

Harvard Ambulance Service

Prospective Student Information

Welcome

The Harvard Ambulance Service (HAS) was founded in 1972 to provide emergency medical services to residents and visitors of Harvard, Massachusetts. The ambulance is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and is staffed by individuals who respond from their homes, schools or businesses at the time of a medical emergency. Our service is comprised entirely (one exception) of volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and drivers. It is a big but extremely rewarding commitment.

HAS's purpose is to provide quality prehospital emergency care. This includes patient assessment, medical interventions, lifting, moving, transport to area hospitals and transfer of care to emergency room personnel. It also includes patient advocacy, support for other town services such as police and fire departments, mutual aid for surrounding towns and standby coverage for Harvard events (e.g. fairs, bicycle/running/skateboard races, 4th of July festivities).

The HAS co-directors are appointed by and report to the Harvard Board of Selectmen. In addition, there are other assistant directors who are responsible for specific functions such as education, training, finances, etc...



Cadet Program

Harvard and Bolton are the only towns in the Commonwealth to offer an EMT cadet program through a special waiver from the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS). The program participants are Bromfield High School students and community adults and all will complete ~160 hours of EMT-Basic (EMT-B) training, culminating in a State practical skills exam and a National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) written exam. Successful passage of the class and both exams are required to become certified EMTs.

EMT-B Training Sample Curriculum

- EMT safety and responsibilities
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Lifting and Moving Patients
- Airway Management
- Patient Assessment
- Medical Emergencies
- Trauma Emergencies
- Behavioral Emergencies
- Pregnancy Complications and Childbirth
- Ambulance Operations
- Poisons
- Allergic Reactions
- Cardiac Emergencies
- Rescue Operations
- Care of infants and Children
- Geriatric Care

Application Process

Students nominally should have reached **age 16 by December 31, 2018** to be eligible for the cadet program.

Those interested in taking the course through the Harvard Ambulance Service must complete an essay (~300 words) answering the question:

What drives your interest and desire to become an EMT and be part of HAS?

Students should submit their essay via email to: lmiller@harvardems.org. Be sure to include your name, date of birth, home address, email address and cell phone # in the essay. **This must be received on or before Sunday April 22, 2018**

After the essays have been read, students will be asked to interview with a small set of current HAS EMTs. The new cadet class will be determined within a week after interviews have been completed (**currently planned for April 26 and 27**). Applicants will be notified of the selections as soon as practical.

Class

The EMT-B training classes start in September, nominally complete in March and are subject to a \$500. fee collected from each student which partially offsets the training cost to the service. The course is taught by highly experienced and professional instructors from an outside, accredited service provider. 4-hour classes are held twice a week while school is in session (days of the week are yet to be specified though it has historically been one evening during the week and one morning or afternoon during the weekend).

About half-way through the course, students are encouraged to start volunteering time on-call and participating in ride-alongs on the ambulance as cadets. The students' role is strictly observational at that time and provides orientation and integration with the ambulance and the experienced crew of EMTs and drivers.

Life as an EMT

After successful completion of the state practical and national written exams, newly certified EMTs start patient interaction and render care on ambulance calls. Initially, new EMTs are directed and guided by the more experienced EMTs within our service. Each new EMT is paired with a senior member of our service (a “run buddy”) who mentor as needed and provide a focal point for feedback and instruction. As confidence grows and skills proficiency is demonstrated on an increasing number of calls, EMTs will transition to leading the activity, making patient treatment decisions, providing radio and nurses reports to the admitting hospital, etc...

Post-Training Expectations/Requirements

Each student will maintain at least a “C” grade for all academic classes at Bromfield.

As EMTs, students must individually volunteer a minimum 24 hours of on-call time per month outside of school. Additionally, if students meet this requirement, they will be eligible to be on-call during the school day (at most once a week) – this is a privilege and a trusted agreement between the high school administration and our service.

Run Review: Reviews are conducted the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month during the school calendar year at 7:00 pm. The purpose of these meetings is to examine the recent ambulance responses and evaluate the care that was provided. Attendance is mandatory for all student EMTs (as required by our state waiver with OEMS).

HAS Monthly meeting: Our entire service membership gathers at 7:00 pm every 3rd Monday of the month throughout the calendar year. This gathering’s intention is to review policies, procedures and practices, ensure readiness of our equipment and personnel, and provide a forum for discussion of matters related to our service sustainability and growth. Attendance is mandatory for all HAS members.

Continuing Education: All state and nationally registered EMTs are required to obtain a specified level of training course credits every two years (and pass a refresher test) to maintain their certification. These credits may be secured through medical courses offered at hospitals, educational institutions and EMS service facilities all over Massachusetts. HAS typically hosts continuing education courses on the 1st Monday of every month.

Questions/Comments/Contacts – Contact us

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