

JOPLIN AREA FIRE EXPLORER POST # 0618

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Article 1: Organization

Section 1. The name of the organization is the Joplin Area Fire Explorer Post # 0618.
(The official post # with the Explorers is # 0618)

Section 2. Both the Joplin Fire Department and the Joplin Firefighters Local # 0618 sponsor the Joplin Fire Explorer Post.

Section 3. The Joplin Area Fire Explorer Post 0618 is a not-for-profit organization.

Section 4. The objectives of Post 0618 are to provide the members with a basic knowledge of and career exploration opportunities in the field of leadership, fire suppression, emergency medical training, and other emergency services areas. It is also an objective of Post 0618 to provide the members with an opportunity to be able to perform community service to the public in their time of need. To assist in the preparation of the members to enter the Fire or Emergency Medical Services field.

Article 2: Membership

Section 1. Explorer Membership in the Joplin Area Fire Explorer Post # 0618 shall be open to all young men and women of good moral character who have reached their fourteenth (14th) birthday. New members are required to submit an Explorer application, a Post application and a medical release form to be considered for membership. Once approved the member may participate in Post activities. Explorers will be excused from the Post on their twenty-first (21st) birthday. Individuals who wish to stay on past their 21st birthday may apply to become an Advisor or request an extension of their membership to be approved by Post Advisors, Committee Members and the B.S.A. Explorer guidelines. Upon request from the member, a letter of recommendation will be provided at the time of separation for worthy members, for use in furthering their pursuits in the fire service. These restrictions follow B.S.A. guidelines.

Section 2. The annual registration fee will be \$10.00 per member per year. This fee is set by B.S.A. guidelines, and provides additional insurance coverage.

Section 3. Applications will be accepted at any time. Once accepted, the applicant will enter an eight (8) week probationary period. During the probationary period the applicant must attend all weekly meetings unless excused by an advisor. At the end of eight (8) weeks, the applicant must demonstrate competency in required skills. The skills are as follows: knowledge of rules and regulations, locate and identify all items on apparatus, don turnout gear in sixty (60) seconds or less, and pass a physical agility test to be determined by Post Advisors. Once completed, the applicant shall be granted full membership into Post 0618.

Article 3: Attendance

Section 1. Active membership in Post 0618 is defined as: Any active person meeting the established criteria and guidelines of the bylaws; any person who has been accepted as a Post 0618 member as described in these bylaws; and who attends at least 50 % (half) of all Post 0618 meetings, functions, and activities during the calendar year. Members shall not be absent from Post 0618 meetings and functions for more than thirty (30) days without advisor consent or they shall be considered inactive and must be approved by Post Advisors prior to re-instatement.

Section 3. Voting rights in all Post business are limited to active members of the Post. Business decisions are subject to the approval of the adult advisor leadership.

Section 4. The adult leadership of Post 0618 shall periodically review attendance records to determine

membership status of each member.

Section 5. A further requirement of Post 0618 is that members maintain a C average (2.0 GPA) while completing high school. School grade records are to be made available periodically to the Post Advisors, for the purpose of determining membership status. Members that discontinue normal schooling will be required to provide proof of progress toward an acceptable equivalent education certification; i.e. proof of home-schooling or G.E.D. program. State certification as a Firefighter or Emergency Medical Technician requires a high school graduation or equivalence certification.

Article 4: Meetings

Section 1. The officers shall set the date and time of all regular meetings. The adult leadership will set the location and approve the date and times.

Section 2. All meetings at any Joplin Fire Department facility will be presided over by at least one (1) Joplin Fire Department member and at least one (1) adult advisor or another Joplin Fire Department employee designated by Post 0618 leadership.

Section 3. Meetings scheduled at locations other than Joplin Fire Department facilities are to be presided over by at least one (1) Post 0618 adult member and at least one (1) adult selected by Post 0618 leadership.

Section 4. Adult Post 0618 leaders shall always have another adult present while working with Explorer members. If a Post 0618 advisor is not available the meeting will be canceled.

Article 5: Dues

There shall be no monthly dues for members, however each member must attend and participate in at least one (1) fund raiser per year. Any member who does not participate in at least one (1) fund raiser per year will be required to pay their annual dues to (the) Post 0618 in the amount of \$120.00.

Article 6: Uniforms

Section 1. All Post 0618 members shall maintain their uniforms in a clean and serviceable condition.

Section 2. All Post 0618 members in good standing will be issued a uniform shirt, with the appropriate patches, badges, rank designation, and nametags. Any additional amenities shall be approved prior to wear by the adult advisors. Unauthorized altering or changing the issued uniform shall result in disciplinary action.

Section 3. As equipment becomes available, each Post 0618 member in good standing will be issued a set of firefighting protective equipment (turnout gear). It will be the responsibility of the member to maintain accountability of this equipment. If any part of the equipment becomes unusable, the member should bring it to the attention of an adult advisor.

Section 4. At the time of departure from membership of (the) Post 0618, all uniforms and equipment shall be returned to the Post, through one of the Post Advisors. In the event that the Post is dissolved, all property and equipment will become property of the Joplin Fire Department.

Section 5. The uniform shall be worn to all meetings, functions, and activities unless otherwise stipulated by the adult leadership.

Section 6. The uniform or any item identifying that person as a member of the Post shall not be worn or used in a manner for personal gain or receipt of any gratuity. Violation of this section can result from expulsion from the Post or other disciplinary actions.

Section 7. Wearing of the uniform or anything that identifies you as a Post member at any activities or functions other than Post meetings, activities, and functions is prohibited (unless Post advisors have given approval) and shall result in disciplinary action. Using Post issued equipment for anything other than Post meetings, activities, and functions shall result in disciplinary action. Including, but not limited to; wearing Post issued turnout gear to a fire for another fire department, or using equipment for personal business such as construction work.

Article 7: Post Officers

Section 1. The Post 0618 shall be directed by a Post Captain and or a Post Lieutenant.

Section 2. The Post Officer positions shall be filled from the ranks of the members. To be eligible for promotion you must be a member in good standing as outlined by these bylaws.

Section 3. The Post Officers shall be selected by the Post Advisors. The Post Captain shall be selected from the Post 0618 members who passed the advanced level exam. The selection will be based on several factors including exam score, attendance, attitude, ride hours, and Post involvement. The Post Lieutenant shall also be selected by the Post 0618 Advisors. The Post Lieutenant need not necessarily be an advanced level member, but must at least be an intermediate level member. The selection shall be based on several factors including attendance, attitude, ride hours and Post 0618 involvement.

Section 4. All terms of office for officer positions shall be for a period of one (1) year, with provisions for extended terms, as approved by the Post Advisors.

Section 5. Whenever a vacancy in any Post position occurs, the Post 0618 Advisors (shall) may make a temporary appointment from the qualified members.

Section 6. Post 0618 Officer meetings will be scheduled throughout the year to evaluate progress, set future goals, and resolve problems of the post.

Section 7. All Post 0618 Officers shall conduct themselves in such a manner that they serve as a good example to the membership. They shall perform their duties to the best of their abilities. Officer duties shall include calling members to cancel/schedule meetings, help organize fund-raisers, and other responsibilities delegated by the Post 0618 Advisors. It is expected that Officers shall attend at least 75 % of Post 0618 meetings, activities, and functions.

Article 8: Treasury

Section 1. All money belonging to the Post 0618 shall be received and dispersed by the Post 0618 Advisors or as directed there by. The appointed designee shall deposit the money into the Post 0618 account. A record shall be made of all income and expenses made by any member of Post 0618 funds.

Section 2. The Post 0618 Treasurer shall be one of the Post 0618 Advisors and a Joplin Fire Department member.

Section 3. The Post 0618 Treasurer shall keep accurate records of all Post 0618 receipts and disbursements. Reports shall be given at the end of the charter year.

Article 10: Conduct and Discipline

Section 1. The basic responsibility of the members is to maintain decorum as uniformed personnel associated with the Joplin Fire Department. Any time the uniform is worn it must be complete. When in uniform, the member must be neat and clean-shaven, with the exclusion of a neatly trimmed mustache. Conduct must be courteous and consistent with the policies of the Joplin Fire Department. Members must be alert on every

occasion and be intelligently obedient to orders of a superior. Members shall not address any Joplin Fire Department Officers by first name. JFD Officers shall be addressed by their respective rank and last name to show respect.

Section 2. A member can be disciplined, suspended, or dismissed from the Post for substantiation of any of the following:

- A. Commission of a juvenile delinquent act or violation of a criminal law.
- B. Violation of certain traffic laws, including DUI, hit and run, and reckless driving. Suspension or revocation of a member's driver's license will result in automatic suspension from the Post.
- C. Use of alcohol or drugs.
- D. Smoking or the use of tobacco during meetings, functions, or activities.
- E. Using tobacco products at any time while under the age of 18.
- F. Divulging confidential fire or emergency information to anyone.
- G. Willful disobedience of orders.
- H. Violation of Post ride-along policies.
- I. Violation of Department or Post vehicle use policies.
- J. Use of uniform for personal gain.
- K. Unauthorized entry into any city building.
- L. Use of profane language while on duty.
- M. Destroying or damaging city property maliciously.
- N. Unauthorized use of Post equipment.
- O. Immoral, incompetent, indecent, or lewd behavior.
- P. Any violation of the rules and regulations of the Joplin Fire Dept.

Section 3. Any Post member who is reported in any violation of any Post rule or regulation will be advised of the infraction by the Post 0618 Captain or an Advisor at the earliest possible opportunity. That member will then, when deemed necessary, be brought before a review board to investigate the infraction and determine whether the infraction is substantiated. In the event that it is, the member so charged shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Section 4. When necessary, a disciplinary review board shall be formed to review any alleged post 0618 rule infraction. Such board shall consist of at least one (1) Post 0618 Officer and two (2) Advisors. No member being reviewed may serve on the board.

Section 5. In the event that a Post 0618 Officer is dismissed or demoted for disciplinary actions, an interim Officer shall be appointed by the Post 0618 Advisors.

Article 11: Amendments

Section 1. The Post Constitution and Bylaws shall be reviewed annually for updating. A written notice of any changes will be given to all members.

Section 2. Suggestions for any changes will be made in business meetings prior to the annual review meeting. Changes and amendments are to be submitted to the Post 0618 Advisors for completion and approval.