



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 06/27/2013
TDD: 837-7016

TUCSON FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CADET PROGRAM GRADUATION CEREMONY FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2013

Tomorrow evening at 6:00 pm, thirty-four young men and women will be demonstrating their skills acquired from the TFD Cadet Program. It will be held at the Public Safety Training Academy located at 10001 S. Wilmot Rd. This event marks the twenty-first graduating class of Cadets for Tucson Fire. The show will kick off with the Cadets performing physical fitness, an aerial climb, rappelling from a tower and entering the "Dragon" in full firefighting gear and air packs. These demonstrations will be followed up by a graduation ceremony that will recognize their accomplishments through a program that teaches teamwork, leadership, discipline, mental and physical fitness and community service. The Greater Tucson Fire Foundation will be awarding a \$500 scholarship for Pima Community College to the most outstanding Cadet.

The Cadets have completed a three week long program that is Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. Along with all the practical training and classroom education; they have acquired CPR certification and first aid training. The Cadet program was started by Deanna Lewis, who was the first woman on the Tucson Fire Department. It started at the old training center at Park and Ajo on a shoestring budget that allowed for turnout coats and pants for a half dozen cadets. The program has grown tremendously and we now have men and women on the department who had their first taste of the fire service through the Cadet experience. Candidates for the program must have completed their freshman year in high school and can continue in the program until age twenty-one.

The Tucson Fire Department cordially invites all of you to attend this event. For more information on this program, please visit our website at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/tfd/cadet>.

