

***Project Title:**

Firefighter Youth Academy

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***Total Budget**

\$65,350.00

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***Short Project Summary:**

Youth Career Guidance

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***Delegate Names:**

* Tanya Hall

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*** Email:**

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***Detailed Project Description:**

* The Robbin Mackbee Firefighter/EMS Youth Academy is a youth development and mentoring program that provides career exploration and dedicated pathway for 30 youth who are interested in public safety careers as an emergency medical technician, paramedic, firefighter or nurse. The fundamental principles of the program are academic achievement, community service and self-discipline.

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*High school youth will be provided an opportunity to participate in this nine month program. **At least 51% of participants will be title 1 students and come from low to moderate income households as determined by school free/reduced lunch provision. Outreach to students will be made with the assistance of the VCUSD. Additional outreach will be made through our website, faith-based and other youth-servicing community based organizations, as well as, the Vallejo Times Herald.**

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* **Students will be required to complete an application process without any promise or guarantee of acceptance.** The youth will meet with firefighters each Saturday morning from March to November. Youth will gain awareness of public safety careers; participate in hands-on firefighting and safety training; learn about community emergency response and preparedness; learn life-saving skills of first-aid and CPR; all occurring with the support and participation of the Vallejo Fire Department and Medic Ambulance Company in a structured and disciplined environment. In addition, cadets will also developed life skills to help them navigate many of the social obstacles and impediments to their success.

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* **This mentoring program is being implemented in honor of fallen firefighter Robbin Mackbee whose life was lost while in service to Vallejo on July 28, 1980. Robbin spent numerous hours, when not serving as a firefighter, tutoring and mentoring youth.**

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* **Program outcomes** have been very encouraging and success has been demonstrated as participants have increased their grade point average while decreasing their school absenteeism and discipline

referrals. Improved behavior at home has also been reported by parents and primary caregivers. More than 85% of the past cadets continued their education beyond high school and several graduates of the program went on to become successful, professional firefighters.

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* The most recent modification to the program outcomes is with the dedicated career pathway. In cooperation with Solano Community College, high school students will be encouraged to enroll in fire science and technology courses that are being offered at Solano Community College's Vallejo campus. Our goal is to assist high school students in obtaining Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification upon graduation from high school. This outcome will give students a head-start in their career training and provide additional work experience options with agencies like Cal Fire, California Conservation Corps and the U.S. Forest Service, while they continue their post-high school education.

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* In addition to providing exploration into the career of firefighting, utilizing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts, the youth development portion of the curriculum further serves to develop the character of the cadet. Positive role models from the fire and emergency medical services mentor cadets in a coaching style to promote some of the core factors that will enable youth to become productive, socially responsible adults.

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* Empowering youth as a resource to enhance public safety and fire prevention is a very unique approach and efficient method of meeting several social challenges. With the assistance of dedicated firefighters, educators, and funders, youth who were once at risk will become civic assets, rather than liabilities, taking responsibility for their lives, their families and their communities.

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***Type of Project:**

* Service

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***Why is this project is needed?:**

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* Youth often are not provided with opportunities to serve their community as an advocate of public safety, nor are they provided the proper guidance, resources and opportunities to explore careers in public safety. The Robbin Mackbee Firefighter EMS/Youth Academy allows fire and emergency medical service professionals to provide information and life-saving skills that that will enhance the level of safety awareness at home, in their school and throughout the community. Firefighters, and other first responders, maintain a well-deserved reputation of being amongst America's most celebrated heroes. Along with professional athletes and entertainers, firefighters, and other first responders, are in an unequalled position to be effective positive role models for youth who are at risk. Many youth are naturally intrigued by the activities of firefighters.

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* Youth who reside in urban communities are often more at risk of either academic, social and/or economic failure. The Robbin Mackbee Firefighter/EMS Youth Academy provides alternative resources and opportunities that will redirect and guide youth to successfully complete high school and continue their education and become gainfully employed in a public safety or health professional.

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*The firefighter's presence in the community is welcomed, respected and appreciated. Providing opportunities for youth to learn, develop, and grow while assisting in the efforts of public safety, is an exceptional approach and efficient method of meeting several social challenges. Youth who were once at-risk, can now become an asset to their community. Municipal fire departments, along with other public safety agencies, make a commitment to serve their community. As they look for opportunities to serve, they will recognize the community benefits, offer support and participate in this effort.

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***How will this project address or solve this need and/or problem?:**

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*Firefighters will spend time guiding, coaching and inspiring youth to succeed in school, improve their community, and make good decisions for themselves.

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*Firefighters will mentor youth and hold them accountable for their academic performance, community service and self-discipline. Working directly with the school district as a partner who will provide the academic assessment and resources needed to achieve educational objectives.

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*Youth will gain an appreciation and capacity for serving their community while exploring public safety careers. Youth will develop leadership skills through active participation with the Vallejo Fire Department's public safety and fire prevention projects. Subject matter experts and other professionals from the community will assist first responders as they help youth understand the importance of making good decisions. Youth must realize that there are consequences for each decision that they make, good or bad. Youth are empowered to determine their destiny.

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***Describe in detail how residents, visitors, groups, communities, geographic areas, or the City of Vallejo will benefit from this project:**

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*The Robbin Mackbee Firefighter/EMS Youth Academy benefits the entire community by helping youth become successful in school, at home and at work. The program will also enhance public safety through fire prevention and emergency response training, as well as, promote community service.

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*The youth are in a much better position to continue their education beyond high school. They are also empowered to be an asset, rather than a liability, for their family and their community.

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*The Vallejo Fire Department and Medic Ambulance Company will benefit by having an additional public safety trained resource in the community. Youth will participate in activities that are designed to improve the safety awareness and fire prevention of the community.

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*The Vallejo City Unified School District will benefit by having another effective collaboration with a respected community resource that promotes academic achievement. Youth who enroll in the program will be trained in first-aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) making them an asset to school campus.

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*Faith-based and commerce community, as well as, the community at large will benefit from the program by having a disaster resilient and prepared community.

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*The community benefits by enhanced public safety through fire prevention, emergency response training, and promoting community service.

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*Firefighter Youth Academy will prepare students to take college courses in cooperation with Solano Community College while still in high school. Upon course completion, students will earn transferable college units which will reflect on high school transcript; student will graduate high school with college credits. Youth will gain academic and vocational strengths which are essential basis for work and civic engagement. Vallejo youth will receive training and certification in CPR and First Aid. This would create a pathway for the participant to attain EMT certification, and to become a First Responder and/or firefighter. Youth cadets will serve as mentors to peers in primary level schools. The primary level student would learn fire safety from their peer mentor, and would gain exposure to the Youth Fire Academy program. The student mentor would reinforce their skills by having to train another student. The added value is that the student mentors are serving their community. The city and its residents will benefit in that the program develops a cohort of students that is prepared for disaster and emergency response. As the program grows, more students will be equipped with these skills, creating a generation of preparedness. PB funds would cover contracts and contractual support for marketing, training students and/or to implement the program. Working group Proposal themes: Education and Training

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***Describe the potential challenges and/or obstacles for this project:**

*The potential challenges for the Robin Mackbee Firefighters/EMS Youth Academy include identifying the financial resources to sustain the program. We will work to establish diverse sources of funding that will include applying to various foundations for support. A significant component of our sustainability plan is to develop broad-based community support.

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*** Name of Implementing Partner:**

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*Vallejo Fire Department, Vallejo City Unified School District

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***Where will the project be implemented?:**

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*Public property: Vallejo Fire Administration Building

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***Itemized Budget:**

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***Instruction \$14,400**

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*\$50/hr x 4 hrs/week + 4hr prep =\$400/wk x 36 weeks= \$14,400

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***Cadet Uniforms \$11,400**

*Uniforms provide a very important component to the image of the program. The cadets will develop a sense of pride, dignity and respect, in belonging to a program that is appreciated and encouraged by the community they serve. Each cadet will be issued the following items:

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- 2 uniform tee shirts 60 @ \$10 ea. = \$600
- 1 pair of boots 30 @\$40 ea. = \$1200
- 1 uniform dress shirt* 30 @ \$40 ea. = \$1200
- 1 pair of black pants * 30 @ \$40 ea. = \$1200
- 1 black belt* 30 @ \$15 ea. = \$450
- 1 black tie* 30 @ \$15 ea. = \$450
- 1 name tag 30 @ \$10 ea. = \$300
- 2 uniform patches* 60 @ \$10 ea. = \$600
- 1 uniform badge 30 @ \$50 ea. = \$1500
- 1 pair of work gloves* 30 @ \$25 ea. = \$750
- 1 safety helmet* 30 @ \$25 ea. = \$750
- 1 safety goggles* 30 @ \$20 ea. = \$600
- 1 jacket* 30 @ \$60 ea. = \$1800

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(* indicates items that will be retained by the Vallejo Fire Dept.)

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***Books and Academic supplies \$3500**

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- Introduction to the Fire Service \$70 x 10 = \$700
- Firefighter Safety and Survival \$115 x 10 = \$1150
- Emergency Medical Responder \$70 x 10 = \$700
- Emergency Medical Responder workbook \$73 x 10 = \$730
- Miscellaneous school/office supplies \$220

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***Firehouse Breakfast \$9,450**

*A nutritious breakfast is prepared and provided for each Saturday morning meeting. The breakfast eliminates the distraction that hunger presents and also provides an opportunity for informal social interaction between cadets and mentors.

36 breakfasts weeks at \$7.50/per x 35 people= (30 cadets + 5 mentors) = \$9450

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***Recreation and Enrichment Activities \$6,600**

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***Team Building and Confidence Retreat.** We will also provide an outdoor retreat where youth will receive exposure to the natural wonders of the California outdoors and further develop team building skills. \$4,000

- Transportation
- Overnight Lodging

- Food
- Instruction

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Fun Day! We will provide an opportunity for the cadets to have exposure to recreation and enrichment activities with their mentors. We will provide a fun day at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom for those who continue to meet the objectives of the program.

- 40 admission tickets at \$50 each = \$2,000
- 40 meals @ \$15 ea.= \$600

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***Recognition and Awards Benefit \$10,000**

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***Facility rental fees \$3,000**

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***Publicity \$1500**

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***Catering 150 meals @ \$30/ea. = \$4,500**

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***Entertainment \$500**

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***Awards and recognition \$500**

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***Total Request = \$65,350.00**

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***Describe the Project Timeline/Schedule:**

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- June 2019 Team Building and Confidence Retreat
- November 2019 Firefighter Youth Academy ends
- November Recognition and Awards Ceremony
- November Program Evaluation
- January 2020 Recruitment, application and selection process
- March 2020 Firefighter Youth Academy begins