



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

ABINGTON – The Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) taught Abington Senior High School students about the vital role that firefighters play in the community and provided some fire safety education lessons as part of Student Government Day, which was held on April 13th.

Selected students from the high school's Advanced Placement Government and social studies classes were invited to spend a day touring various township agencies to learn more about how their local community operates, and one of their stops included the Abington Fire Company, one of the five fire companies that make up the ATFD.

“We believe it’s important to be a part of Student Government Day so that students can learn more about the volunteer firefighters who serve their community,” said Fire Services Administrator Dave Schramm. “It’s also a great opportunity to fulfill our mission of educating our community about fire safety hazards so that we can work together to prevent accidents before they happen.”

Social studies teacher Kevin Conlin said Student Government Day is chance for students interested in government, criminal justice and politics to learn more about how their own community operates.

“We try to get students in and around the township so they can see where tax dollars go to,” he said. “It’s an eye-opening experience for the kids.”

On April 13th, the ATFD informed teens about what it takes to be a volunteer firefighter, and also spent some time educating students about home fire safety using the department’s Hazard House. Students were surprised to learn that cigarette smoking is the number one cause for residential fires, followed by candles.

ATFD Community Service Specialist Jeffrey Glynn gave students an overview of the home fire hazards, such as keeping electrical appliances next to the bathtub, overloading outlets with electrical appliances, and neglecting chimney maintenance, which can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Following Mr. Glynn's presentation, Abington Fire Company member Rob Woodard showed students various firefighting apparatus and tools, such as the Jaws of Life.

Abington Senior High School student Ryan VanDorick said he wanted to attend Student Government Day because he is interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice. Even though he's passed township buildings his entire life, he said it was eye-opening to learn what goes on inside them.

"It's interesting to see what's going on," he said.

Shyanne Bruno, a high school senior, said Student Government Day gave her a better understanding of how local government works, as well as what being a volunteer firefighter involves.

"They said they had a brotherhood, and that it's really close-knitted and more like a family," she said.

Matt Seydel, an Abington Township community police officer, said he attended Student Government Day when he was in high school and it helped him learn more about his own community, including the fire department.

"I didn't realize how many people volunteered and that it's a full volunteer force that is as large as it is," he said of the ATFD.

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