



Media Release

Leadership Under Fire experience for Operation Flinders Young Mentors

Saturday, 8 October 2022

Young people who have completed the Operation Flinders core program will have an unforgettable life experience this weekend, honing their leadership skills with the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) in Adelaide.

The *Leadership Under Fire* weekend is an initiative designed to give Operation Flinders Next Step Program participants a taste of what it takes to become a firefighter.

Next Step participants will spend two days with MFS firefighters, undertaking physical challenges and attending career seminars held by the MFS, South Australia Police and SA Ambulance Service (SAAS). They will also participate in the MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP).

Minister for Emergency Services, Hon. Joe Szakacs MP said, "The young leaders chosen to undertake the Leadership Under Fire program are exemplary case studies of stand-out future trailblazers in their communities".

"Operation Flinders are providing young people with character defining and life changing opportunities during this program."

MFS Chief Officer, Michael Morgan said MFS firefighters have had a long link to Operation Flinders.

"A number of our firefighters have helped Operation Flinders and their adventure therapy program in the northern Flinders Ranges over its 31 year history. This has led to the development of the *Leadership Under Fire* experience for Operation Flinders graduates.

"The young people who will spend the weekend with the MFS have demonstrated leadership qualities, including empathy, personal growth and a willingness to help others. They'll have a memorable experience with firefighters and can apply learnings to their mentor roles and personal lives," MFS Chief Officer Michael Morgan said.

Media are welcome to attend Adelaide Fire Station from 11am until 12:30pm on Saturday, 8 October when Operation Flinders Next Step participants will undertake a number of physical challenges. These include abseiling from the fire tower, crawling through tunnels, ascending ten stories high in an aerial fire truck and learning to use firefighting hose.

Operation Flinders CEO, David Wark said the weekend is designed to foster the leadership potential of a special group of young people.

"Spending the weekend with firefighters will provide these young people with a chance to have quality time with positive role models while learning about a potential career in emergency services.

"The experience, confidence and learnings they take from this weekend will stay with them forever. This is a unique life event that could help guide their future career choices," CEO, David Wark.

MFS Commander Michael Shepherd is an Operation Flinders Team Leader who was instrumental in making *Leadership Under Fire* possible. [Continued...]

“The young people spending the weekend with us at the MFS will be able to explore their potential and overcome physical challenges. It’s all about building their confidence and leadership skills.

“Our firefighters will have immense satisfaction knowing that they’re helping young people at risk to have a positive life experience that could shape their future,” MFS Commander Mick Shepherd said.

For Media Enquiries, please call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

Or, Operation Flinders Marketing and Events Manager Kim Vanstone on 0424 467 712