

Wake County Fire Academy Updates

Career in a Year – Fire Academy

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Wake County - Graduation of Fire Academy 16

- Started the Academy on October 14, 2024
- Graduated on June 18, 2025
- Started with 24 recruits and graduated 20
- Highest Average Test Scores in the history of the Fire Academy (88)



Wake County - Graduation of Fire Academy 16

- Fire Departments Represented:
 - Wake New Hope Fire
 - Durham Highway Fire
 - Wendell Fire
 - Fairview Fire
 - Hopkins Fire
 - Zebulon Fire
 - Pittsboro Fire



Wake County - Graduation of Fire Academy 16

- Graduation was held at Scott Northern Wake Tech Campus Auditorium
- Thank you to our Wake Tech partners for allowing us to utilize such a wonderful space for our graduation.



Wake County Fire Academy 16 Graduates

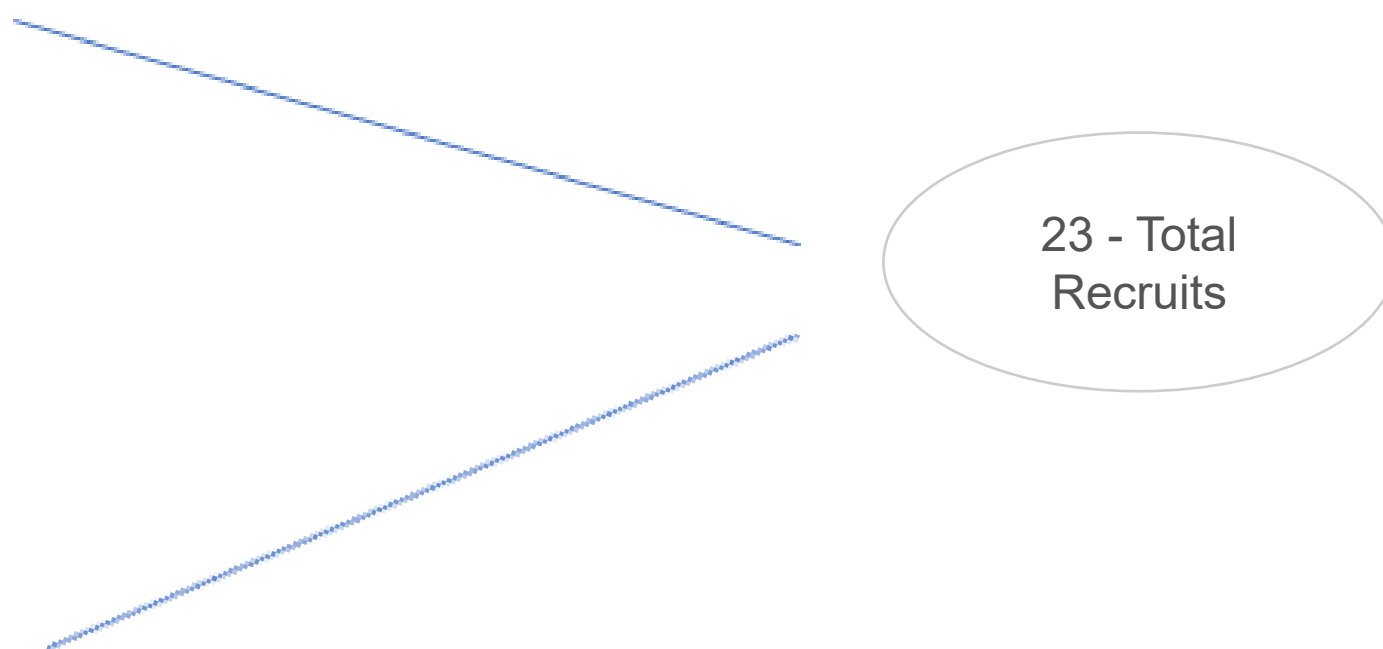


Everyone's Graduated now On to the Next Fire Academy



Wake County – Career in a Year – Fire Academy 17

- **Fire Academy 17 start date – January 12, 2026**
- **7 – Fire Departments represented in next academy:**
 - 1 – Durham Highway
 - 1 – Fairview
 - 1 – Hopkins
 - 1 – Wake New Hope
 - 1 – Wendell
 - 12 – Northern Wake
 - 6 – Apex



23 - Total
Recruits

The diagram consists of two blue lines that converge towards a grey oval on the right. The top line starts at the '1 – Durham Highway' bullet point and slopes downwards to the right. The bottom line starts at the '6 – Apex' bullet point and slopes upwards to the right. Both lines meet at the top edge of the oval, which contains the text '23 - Total Recruits'.

Wake County – Career in a Year – Fire Academy 17

- **Application Period – July 28th – August 29th (total of 5 – weeks)**
 - Fire Services staff sent emails to all the applicants that applied for Academy 16 and were not hired as well as all the people that completed interest forms on our website.
 - Approximately 300 people from Academy 16
 - Approximately 425 interest cards submitted
- **We received over 350 Applicants!**



Wake County – Career in a Year – Fire Academy 17

- Updated Website
- Social Media Advertising
- Press Release
- Distribute Flyers & Wall Posters
- Recruitment Sessions
- Agility Test Practice Days
- Agility Testing
- Fire Chiefs Meeting
- ***Interviews***
- Conditional Job Offers
- Medical Screenings, Background Checks, & Uniforms sizing

Agility Course & Interviews

- September 30th – October 6th – Agility Course

- 277 – Signed up

Agility Course Data	
Completed Agility	203
No Show	60
Did not Finish	8
Late	3
Dropped/Injured/Disqualified	3

- October 10th – 31st – Departments will conduct interviews

- 134 – Applicants were chosen for interviews
- This is over ½ the applicants or 66% that successfully passed the agility course



What's Next

- **January 5, 2025 – Fire Department Orientations**
- **January 12, 2025 – First Day of Fire Academy**
 - Academy is 38 weeks
 - EMT Instruction through mid – April
 - Fire Instruction from April – end of September
- **September 22, 2026 – Tentative Graduation date**



Career in a Year – Recruitment Comparison's

- **Academy 14**

- Total ARPA Positions – 30
- Total Applications – 1,046
- Total Applicants – 267

- **Academy 15**

- Total ARPA Positions – 18
- Total Applications – 990
- Total Applicants – 217

- **Academy 16**

- Total ARPA Positions – 20
- Total Applications – 1,866
- Total Applicants – 320

- **Academy 17**

- Total ARPA Positions – 17
- Total Applications – 1,955
- Total Applicants – 365

Where are they now?



- **Academy 14**
 - 29 graduated the fire academy
 - 17 of the 29 remain with their original department
 - 21 of the 29 continue to work for a fire department within Wake County
- **Academy 15**
 - 17 graduated the fire academy
 - 14 of the 17 remain with their original department
 - 16 of the 17 continue to work for a fire department within Wake County
- **Academy 16**
 - 17 graduated the fire academy (+3 from Pittsboro Fire)
 - 15 of the 17 remain with their original department
 - 16 of the 17 continue to work for a fire department or EMS within Wake County

Career in a Year - Fire Academy

Thank You!

- **Wake County Board of Commissioners**
- **Wake County Fire Commission**
- **Team Wake**
- **Fire Service Partners**





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