



Listed below are a few frequently asked questions we receive from prospective team members. This list is comprised to assist you in answering these questions.

1. Are females allowed to become firefighters for WSFD?

Absolutely! We encourage females to join our team. Currently in the suppression division, we have ten females working in our department ranking from Fire Captain to Firefighter. Winston-Salem Fire Department was the first department in the USA to hire a female.

2. When will the next WSFD Recruit Academy begin?

At this time, there is no set date for the beginning of the next Recruit Academy; however, the next Recruit Academy is projected to begin early 2012. Recruiting takes place year round for WSFD.

3. How long do Recruit Academies last?

The Recruit Academy runs for 21 weeks. Upon completion of Recruit School, the team member will have received over 850 hours of State Certification training in Fire, Rescue, Hazardous Material and Medical response.

4. How do I apply for the position of firefighter with the WSFD?

The City of Winston-Salem seeks qualified applicants to fill job vacancies. You can view openings and then apply online or download and print the application. Applications are also available in the Human Resources Department in the Stuart Municipal Building. The City of Winston-Salem's employment practices are guided by federal, state, and local rules and regulations guaranteeing employment opportunities to all persons without regard to and prohibiting discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, religion, political affiliation or beliefs, national origin or handicap, unless it prevents the applicant from performing the job for which they are applying. Visit our website, www.cwsonline.org/oea/ to apply.

5. How long is my application valid?

The application is only valid **DURING THE APPLICATION PERIOD.** After the application period ends, the applicant must reapply. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to be informed of application periods and deadlines. Additional information can be located on the City's Website www.cityofws.org or by contacting the City's Human Resource Department at 336-747-6803.

6. What kind of hours do firefighters work in WSFD?

The Firefighters in the Winston-Salem Fire Department are based on a 56 hour work week. The schedule is a modified 24 hours on, 48 hours off. Once per shift cycle, each platoon has 4 days off time which we call our long weekend. In the sample schedule below from 2010, the different color days represent platoons 1, 2 and 3.



7. Do you have an entry-level training salary for firefighters?

Yes, there is an entry-level training salary for firefighter:

High School Diploma: 27,660.00

Associates Degree: \$ 29,040.00

Bachelors Degree: \$ 30,420.00

8. What is the starting salary for firefighter?

Starting salary for the position of firefighter:

High School Diploma: \$ 29,040.00

Associates Degree: \$ 30,490.00

Bachelors Degree: \$ 31,940.00

9. Is there an age limit for who can apply to be a firefighter?

Yes, there is a minimum age limit for who can apply at WSFD. The applicant must be a minimum of 20 years of age.

10. What will improve my chances of being hired?

All applicants are equal in the eyes of the WSFD.

11. May I run through the Firefighter's Agility Test prior to my scheduled test date?

No, you may not run through the agility test prior to your scheduled test time. Due to the large number of applicants, your scheduled time will be the only time allowed for you to attempt the Firefighter's Agility Test.

12. If I already have my NCEMT certification, will I have to take it again through the Recruit Academy?

Yes, all recruits must successfully complete and pass the EMT course. If you currently hold a NCEMT certification, you will not be required to take the state EMT examination. No special provisions are made for applicants that currently hold an EMT certification.

13. If I already have completed my Firefighter I & II certification, will I have to complete the same training as someone without the certification?

Yes. There are several other certifications that a recruit will receive in recruit school in addition to Firefighter I&II, so all recruits must complete the recruit academy in its entirety.

14. Does the Winston- Salem Fire Department accept lateral transfers?

No not at this time. All applicants must participate and successfully pass the Recruit Academy.

15. Do I have to have some experience or prior training in the fire service?

No, you do not have to have any prior experience in the fire service. WSFD will train the recruit with the highest level of training to prepare them for the field.

16. What is the minimum education requirement to become a Winston- Salem Fire Fighter?

WSFD requires a minimum of a High School Diploma or equivalent. We do encourage the candidates to enhance their educational levels.

17. If I am hired, will I receive a paycheck while I am in the Recruit Academy?

Yes, you will receive a paycheck. Once you begin the Recruit Academy, you are employed by the City of Winston-Salem.

18. Does the Winston- Salem Fire Department have a residency restriction?

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

*Effective January 17, 1994, no person shall be hired, promoted, reclassified or transferred to the position of City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Attorney, Department, Division or Office Head, as determined by the City Manager, in accordance with the residency ordinance, unless that person maintains his principal residence within the corporate limits of the City, or establishes his principal residence within the corporate limits of the City within one-hundred and eighty (180) days of the effective date of the personnel action. Effective January 17, 1994, all persons hired, promoted, reclassified or transferred to a public safety position (sworn police personnel or fire suppression personnel below the level of Department, Division or Office Head) shall be required to maintain his principal residence in Forsyth County or any county contiguous to Forsyth County or establish his principal residence within one of said areas within one-hundred and eighty (180) days of the effective date of the personnel action. **(City Employee Handbook, Page V-5, 2010 edition)***

19. What if I want to apply for a job that does not currently have a vacancy?

The Application Process

Applications are accepted for current, published vacancies only. A separate application must be submitted for each position for which you are applying. You may make copies of your original application and submit one for each position. Resumes may be included with an application but will not be accepted in lieu of an application. Applications may be picked up in our office during normal working hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) or you can download an

*application. Applications must be FULLY completed (i.e. dates of employment, salary history, reference names and phone numbers, etc.) using black ink. Resumes may not be substituted for employment history. As the applicant it is **your** responsibility to stay informed of the open application period, and closing dates.*

20. Am I allowed to do a “Ride-a-long” with the Winston- Salem Fire Department prior to applying with the City?

Yes, all City of Winston-Salem Citizens are welcome to tour any of our departments and do ride-a-longs under our WSFD Fire and Life Safety Public Education Program. For more information please contact our Senior Community Educator Mrs. Jazmine Kilpatrick at 336-773-7965 or by e-mail jazminek@cityofwsfire.org

21. Why should I choose Winston-Salem Fire Department?

Winston-Salem Fire Department has a rich heritage and a tight knit family. We offer competitive pay, an aggressive fire suppression division, and a distinguished fire prevention team. We strive twenty four hours a day, three hundred sixty five days a year to serve and protect our citizens. We take pride in our highly trained and professional Firefighters, Engineers, Captains, Fire Inspectors, Fire Investigators as well as the courageous Battalion Chiefs and Administration that keep us going. We use some of the most up to date and advanced tools and equipment available today, and take pride in our force of diehard apparatus. Winston-Salem is voted as one of the most livable communities and a front runner in today’s technology based economy. We look forward to having you on our team! Feel free to explore our website for more information regarding the Winston- Salem Fire Department.