

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT 4HEROES' CHURCH DINNERS

Choose a team lead from your group. This person will be the point of contact between your team, the crew at the fire station, and our Church Dinners Coordinator, Mary Catherine Domaleski (678-464-9021). On your first station visit, be sure your team "lead" exchanges contact information with the station's Lieutenant or whoever he/she may delegate as the station contact.



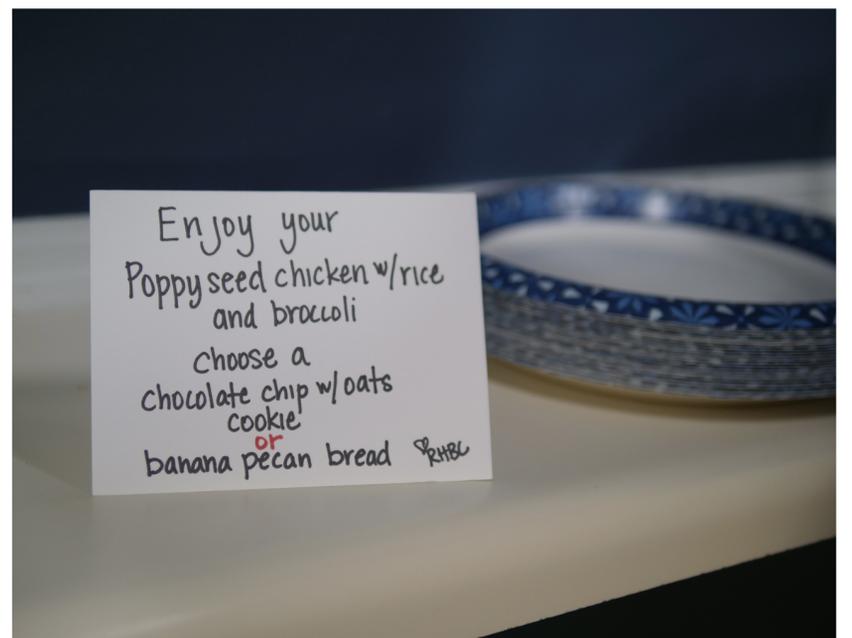
Choose a team. Most of our County stations only have 4-5 people working in them at one time. There are exceptions to that rule. Our busiest station is Station 4, and it sometimes has 6-8 people. Two of our stations only have a couple of personnel working at any given time. Obviously, the less station personnel working on a given day – the smaller your church team should be.

Also, you won't need as much food as a larger station. It is possible to have too many folks in the station. As a rule, I like taking a team that is about the size of the team you are serving. So, if there are 4-5 people in the station, taking 4-5 people to the station to serve is ideal. But that's not a hard and fast rule. The more people you take, the less expensive and tiresome the food prep. The less people you take, the less chance you have to overrun the station with sheer numbers. You should know that there is always a possibility of extra personnel at a station, so prepare what is needed and then prepare for a couple more...just in case.

Choose a station. We have 9 stations in the County. Chances are, your church is probably close to one of them. Attached to this document you will find a list of all of our Fayette County Fire Stations.

Choose a shift. Our firefighters work 24 hour shifts. There are three of them. You will hear them referred to as "A" shift, "B" shift and "C" shift. So, the normal schedule is to work 24 hours and then be off for 48 hours. This means that if you served dinner at Station 2 on "C" shift tonight, the same crew (with subtle variations) would be working three weeks from tonight. So, if your group provides dinner every 3 weeks, you will serve the same crew again and again. This allows you to really get to know this crew as relationships deepen over time.

Choose a meal. Don't be afraid to ask your group if there's anything they'd like. Also, you'll want to ask about any food allergies or dietary needs. Once you know what you are bringing – make a lot of it. Remember, you never, ever want to run out of food. The folks you are serving burn an enormous number of calories every day. As mentioned earlier, there is always the possibility that you may have 1-2 extra mouths to feed at dinner time. Plus, bear in mind that you're not just feeding the station personnel, you are feeding your own team. So, whatever you bring, bring a lot of it.



INFORMATION FOR TEAM LEADS

The team lead from your church should either **set the menu** and food assignments or **delegate it** to someone else from your group. Typically, I send an email reminder to our group several days in advance. I'll announce a theme (this week is Mexican), state what I will bring (tortillas and seasoned taco meat) and what I need others to bring (cheese, guacamole, sour cream, beans, tortilla chips, drink and dessert). You will also save everyone some clean up time if you choose to provide plastic cups and utensils and paper plates.

HERE ARE A FEW OTHER MEAL IDEAS:

spaghetti, pizza, BBQ, soup – salad – sandwich, appetizers for dinner, breakfast for dinner, burgers and dogs (the stations are all equipped with gas grills). Did I mention tacos? Everybody loves tacos. Don't feel you need to restrict yourself to this list, please do what you do best. If you have a specialty, please feel free to bring it. ***But again, **please don't run out of food.*****

If you bring so much that there are leftovers, they will be very happy to keep those and eat them on their next shift. Bringing large quantities of excellent food is a wonderful blessing to offer our friends and heroes. Thank you in advance for doing that!



ONCE YOU ARRIVE...

Be yourself. You are funny. You are interesting. You are entertaining. We all know those things are true about you. But also, don't feel like you need to be in the spotlight. In fact, it's better if you listen twice as much as you speak. Ask open-ended questions – how, what and why? Be genuinely interested as you ask about their families, how they became interested in the fire service, and what's the best thing that happened on their shift today. Many of them work second jobs to support their families and the nature of those jobs is often interesting, that's definitely a topic worth exploring. They love to show off their gear and their trucks. And for the most part, they like to talk about their experiences. You'll be glad you did because these are honestly some of the most interesting people you will ever meet. If you find yourself doing more talking than listening, you should probably restrain yourself. Ask questions and let them answer. Be a sponge and soak in their stories.

Be on time. If there are any changes in time or date (you are going to be late, you need to reschedule or you need to cancel) please notify your team lead as soon as possible so that they can adjust. My group brings dinner to the station at 6pm on Wednesday nights. We don't change the time or the night of the week. It's consistent. Often, station personnel are answering calls throughout the night. So they will probably prefer to eat earlier than later. Make sure your team leader communicates with the Station Lieutenant about what time works best for them.

BE RESPECTFUL OF THE SPACE.

OUR STATION PERSONNEL LIVE IN THE FIRE STATION ONE DAY OUT OF EVERY THREE. SO, DURING THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE, 33% OF THEIR LIVES IS LIVED OUT IN THESE PLACES. IT IS THEIR HOME AWAY FROM HOME. SO PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE A WELCOMED GUEST – BUT YOU ARE STILL A GUEST.

When it comes to mealtime, ask for permission to pray before the meal. Say something like, “if it's alright, we'd love to pray before we start serving.” I've never had a group say “no,” but it's respectful to ask.

Also, PLEASE let station personnel go through the serving line FIRST, as they may pick up a call during the meal. In the stations where there is a medic truck (or ambulance), please allow those folks to go first of all.

AS A GUEST IN THE FIRE STATION, HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Don't go rifling through their drawers and cabinets...ask about any item you need.
- Don't help yourself to their pantry or refrigerator. If there's something you need, ask.
- The stations are all equipped with outdoor grills and what amounts to a commercial kitchen on the inside of the station. It is likely that these appliances could be available to you, but ask in advance before making assumptions.
- Politely ask if there is a restroom available. Always make sure you clean up after. Remember, "if you sprinkle when you tinkle – please be neat and wipe the seat". 😊
- Do not stray from public areas. Stay out of bunk rooms at all times.
- After dinner, please clean up after yourselves. We want to leave the station better than we found it.

IMPORTANT NOTE!

If you arrive at the station and no one is home, that means they are out on a call. Please wait for them for as long as you can, as they may be on their way back soon. It's also possible that they will be out longer than you can stay. If that's the case, leave food behind if possible or designate someone to bring it by later.



AFTER YOUR STATION VISIT:

- PLEASE PRAY DAILY FOR THE STATION PERSONNEL YOU ARE SERVING **BY NAME**.
- PRAY FOR THEIR **SAFETY**.
- PRAY FOR THEIR **HEALTH** – EMOTIONALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY.
- PRAY THAT THEIR JOB WOULD BE MORE OF A BLESSING THAN BURDEN TO THEM AND TO THEIR FAMILIES.
- PRAY THAT THEY WOULD COME TO KNOW JESUS IN A REAL AND PERSONAL WAY.
- MANY OF OUR PERSONNEL ARE ON FACEBOOK. **REACH OUT** TO THEM AND INVITE THEM TO BE YOUR NEWEST FACEBOOK FRIEND.
- ANTICIPATE YOUR NEXT STATION VISIT AND HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER THAN YOUR LAST.

BE GRACIOUS. There is an excellent chance that during your visit you might be exposed to lifestyles, language, or political views that do not align with yours. We are not in their station to express our opinions or cast judgement – we are in their station to offer friendship, respect, kindness, and hope. Remember, we're not here to preach. We are here to serve.

BE LIKE JESUS. Remember, at the Church Dinner, you represent your church family and you represent our ministry at 4Heroes. But most importantly, you are an ambassador of Christ. We want to honor Him by seasoning our conversations with grace. Once you've left for the evening, we want our friends and heroes at the station to be really glad you came by and to look forward to your next visit.

****When it comes time to sit at the table, you may be tempted to sit with your church friends as the station personnel sit with their "fire" friends. Please don't do that as it only serves to build walls and not bridges. As often as possible, please sit with your new "fire" friends and get to know them better.****

FIRE STATION LOCATIONS

Fire Station # 1



450 Hwy 279
Fayetteville ,Ga 30214

Fire Station # 2



1330 Hwy 92 North
Fayetteville ,Ga 30214

Fire Station# 3



420 Jenkins Rd
Tyrone, Ga. 30290

Fire Station #4



Fire Station #4
278 McElroy Rd.
Fayetteville, Ga. 30214

Fire Station # 5



1830 Hwy 85 South
Fayetteville,Ga

Fire Station # 6



903 Hwy 85 Conn.
Brooks,Ga, 30205

Fire Station #7



220 Hampton Rd
Fayetteville, Ga 30215

Fire Station # 10



195 Seay Rd
Fayetteville, Ga 30215

Fire Station #11



212 Flat Creek Trl.
Fayetteville, Ga 30214

Thank You **FOR JOINING US IN THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT!**

