



**Ohio
Fire
Academy**

*Can you take the **HEAT?***

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**COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE TO HOLD BOOTCAMP
TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY IN THE FIRE SERVICE**
Columbus residents invited to participate in hands-on training

The Columbus Division of Fire is holding a 'bootcamp,' dubbed 'Can You Take the Heat,' for Columbus residents who may be interested in a career in public safety. The three day, two night experience is being held at the Division of State Fire Marshal Ohio Fire Academy and will give attendees the opportunity to participate in search and rescue scenarios, obtain CPR certification and extinguish simulated fires.

This initiative, which will be held over two separate weekends, one for men and one for women, was designed to promote diversity within the ranks of first responders in Ohio's capital city. Any Columbus resident with a desire to someday become a firefighter or emergency medical technician can take part in the program, which features a blend of classroom instruction and hands-on training.

"As a Division, we have a commitment to service and the enrichment of the residents of Columbus," states Columbus Division of Fire Chief Gregory A. Paxton. "There is nothing more valuable than to cultivate the talent of this city."

Participants will stay at the Ohio Fire Academy (OFA) in Reynoldsburg which will help to simulate firehouse living. The OFA campus, in addition to the residential quarters, has a live burn building, a search and rescue maze, and the equipment and emergency vehicles you would find in a fire station.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the men and women of Columbus to come out and walk in a firefighter's boots for a weekend," said State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers. "We're excited for the chance to partner with Chief Paxton and the city of Columbus to make this experience a reality. Sharing services at the state and local level is important, and I've always said that public safety is a 'team sport.'"

The Fire Extreme Bootcamp Series for men takes place from April 11, through April 13. The women's series will then be held April 25 through April 27. Columbus residents can register via e-mail at TakeTheHeat@com.ohio.gov or by phone at (614) 752-7196. The deadline to register for the Men's Camp is March 31. The deadline to register for the Women's Camp is April 7.

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