

Highland Park First Aid Squad

Applicant FAQ

Last Updated: 4 May 2016

Q What is the role of the Highland Park First Aid Squad (HPFAS)?

A HPFAS is a basic life support (BLS) pre-hospital emergency medical service (EMS). In short, our role is to respond to the medical emergencies of Highland Park. Most often, we are called to these emergencies once the town's police dispatcher receives a 9-1-1 call and determines that the emergency is of a medical nature. After assembling an ambulance crew, we go to the scene of the emergency, treat the patient or patients, and transport them to the hospital.

Q Can I get my EMT certification through your organization?

A Yes and no. If you begin volunteering with our organization, you will have the opportunity to obtain your EMT certification for free through the NJ EMT Training Fund, but we will not be awarding you the EMT certification. EMT certifications are awarded by the State of New Jersey after completion of an EMT Initial Training course at a State-approved training site and after passing the State EMT certification exam. Only some training sites accept the EMT Training fund. For more information on the EMT Training Fund, visit nj.gov/health/ems/training_fund.shtml. For more information on the process of obtaining your EMT certification, visit njems.rutgers.edu/cdr/jsp/index.jsp.

Q Will I get paid as a member of HPFAS?

A You will not be paid for your service with HPFAS. HPFAS is a 100% volunteer organization, meaning it does not pay any of its members.

Q What CPR course should I take / what CPR certifications do you accept?

A As per the NJ State Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) release on February 4th, 2010, "OEMS does not recognize CPR training programs that are taught strictly on-line. CPR certification must be obtained through an instructor led program with skills verification, a written examination, and include both one and two rescuer CPR (infant, child and adult), use of bag-valve mask ventilation devices (BVM) and semi-automatic external defibrillator (SAED) training." The course that you take or took to obtain your certification must meet these criteria. If you already have a certification but are not sure if it meets these requirements, email us at membership.highlandparkfas@gmail.com. If you do not have a certification yet, HPFAS recommends that you take the course entitled "Basic Life Support" from the American Heart Association for your CPR training.

Q How do I take the “Basic Life Support” course from the American Heart Association?

A You can locate offerings of the course through the American Heart Association’s education website, cpr.heart.org. Click on “Find a Course”, then click on “Classroom & Skills Sessions”. In the map-based search window that appears, input your zip code into the field that says “Enter your location”. Click on the “Filter your search...” bar next the map to show the search filter options. Change the “Course Style” option to “Classroom” and the “Course Name” to “BLS Provider”. You may also change the “Scheduled Classes” fields to expand the date range of your results. Click “Submit”. Below the “Filter your search...” options will appear a number of course listings. Each listing will have a date and time, a training site and location, and contact information. Find a course offering near you and use the contact information provided to communicate the course instructor and to schedule your course.

Q What first aid course should I take / what first aid courses do you accept?

A The first aid course that you take or took must be classroom-based, must be at least 2-3 hours long, must teach basic concepts in first aid – such as recognizing emergencies, treating shock, controlling bleeding, and choking – must provide proof of course completion, and must have been taken within the past two years. A number of available courses will satisfy this requirement. If you already have a certification but are not sure if it meets these requirements, email us at membership.highlandparkfas@gmail.com. If you do not have a certification yet, HPFAS recommends that you take one of these two courses: “Advanced First Aid” from the American Safety & Health Institute or “Heartsaver First Aid” from the American Heart Association.

Q How do I take the “Advanced First Aid” course from the American Safety & Health Institute?

A You can locate offerings of the course through the American Safety and Health Institute’s website, hsi.com/ashi. Scroll down on the page until you see a button that says “Locate a training center in your area” (near the bottom of the page). In the search window that appears, change the “Select Brand...” field to “American Safety & Health Institute”. Under “Simple Search”, select “Search by Zip” and enter your zip code and the maximum distance you are willing to travel to take the course. In the “Search By Program” field, select “Advanced First Aid G2010”. Click “Find a Training Center”. A list of locations/instructors that offer the course will appear along with contact information. Find a location or instructor near you and use the contact information provided to communicate with the course instructor and schedule your course.

Q How do I take the “Heartsaver First Aid” course from the American Heart Association?

A See the above for the instructions on how to locate the “Basic Life Support” course from the American Heart Association. Use these instructions to find the course. Choose “Heartsaver First Aid” for the “Course Name” field instead of choosing “BLS Provider”.

Q What will I be required to do as a member?

A Your main duty as a member will be dedicate yourself to on-call time, during which you must help in answering the town’s medical emergencies. With rare exception, new members are expected to commit 40-50 hours of on-call time per month. Usually, this take the form of one 10-hour shift per week and one 8-hour Saturday shift per month. New members are also expected to attend Squad first meetings, which take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 8:00pm. After three months on the Squad, new members are be assessed by the line officers for proficiency in basic skills and tasks that are vital to every Squad member’s ability to answer emergency medical calls. Lastly, all members of the Squad are expected to attend the town’s Memorial Day services and parade. These events last from early morning until mid-afternoon.