

## Airport Firefighter at OSU Discussion Leader Notes



These notes are specific to the YAA program at OSU. If you are interested in starting a YAA program in your community, please download the "Program Handbook" found at <http://youthaviationadventure.org> for the *complete* set of discussion leader notes, along with tips, and other information on how to run this program in your neighborhood.

**Please note, these discussion notes should be used as a guideline. You are a professional, and you have a lot to offer our participants. Please be sure to cover the objectives, but know that this is not written in a way that will make you read it word for word. Also, if you're in a loud area, like on the ramp, you'll have to speak loudly to be heard.**

### Objectives

Describe the qualifications and working conditions of being an airport emergency rescue worker.

### Lesson Materials/Setting

- This session is offered on the ramp in front of Hangar 1 with a real aviation fire truck.
- Firefighter brings any other props to help discuss his/her career. These might include the clothing worn by the firefighter, a helmet, or other items of interest.

**Time Allowed:** 20 minutes.

### Setting up the Station:

Fire truck or emergency vehicle parked on ramp is the only setup required.

### Lesson Procedure and activities

- This session is held as an informal discussion. Use your fire truck to describe your work, your daily routine, and various aspects of your job and allow the participants to ask questions.

- You may wish to describe the differences between a normal firefighter and the job you are required to do. Is the training different? The lifestyle? The work environment?
- Discuss the path to your careers as an aviation firefighter, including college courses or degree, training, building experience, the selection process for your employer, monthly schedules, medical certificates and annual training requirements.
- Be sure to ask questions of the participants to keep them engaged. A good question to begin with might be “What do you think it takes to become an aviation firefighter?”
- Props such as a uniform or fire suit, other equipment used during your job (e.g. helmet) etc. also increase the interest level. The selection of props will depend on you and your work environment.
- Let participants understand what your day is like. How does it feel to be a firefighter, to get up at a certain hour, respond to certain emergencies, maintain the fire truck, work with others, etc.?

**Activity Notes:**

- Ideal group size is 10-15 participants. Groups that are too small or too large both prohibit interaction.
- Props get participants more engaged. Your fire truck is pretty impressive so additional props may not be needed. Bring anything that might increase interaction and engagement by the participants. Suggestions include photos, personal stories, helmets, or any other props to make it more hands-on and more interesting.

**Hands-on component**

This session is hands-on because of the fire truck parked on the ramp. If you are comfortable, allow participants to sit in the fire truck. Start the engine. Walk around it with them and tell stories about your life.

**Resources in booklet**

There are no resources in the participant handbook specific to this session.