



Abington Township Fire Department

Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) Teaches Students the Importance of Firefighting, Volunteerism Through Hands-On May 24, 2013 Experience

ATFD's annual Service Learning Day allowed Abington Senior High School students to see what it is like to be a first responder.

ABINGTON — The Abington Township Fire Department (ATFD) gave Abington Senior High School students the opportunity to play the role of a volunteer firefighter through insightful and informative demonstrations during its annual Service Learning Day program on May 24.

Service Learning Day is an event held every May aimed at teaching students the importance of community involvement. It also represents a chance for the ATFD to recruit young people who will help continue the legacy of the five volunteer fire companies that comprise the ATFD (Abington, McKinley, Weldon, Edge Hill and Roslyn).

The approximately 30 students who visited the ATFD's training facility learned what the five volunteer fire companies do for the community. The students also had the opportunity to use fire extinguishers to put out controlled fires and suit up with helmets, boots, jackets and other firefighting gear before heading into the department's training facility that was filled with non-toxic smoke.

Abington Senior High School teacher Chris O'Donnell said Service Learning Day is a chance for students to get out of the classroom and into the community to complete hands-on activities that they can apply in the real world. As an ATFD volunteer, students will learn important skills, including discipline, teamwork and determination.



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“Sometimes, there is the feeling that ‘I’m just a high school student, what can I do?’ and then you see kids who say, ‘I am a high school student, look what I am doing.’ Those are the students who are making a difference right here in Abington,” O’Donnell added.

Abington Senior High School sophomores Trevor Gannon and Jordan Neely took away several important lessons from Service Learning Day, namely gaining a better understanding of what firefighters do to protect those in need.

“Service Learning Day helped me to realize that I want to become a volunteer firefighter and serve the community,” Gannon added.

ATFD Community Service Specialist Jeffrey Glynn explained that the goal of Service Learning Day is to demonstrate to students the role of volunteers and how they can get involved with the ATFD.

“If we are able to spark the interest of a few students and encourage them to volunteer, we have been successful,” Glynn added.

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