

**Do you like a challenge, want to
gain new skills and meet people?**

Become a Volunteer with Cheshire Fire
and Rescue Service and get involved.

For further information and an application form:

call **07785 248439** or visit our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk



Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service

We have a positive and proactive approach to volunteering in line with the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service vision, of “no deaths, injuries and damage from fires and other emergencies”. Our volunteers really do make a difference to the communities they live in, through informative, educational and practical help.

By volunteering you not only help communities throughout Cheshire, but also improve your CV, meet like-minded people, boost your confidence and improve your communication skills.

This booklet provides an overview of the volunteer roles available to you.

You can choose a volunteer opportunity that suits your existing skills and time commitments, however, we are more than happy for you to volunteer for various roles if you wish to do so.

Fire Cadet Scheme

Volunteer Cadet Staff - Requires a DBS check

Availability of this service is: an evening per week, 6pm - 9pm with the possibility of weekend and holiday events

A typical cadet unit hosts 50/50 boys and girls aged 12 – 17 years of age from varied and diverse backgrounds and consists of up to 20 cadets and 4 cadet staff.

As cadet staff you will support the scheme in providing the cadets with an insight into working within a uniformed service as well as encouraging them to develop personally, socially and with self discipline.

In a team environment, cadet staff promote physical, mental and emotional well-being by organising structured activities which develop cadets to take informed decisions regarding their future career and life opportunities.

The commitment to attend the weekly drill night at a designated station and on a regular basis, is vital to this role. We do have roles within the cadet scheme that do not require involvement with drill yard activities, if you feel you are able to offer skills such as administration, events and activity support please do get in touch.

The duration of the drill night is normally 3 hours and will take place on the same evening each week (Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday dependent on station).





Safety Central

Volunteer Ranger - Requires a DBS check

Availability of this service is: Monday to Thursday: 9.15am to 2.30pm / 2.30pm to 5pm / 6.30pm to 8.30pm - Saturdays: 9.30am to 12.30pm (on some Saturdays during the year)

Safety Central is an interactive life skills education centre which opened in 2017 as part of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's work to keep our community safe. The ground-breaking centre houses four immersive learning zones and activity space which will be used to educate visitors about staying safe, keeping healthy and being happy.

We need volunteer Rangers, who will guide people of all ages around the centre, running simple activities that enable them to think about how they can avoid coming to harm in a range of life-like situations.

Duties will include:

- Greeting and welcoming visitors, who will range from primary school children to older adults
- Escorting visitors around the centre, delivering and reinforcing key safety messages
- Answering questions from the visitors during the tour
- Assisting with set up and set down of activity equipment if necessary

Post Fire Support Team (PFST)

Post Fire Support Team Volunteer - Requires a DBS check

Availability of this service is: 24/7 rota, Summer and Winter

The Post Fire Support Team help people cope in the aftermath of a minor domestic emergency, providing practical help, advice and support.

PFST work in teams of two or three and are based out of HQ in Winsford, where the bespoke vehicle is housed.

The team will attend minor domestic incidents on the request of the Officer in Charge to listen, support and advise individuals and families of fire safety, clean the affected area, remove excess water and ensure that the occupants are able to continue to utilise the affected area safely.





Heritage Team

Historical Society - Requires a DBS check

Availability of this service is:

Summer - Weekends 6am - 6pm

Winter - Monday - Friday sporadic events

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service are proud to have a fleet of vintage fire appliances including an 1870's Shand Mason steamer, four pumps dating from 1938 - 1955 along with an original horse drawn manual pump and a V8 Safari Land Rover.

As a Heritage Team volunteer you get to drive and display all of these machines (dependent on licence limitations), you don't necessarily have to hold an LGV licence although it would be great if you have one.

Other duties include maintenance, polishing (there's lots of brass) and restoration. We do all this to conserve these vehicles for future generations to enjoy.

The heritage team and vehicles represent Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service in promotional campaigns and have appeared in television drama productions such as BBC's WPC 56 and ITV's Grantchester. Volunteer uniform is provided along with travel expenses.



Fire Bike Rider

Rider Engagement

Availability of this service is: Summer - Weekends 8am - 6pm, Winter - Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm, Evening Programmes 6pm - 10pm

The fire bike team consists of experienced and trained motorcycle riders. Their role is to engage with motorcycle and scooter riders throughout Cheshire. The riders deliver road safety messages, specifically for these vehicles, discuss the importance of correct clothing and promote enhanced rider courses.

Biker down

Biker Down is a rider skills – rider response course that is for bikers, delivered by bikers. The course consists of three parts and is delivered by the fire bike riders.

The course consists of input on:

- The science of being seen
- Casualty care
- Incident scene management

Events Team

Event Team Volunteer - Requires a DBS check

Availability of this service is: Monday - Sunday 7.30am - 7pm

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service attends a range of shows, fairs and other events throughout the year to promote important safety messages and engage with communities about its plans. The support of volunteers who enjoy talking to members of the public as well as being willing and able to drive and set up one of our exhibition vehicles is crucial.

This is varied and exciting role which could see you guiding groups through our interactive kitchen safety unit one week, handing out materials at the Cheshire Show the next or helping out at one of our award evenings on another occasion.

You will receive a full induction, provided with a volunteer uniform and ID and, if your driving licence allows, tested to drive some of our non-operational vehicles.



Garden Support

Garden Support Volunteer - Requires a DBS check

**Availability of this service is: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday, Summer/
Winter**

We need volunteer gardeners who can assist and guide youth groups who work with or in partnership with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) and local schools. These gardeners will support the groups to establish and maintain the communal gardens at selected fire stations throughout Cheshire.

The gardens, dependent on size, can include a picnic seating area, vegetable and flower beds, wildlife areas, compost heap and pond.

These projects will be staffed by CFRS volunteers with the support of CFRS staff members and the schools and youth groups we invite on educational visits.

A passion for gardening, plus knowledge and experience of planting, growing and pruning flowers and vegetables is essential for this role. Tools and equipment will be provided along with volunteer uniform and overalls.





Road Safety

You will be part of a team delivering consistent road safety messages to members of the Cheshire community.

Safety Campaigns

Availability of this service is: All year

Throughout the year there are a number of Road Safety campaigns.

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) work with and support partner agency initiatives by delivering key messages covering Distraction, Speeding, Seatbelts, Drug/Drink Driving, Vehicle Condition, and Pedestrian Safety

Drink/Drug Campaigns

Availability of this service is: June and December

CFRS supports the government's "THINK" road safety campaign by speaking to people about the dangers of drinking alcohol, taking drugs and driving. These events are taken to workplaces, colleges, shopping centres and town centres to show people the consequences of drinking even a small amount of alcohol or taking drugs before driving.

Other Volunteering Opportunities

Red Cross Emergency Response Volunteer

Red Cross Emergency Response Volunteer - Requires a DBS check

Availability of this service is 24/7 rota, Summer/Winter

As an emergency response volunteer you would help people in need and have a special role to play in supporting the emergency services. You will be providing much-needed practical and emotional support to individuals, as part of an emergency response team, in support of category 1 and 2 responders and other agencies following an emergency or major incident.

Volunteers must be able to reach Birchwood Fire Station within 30 minutes of being called out and ideally be a car owner/driver.

For more information and to apply please visit

<https://jobs.redcross.org.uk/> and search for:

Role Title: Emergency Response

Location: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire

Then click A24 - Emergency Response - Fire and Emergency - (FVS) - Cheshire

Cheshire Young Carers Volunteer

Cheshire Young Carers Volunteer - Requires a DBS check

Availability of this service is diverse, Summer/Winter

Becoming part of Cheshire Young Carers volunteer workforce is an opportunity to make a real difference to young carers. Volunteers learn and develop new skills and have fun while inspiring young people.

Cheshire Young Carers aims to improve the health and well-being of young carers. Volunteers achieve this by delivering a wide range of services from weekly group activities to mentoring programmes.

For more information on volunteer roles ranging from lead case worker to session support volunteer contact Mary Beaumont, Charity Manager - Mary.Beaumont@youngcarersnetwork.co.uk

Application process

On receipt of a completed application form that meets our volunteer standard, applicant details are logged onto the volunteer database and the interview paperwork is prepared. This is sent to the line manager of the applicant's chosen volunteer role. The line manager will contact the applicant to arrange an interview. If successful at interview, the applicant will be asked to complete a Disclosure and Barring form (DBS), plus 3 forms of ID (role dependent).

Once all of this paperwork is received, references are requested and on return of these and the DBS certificate, volunteer agreements are sent to the applicants home address. When returned the line manager will be informed that the volunteer has been successful in their application.

At this point the volunteer and line manager can discuss availability and forthcoming opportunities.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

DBS Check

You will be advised if your role requires a DBS check.

Your application will NOT be automatically rejected if the check is returned disclosing convictions or police cautions. However you may be invited to meet with a panel to discuss these disclosures. The panel will decide on your suitability for a Fire and Rescue Service volunteer role.

DBS checks have to be refreshed every 3 years, however there is no cost involved for the volunteer.

If you are engaged as a volunteer in a role that does not require a DBS check, but then decide to apply to volunteer for one of the roles that does, then you will be required to complete a DBS check.

All volunteers must declare to Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service any convictions or cautions they receive while active as a volunteer. This information must be securely forwarded to the Service's DBS Lead Signatory in the Prevention Department.

Mileage Expenses

How to claim

Mileage expenses will be reimbursed for travel in personal vehicles to and from the location of the volunteering opportunity within Cheshire, if there is no alternative cheaper form of transport available. Any distance covered outside of Cheshire will need prior permission from the department lead officer. Volunteers and volunteer cadet staff will need to complete a “Mileage Claim Form”, which is available from the volunteer coordinator.

On the first claim volunteers and volunteer cadet staff will need to include a witnessed copy of their driver’s licence and insurance policy along with a current MOT certificate. Please note it is the responsibility of the volunteer or volunteer cadet staff to ensure that they are legally covered by their insurance company, they must contact their insurers to check that they are covered before using their vehicle for volunteering duties. To find out more, visit http://www.abi.org.uk/Information/Consumers/General/Volunteer_Driving_.aspx

Volunteer Achievement Certificates

In return for your volunteer commitment, we have introduced volunteer achievement certificates. The hours can be accrued over a number of years and certificates will be awarded accordingly. These certificates can be included in your skills portfolio or CV to add merit.

There are seven categories for volunteers to accrue hours towards.





Join our Facebook page
CheshireFRS



Follow us on Twitter
@CheshireFire



Follow us on Instagram
CheshireFRS



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Our pledge to you

We pledge to do everything to ensure that your volunteering experience is both stimulating and rewarding.

We will hold Volunteer meetings, where Volunteers will be able to socially interact, complete training and find out about future volunteering opportunities.

You will be assigned a key point of contact for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and they will contact you on a monthly basis.

We will hold an event each year to recognise and celebrate our valued contributions and achievements.

We will issue each volunteer with a uniform which is to be worn only whilst representing Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

If you decide to stop volunteering with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, we will contact you for your views, so we can learn from your experience and make sure we are treating everyone equally.

You will be treated with respect and dignity and in the same manner as all Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service employees.

Caring for and working with volunteers



Cheshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
Winsford Cheshire
CW7 2FQ

t: 01606 868700
www.cheshirefire.gov.uk