



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS CHANGE OF PACE FOR WALKERS/RUNNERS IN THE 24 – HOUR RELAY CHALLENGE EVENT MAY 21ST

ABINGTON – The Abington Township Fire Department gave young people participating in the 24-Hour Relay Challenge a chance to learn about volunteer firefighting through hands-on experiences like extinguishing a grill fire and operating fire hoses during the May 21st event.

The ATFD invited Relay participants and other visitors to stop by their tent set up on Memorial Field and try on helmets, boots, jackets and other firefighting gear, as well as visit with the volunteers who serve the department. Those who were interested in testing their skills were invited to use fire extinguishers to put out grill fires or operate hoses with guidance from volunteers from the ATFD's five fire companies (Abington, Edge Hill, Roslyn, McKinley and Weldon).

“We look forward each year to participating in the 24-Hour Relay Challenge since it gives us a chance to meet the community members we serve in a friendly atmosphere,” said Dave Schramm, Fire Services Administrator. “Events like this give us the perfect opportunity to educate the public about fire prevention, display our fire apparatus and equipment, and have the opportunity to recruit new members.”

Also at the event were the ATFD mascot, an inflatable costumed firefighter named “BOOTS,” and various rescue vehicles owned by the ATFD's five fire companies. Families were welcomed to stop by the ATFD tent to observe, interact and learn more about firefighting and fire prevention.

Bob Woodard, a firefighter for the Abington Fire Company, helped his daughter Alyssa put out a grill fire as one of the demonstrations that day.

“Events like this help educate the community about fire safety and raise community awareness of our volunteer organization and what we do,” he said.

Bob’s son Robert, a firefighter who also attended the relay, said being present at community events allows firefighters to inform the public about what it takes to be a volunteer.

“Events like this show the kids and the community what we are all about. It shows them what we do in training, what we do on a daily basis, what we wear, and the types of conditions we deal with,” he said.

The 24-Hour Relay Challenge is a drug-free, alcohol-free, smoke-free, violence-free unique event that brings together all segments of the Abington community. Memorial Field is located on the corner of Huntingdon Road and Susquehanna Road in Abington.

Five companies belong to the ATFD – Abington, Edge Hill, McKinley, Roslyn, and Weldon. For more information, call (267) 536-1055 or visit AbingtonFD.org.

