Cadets must never be left on scenes unattended or perform tasks beyond their comfort or abilities.

X. PATIENT CARE RESTRICTIONS

- Cadets may only administer oxygen under supervision.
- Cadets cannot apply restraints or physically handle patients without Crew Chief or EMT permission.

XI. DEBRIEFING

Post-Call Discussion:

After each call, the crew should review the call's good and bad aspects with the cadet. For further discussion, cadets may contact the Cadet Liaison.

XII. DRIVING RESTRICTIONS

- Cadets under 18 cannot drive ambulances, including moving them in or out of the garage.
- Cadets must obey all traffic laws when responding, including speed limits and right-of-way rules.

XIII. SAFETY AND SCENE DECISIONS

The Crew Chief or Line Officer may restrict cadets from patient care based on safety or scene conditions. Cadets must remain inside the ambulance in unsafe situations.

XIV. PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

Cadets may ride after 11 PM on non-school nights with written permission from a parent or guardian, provided they comply with NJ Child Labor Laws.



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Parent/Guardian Permission Disclaimer

Permission for Extended Ride Hours

In accordance with NJ Child Labor Laws 34:2-21.1 to 34:2-21.64, cadets can ride up to 11 PM and not before 6 AM and are not permitted to ride during school hours. With written permission from their parent/legal guardian, a cadet is permitted to ride after 11 PM on non-school nights.

Permission:

I, the undersigned parent/legal guardian of _____ (cadet's name), give my permission for my child to ride with Vernon Emergency Medical Services after 11 PM on non-school nights. I understand and agree to the following:

1. This permission is granted in accordance with NJ Child Labor Laws 34:2-21.1 to 34:2-21.64.
2. My child will not ride during school hours.
3. My child will not ride before 6 AM.
4. Vernon Emergency Medical Services will take all necessary precautions to ensure my child's safety during these extended ride hours.
5. This acknowledgment is valid until I, the parent/guardian, submit a written withdrawal notice or until my child reaches 18 years of age, whichever comes first.
6. I acknowledge that Vernon Emergency Medical Services and its members are not liable for any incidents or injuries that may occur during these extended ride hours, provided all safety protocols are followed.

Signature:

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

** This form must be uploaded to the members EMS Workforce profile by an operational line officer.