

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

What Does our Explorer Program Mean to You?

“As a small child I always wanted to be a fire fighter. I remember I would always be a fireman for Halloween. I got my chance to pursue my dream when I joined the Vernonia Volunteer Fire Department as a Fire Explorer. After my first drill in the program I was hooked on learning. I attended several extra train-



FF Jacob Bringman

ing drills outside my normal drills. I was offered courses in incident command, emergency traffic control, EMT Basic and Driver Operator. After serving for about a year and a half I was promoted

to a Lieutenant Officer in the program. This brought upon a whole new set of challenges and training. I was tasked with doing a training calendar for the year and putting together drills for new recruits.

What the Explorer program provided for me was more than just training. It taught me leadership, team work and citizenship. The program gave me a good strong base of knowledge that will help me further my career as a fire/EMS professional. It taught me how important team work is, and not only for just the fire service, but for all professions. It taught me to be a leader and a teacher. But most importantly, it got me out doing a job that gives back to the community.

I would greatly recommend this program to all those interested in a career in fire/EMS or those who want to volunteer. This program helped me get to where I am today. I am currently employed as a Resident Intern Fire Fighter at Netarts - Oceanside Rural Fire Protection District. I currently hold an EMT license in the state of Oregon as well as a national certification. I am also working towards my Fire Fighter One and Fire Fighter Two certifications. This program is a great start to a rewarding career in the fire and EMS field.”

~ FF Jacob Bringman

Along with FF Jacob Bringman, we congratulate and wish FF Kendrick Leaverton the best of luck! Leaverton has just been accepted into a Resident Program at Nestucca Fire Department in Hebo, Oregon. Leaverton joined Vernonia Rural Fire Department 4 years ago as an Explorer his Freshman year. His



FF Kendrick Leaverton

Junior year he was promoted to Lieutenant Officer in the Explorer program. He graduated from high school this year and



is currently working on finishing his Fire Fighter One certificate.

“I could not have gotten to where I am today with the support of my fellow fire fighters. The Explorer program gave me the knowledge and confidence to move forward in my career. I will miss this small community and serving it and thank them for the support they have given me and the Vernonia Fire Department.”

~FF Kendrick Leaverton

We are currently making a few changes to our program, including the name. New enrollment will begin when school is back in session. If you are in the 8th grade through 12th grade and would like more information on how to get started as a Junior Fire Fighter, stop by the department any Monday at 7:00 PM.



Relay for Life

From start to finish, Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District SHINES at Columbia County’s Relay for Life in support of Cancer Fighters! A huge round of applause goes to Lt. Loren Loomis who not only lasted the entire 24 hours, but along with his team, collected 232 beads which equals 58 long miles, many of which were in their Turn Out Gear! Thank you FF Mike Haley for coordinating such wonderful participation with teammates FF Kasoma Moss, FF Kendrick Leaverton and Lt. Loomis.

*L-R: FF Haley, Lt. Loomis, FF K. Moss (Not pictured FF Leaverton)
Photo courtesy of Marie Botchie*

Vernonia Night Out



Thank you to the community volunteers who helped us and the Vernonia Police Department with National Night Out in Vernonia on August 6th. It was a pleasure opening our firehouse for this event and we had a great time visiting with all of you over the BBQ dinner. We hope you enjoyed the entertainment of dunking Police Chief Conner, Officer Thompson, Officer Brady, Fire Chief Smith, FF Carlton, Lt Loomis and FF Haley in the dunk tank! Thank you to all who came out for this fun community gathering! Look for all the event photos on our Facebook Page at Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District.



Upcoming Events

Thank you for all of your support Jamboree Weekend! We enjoyed visiting with you at our Toy & Joy Donation Booth, Annual Golf Benefit and Logging Show Food Booth! We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

September 11- Annual 9/11 Memorial Silent Walk, Vernonia Fire Department to Vernonia City Hall, 6:00 PM. Line the streets and join us in honoring our fallen brothers and sisters.

September 14- Soroptimist International of Hillsboro Battle of the Badges, Hillsboro Stadium. Game times TBA. A charity co-ed softball tournament where police officers compete against fire fighters. Money raised goes toward after-rescue care to underage victims of human trafficking. We competed in the 2011 tournament and were proud to bring home the Sportsmanship Trophy.

September 14- Get Ready Vernonia, Vernonia School Grounds, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. We will join a group of vendors and community committees to provide emergency preparedness information regarding the upcoming fall and winter seasons.



Calls responded to July 1st - 31st, 2013

Emergency medical service/assist	26
Fire	2
Hazardous Materials	1
Miscellaneous	6
TOTAL	35