**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

**Division of Volunteer Services**

**VOLUNTEER BENEFITS**

**LOSAP, Md. Tax Credit Program, Tuition Assistance, Ride-On, Recreation and MCVFRA Contractual Benefits**

**LOSAP**

 The Length of Service Awards Program, also known as LOSAP, allows local fire and rescue department (LFRD) volunteers to earn a monetary award based upon age and years of active service. One year of active service is determined by a requirement that a member earn 50 or more total points in a calendar year in the following categories: training, drills, station sleep-ins or stand-bys, holding elected or appointed positions, meeting attendance, station responses/calls, military service and collateral duties. Fire and rescue responders and administrative members both qualify for this award. To receive credit for sleep-ins or responses, a volunteer must be active on the IECS list at the time the responses occur.

 LOSAP provides a monetary award for 10 years of active service with an age requirement of 65, 15 years of service with an age requirement of 60, and 25 years of active service with no age requirement. Annual increases are provided to recipients who stay active and meet the 50 points required annually.

 A $5,000 death benefit is also payable to the volunteer’s designee provided the minimum number of active years required for an award is met (currently 10 years). In addition, a surviving spouse or domestic partner is entitled to receive 50% of the volunteer’s length of service benefit for which the volunteer was receiving.

**Eligibility Criteria for:**

Ride-on Bus Pass

 Tuition Assistance Program (VTAP)

Recreation Pass

Low $$ Nominal Fee

• Member for one year prior to ***active certification year***

***(Start date must be 12/31 or prior for the year before the certification year)***

• Earned 50 points

**Ride-On Bus Pass**

Please submit and email request, along with an electronic photo, to the LOSAP Administrator, FRS.LOSAP@montgomerycountymd.gov .Once your eligibility is confirmed, an email request will be sent by the LOSAP Administrator MCFRS Internal Affairs for processing. Once created, it will be mailed out to the Chief of the volunteer’s LFRD.

**Tuition Assistance Program (VTAP)**

A Memorandum of Understanding signed by representatives of the MCVFRA, MCFRS, and OHR outlines requirements for this program. Information related to the program and the applications are located on OHR’s website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HR/CareerDevelopment/TuitionAssistance.html#1>

Please review the requirements carefully, submit one originally signed application signed by your LFRD Chief/President, along with all required documentation to the MCFRS, Division of Volunteer Services, LOSAP Administrator, 100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878.

**Recreation Pass**

Volunteers interested in obtaining a Recreation Pass need to obtain the form from the Division of Volunteer Services Quicklinks and fax the form to the Recreation Department. They will contact the LOSAP Administrator who will verify eligibility.

[www.MCFRS.org/DOVS](http://www.MCFRS.org/DOVS)

**Maryland State Income Tax Credit Program**

 The Maryland Income Tax Subtraction Program allows a volunteer who meets certain requirements to receive a credit on their Maryland State income taxes. The amount is different each year. To qualify for the subtraction modification, a volunteer **with less than 25 years of service must have been active in the past calendar year and have at least 36 months of qualifying service in the last ten years.** A qualifying member must have a minimum of 50 points and those points must be earned in at least two categories. A member with **25 or more years** of qualifying service **need not have been active in the previous calendar year; however, the member must still qualify with at least 36 months in the last 10 years.**

**Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association and**

**Montgomery County Bargaining Agreement**

Montgomery County Government recognizes the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (MCVFRA) as the duly authorized representative of the Local Fire and Rescue Departments (LFRD) in the direct negotiation process set forth in Chapter 21-6 of the Montgomery County Code. The current agreement is for the period 7/1/2008 – 6/30/2011. In 2007, the MCVFRA became the first volunteer organization to bargain for volunteer benefits, such as improved death benefits, additional medical expenses associated with annual physicals, apparel, and nominal fee payments. The Agreement is posted on [www.mcvfra.org](http://www.mcvfra.org).