

Dansville High School's Junior Firefighters Serve Their Community

Did you know that some of our Dansville High School students are already serving the community in remarkable ways? Through the Dansville Junior Firefighter Program, these students train alongside the Dansville Fire Department, gaining real-world experience, learning life-saving skills, and building a strong sense of teamwork and service.

Finding Purpose Through Service

"I like being a Junior Firefighter because it gives me a sense of purpose," said Samara Wolf-Mialky, a sophomore at Dansville High School. "I get to learn life-saving skills, help my community, and be part of a family that values courage, responsibility, and service. It's more than just training—it's about growing into someone others can depend on."

As Junior Firefighters, students participate in drills, learn safety procedures, and assist at community events. The program helps them explore potential careers in public service while developing leadership, teamwork, and responsibility.

"Being a Junior Firefighter has taught me how to become a leader, connect with my community, work as part of a team, and—most importantly—to never give up and always help others," shared Coleanah Loomis, a junior. "I've really enjoyed being a part of this team and everything I get to do as a Junior Firefighter."

For Briley Wood, a sophomore, the program is personal: "Since my dad was the Fire Chief of Dansville for 15 years, I grew up around the fire department and couldn't wait to join. At first, I was nervous about being the only girl, but I soon realized I'd be fine because you make your own friends within the program. In just a year, we've grown and welcomed many new members. I love being a Junior Firefighter—it's given me opportunities to learn, grow, and help make the world a better place."

Leadership and Dedication

"Throughout my firefighter and emergency medical service career, I've learned countless skills," said Bryce Ludlow, a senior, Junior Fire Captain, and co-founder of the program. "But the most important lesson is that you get out what you put in. If you treat this like just another club, you won't truly learn or understand it—and that matters because lives are on the line. If you give your full effort, train hard, and stay committed, you'll not only become skilled but also find joy and purpose in serving your community."

Senior Landon Wadsworth shared how family legacy inspired him: “My grandfather was a firefighter years ago, and his stories about service and camaraderie made me want to follow in his footsteps. When Brian Schirmer came up with this program, I knew I wanted to join and give back to my community while creating another fire family like my grandfather did.”

How the Program Began

The Dansville Junior Firefighter Program officially launched in April 2023. The idea began with students Bryce Ludlow and Ty Schirmer, who shared a passion for firefighting. Ty’s father, Brian Schirmer, a longtime Dansville firefighter, helped bring their vision to life by coordinating with local departments and guiding the students through the process.

Soon after, Landon Wadsworth and Mark Sick joined in, helping to build the foundation of the program. Together, they spent countless hours training, washing trucks, and building a strong sense of teamwork with the department.

Since its start, the program has continued to evolve—updating rules, expanding membership, and refining training. Today, eleven active Junior Firefighters proudly serve Dansville, and that number keeps growing.

“These juniors are the real deal,” said Junior Advisor Brian Schirmer. “They’re passionate and dedicated. We might be joking around at the station, but as soon as the tones drop for a call, everything changes. Once those juniors board the apparatus, it’s all serious faces—each one focused and ready to help. I have complete confidence in them, and I know the other firefighters do too. We’re lucky to have these young people stepping up to serve.”

Training and Community Impact

Junior Firefighters train and respond alongside adult members after completing required safety and background checks. They assist on calls, participate in drills, and represent the department at fire prevention and community events.

Training includes:

- Search and rescue
- Hoseline advancement
- Downed firefighter extrication
- Motor vehicle extrication (cutting vehicles to free victims)
- Rope rescue, ladders, hydrant hookup, wildland fires, and escape/safety procedures

After earning CPR and AED certification, juniors may assist in cardiac emergencies. At age 16, they are eligible for the 79-hour New York State fire class, becoming certified exterior firefighters. At 18, they may continue training to become interior firefighters.

Most emergency calls in Dansville now include juniors on the crew—often making up a majority of responders. Their dedication, skill, and teamwork have made them an essential part of the fire service that keeps Dansville safe.

Program Requirements

To join, students must:

- Be between 14 and 18 years old
- Maintain academic eligibility to participate in training, calls, and events
- Clear a criminal background check

New recruits complete a 60-day probationary period, during which they learn the layout and functions of the fire trucks, proper gear use, and safe procedures for boarding apparatus. After evaluation by the Chief and Advisor, they may begin responding to calls alongside firefighters.

(Note: Juniors are not permitted on motor vehicle collision calls due to potentially graphic scenes.)

A True Mustang Spirit

Dansville High School Principal Dave Moodie shared, “We are incredibly proud of the students in the Junior Firefighter Program. Their dedication, courage, and commitment to service embody what it means to be a Mustang—hardworking, community-minded, and ready to make a difference.”

Dansville Junior Firefighters:

Bryce Ludlow • Landon Wadsworth • Samara Wolf-Mialky • Briley Wood • Cameron Wise • Chance Walker • Coleanah Loomis • Grace Bowes • Maciej Scollon • Aiden Bloom • Vinton Berry

Follow their journey on Facebook: [Dansville Fire Department Juniors](#)











