



10 STEPS TO BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

JOINING A RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

STEP 1

GET STARTED

Becoming a volunteer with the NSW Rural Fire Service is easy, and there are a surprising number of roles available. First, consider the kind of volunteer work you would like to do, and the time you can spare. It's also a good idea to discuss your intention to volunteer with your family, friends or employer – their support can be crucial.

STEP 2

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTEER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The next step is to contact your local rural fire brigade. The members of the brigade are all volunteers and can help you decide whether volunteering is right for you. If you're not sure where the brigade is located, ask your nearest Fire Control Centre or email volunteer@rfs.nsw.gov.au.

STEP 3

THE APPLICATION

Complete the Volunteer Membership Application Form and return it to the brigade. If you are over 16 you will also be asked to complete a National Police Checking Service Consent Form and provide identification.

STEP 4

THE INTERVIEW

You may be invited to attend an interview with the brigade you are seeking to join. The interview will cover the types of things you can expect as a volunteer, what your role in the brigade will involve and what the NSW RFS expects from its members.

STEP 5

PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP

If both you and the brigade wish to proceed, your application will be sent to the District Manager for endorsement. At that point you become a "probationary member pending clearance".

STEP 6

CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK

It is important for the NSW RFS to make an assessment about each applicant's suitability for membership because our volunteers hold a position of trust within the community, so a criminal history check will be conducted after your application form is endorsed. Your privacy will be protected in this process.

STEP 7

COMMENCE INDUCTION

While you wait for clearance, you can commence some activities with the brigade under supervision. During this time there are some restrictions on the types of activities you can participate in.

STEP 8

OUTCOME OF APPLICATION

If your application for membership is successful, you will receive a letter containing your membership number. You can now participate fully as a volunteer member of your brigade.

STEP 9

TRAINING FOR YOUR ROLE

The NSW RFS provides training opportunities to all members free of charge, giving you the knowledge and skills to work safely in your chosen role. Once trained, you will be provided with the appropriate clothing and equipment for your role.

STEP 10

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

You will remain a probationary member for a minimum of six months, and at the end of the probationary period your brigade will vote on whether to accept you as an ordinary member.