



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Division of Volunteer Services

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

**LOSAP, 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 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 stand-bys 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
Property Tax Credit
Low Nominal Fee

- We look at the previous year of service. Must have been a member for six months of that calendar year (*Start date must be 6/31 or prior last year*)
 - Earned 50 points last year

Ride-On Bus Pass

Please submit an email request, along with an electronic photo, to the LOSAP Administrator, FRS.LOSAP@montgomerycountymd.gov. Once your eligibility is confirmed, a card will be created and mailed 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 or emailed to: FRS.LOSAP@montgomerycountymd.gov

Recreation Pass

A Recreation Pass allows volunteers to use any county swim facility free of charge. Volunteers wanting a Recreation Pass need to complete the online form found here:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/frs-qi/dovs/faqs/recreation-pass.html>

Property Tax Credit

Volunteers owning property in Montgomery County can apply for the property tax credit of \$2,500 using the following link:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance/bill39-21.html>

The application must be completed EACH year between March 1 and April 1.

Nominal fee

Volunteers automatically receive the nominal fee each year around July 1. The nominal fee is a stipend issued to volunteers for their expenses occurring from being a volunteer. There is a "low" level and a "high" level. To qualify for the high level, a volunteer must also earn 20 points for stand-bys and 30 points for calls/responses. Volunteers usually receive a check in the mail.

Eligibility Criteria for:

State income tax credit

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 three calendar years and have been a member at least 36 months.** 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.** If

eligible, a special tax form will be issued to the volunteer around February of each year when they receive their LOSAP certification form from their LFRD.

More information about the payments volunteers can receive is found here:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/frs-ql/dovs/faqs/tax-information.html>

Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association and Montgomery County Bargaining Agreement

Montgomery County Government recognizes the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (MCFVRA) 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 MCFVRA 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.