



January 2025

Dear Sir/Madam:

Applications are now being accepted for Phoenix Firecamp, a **weeklong overnight camp for teenage girls, ages 14-19, July 20-25, 2025** at the Utica Fire Training Academy. Established in 2007 by Fire Service Women of New York State, Inc. (FSWNYS), the program introduces girls to their opportunities in fire and emergency services. 229 campers, 175 from New York State, have graduated to date and the majority have become members of their hometown fire departments.

Key points about Phoenix Firecamp:

- A \$300 (U.S. dollars only) fee is the only cost to campers; everything else is free.
- Applicants need not have any prior experience with fire or emergency services.
- Up to 24 campers are selected annually from the pool of applicants.
- This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; girls may only attend Phoenix once.
- The hands-on and classroom curriculum is an abbreviated version of a recruit class.
- The EMS components include CPR certification.
- Campers enjoy authentic “firehouse living”; they are housed in a converted firehouse.
- Applications, requirements, curriculum and photos are posted at: www.fswnys.org
- The deadline for applications is May 1, 2025.

The instructors and team leaders are primarily volunteer and career women firefighters who donate their time and pay all their own expenses for the week. The Utica Fire Department provides camper housing, logistical support, equipment, EMS coverage and the use of its apparatus, firehouses and training grounds. Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department donates transportation, hosts social events, secures area business support and coordinates the participation of other volunteer fire departments.

In 2011, FSWNYS was selected from a field of 40 nominations from throughout North America to receive the first annual Fire 20/20 Tony Pini Award for “outstanding work to build a diverse and inclusive fire department culture.”

Please call me (518-542-6583) or email (phoenix@fswnys.org) with any questions or for a general discussion of camp. Inquiries from interested girls are encouraged. Thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary Wrobel
Co-Director, Phoenix Firecamp
Firefighter, Nassau FD