



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT INSPIRES POTENTIAL STUDENT VOLUNTEERS THROUGH ANNUAL PARTICIPATION IN STUDENT RECRUITMENT DAY

ABINGTON – Hoping to inspire more young people to join its ranks and serve the community, the Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) visited Abington Senior High School as part of its annual Student Recruitment Day on December 9, 2011.

The ATFD — which is comprised of five independently chartered fire companies and serves more than 55,000 Abington residents — is an annual visitor to the high school for this awareness-building opportunity. The event showcases various volunteer opportunities that exist both within the high school and in the outside community. For the ATFD, it is a chance to talk with young people and interest them in serving for one of the department’s five companies.

“This is one of our most important events because we can demonstrate the importance of the fire department, as well as present students with the opportunity to join us in serving the community,” ATFD Community Service Specialist Jeffrey M. Glynn said. “It’s a way to say, ‘Hello, we’re the Abington Township Fire Department.’”

The annual event allows 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students to see firsthand what it takes to become a firefighter. Those interested in learning more about the programs offered by the ATFD had the chance to venture outside for some hands-on activities, including ladder demonstrations, fire hose training and more, which gave them a real feel for the challenges of firefighting. The opportunity was eye-opening for some.

Abington Senior High School 10th-grade student James O’Brien said his interest was piqued when firefighters showed students how to douse a small blaze using a

fire extinguisher. “I saw all of the activities and demonstrations the department was conducting, and I wanted to know what was going on,” O’Brien said.

From O’Brien’s perspective, the recruitment event definitely creates awareness of what the ATFD does for the community and helps to garner interest its programs.

Students who already volunteer with the fire department through the high school’s Volunteer Firefighter’s Club were also on hand at the Dec. 9 event to help their fellow classmates learn about serving.

The ATFD headquarters is located at 1176 Old York Road in Abington. For more information, call 267-536-1055 or visit www.abingtonfd.org.

