



Thank you for your interest in participating in **Failing Forward Youth Outreach “FFYO.”** For the past several years, myself, along with other members of the fire service community, have visited the Alameda County Juvenile Detention Center and local Continuation High Schools to share our life experiences with young men and women. These visits are meant to motivate, inspire, and give hope to at risk youth by sharing personal experiences and stories of perseverance and triumph. Through sharing our own experiences about overcoming obstacles, we’ve had the opportunity to show young people the value of overcoming adversity and adopting personal responsibility in their own lives.

Jackie Robinson once said, “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.” FFYO was created as a platform for Firefighters and community leaders to further serve their communities by going to speak at Juvenile Detention Centers and Continuation High Schools. Many of us have a unique story to share that has the potential to inspire and encourage others. The goal of FFYO is to use these stories as a catalyst to jumpstart positive thinking and self-confidence. It’s important to show that adversity and misfortune do not define who we are in life and can be overcome. Hopefully, by exposing some of the challenges we have faced, we can open doors in the minds of the young people we meet. In addition to sharing our life experiences, FFYO volunteers discuss what it means to be successful, what it means to “fail forward,” and what it takes to achieve goals. We discuss how “attitude determines your altitude”.

Currently, we are looking to expand FFYO to Solano County, Contra Costa County, San Joaquin County, San Francisco, Santa Clara County, Monterey County, San Mateo County, and Sacramento County. To date, we have interest from members of Hayward, ALCO, Oakland, Richmond, Stockton, San Francisco, San Ramon, Milpitas, Sac City, San Jose, Modesto, Folsom, Manteca, Woodside, Livermore/Pleasanton, and Tracy Fire Departments.

How it works:

- FFYO facilitates an introduction and initial visit to the Juvenile Detention Center/ Continuation High School in your city/county.
- FFYO provides the framework for your visit.
- An experienced member of FFYO will accompany you on your first visit.
- We recommend two to three firefighters per visit.
- Be prepared to meet with two groups of 10-20 young people for up to an hour each.
- Each FFYO volunteer commits to one visit per year, for approximately two hours, with no costs involved.
- The FFYO team will meet once a year, in person or by phone, to discuss best practices and goals for the upcoming year.
- Participating members will become liaisons between FFYO and their local school and/or detention center.
- FFYO supports reaching out to local high schools and community groups in addition to Continuation High Schools and Juvenile Detention Centers.

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