



Fuquay-Varina Fire Department

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT FIREFIGHTER TASIA MADDOX SEPTEMBER 2023

How long have you worked for the Fuquay-Varina Fire Department?

I have been working for the Town of Fuquay-Varina Fire Department since October 3rd, 2022. I began Wake County's 9-month fire academy right after I was hired and obtained my fire and EMT certifications. I started working full-time at the station on June 19th, 2023 right after I graduated from the academy.

What is your job title and what does your job entail?

I am currently a Firefighter 1. My job is to know basic fire behavior and rescue operations. I am on the nozzle if there is a fire and I normally get vitals on medical calls.

What do you like most about your job?

What I like most about being a Firefighter is how close you get to your crew. We are all one big family and I look forward to going to work every day to spend time with them. We have some great laughs together around the dinner table and that's part of what truly makes this job worthwhile.

What is the best career lesson you've learned so far?

The best career lesson I've learned so far is that you receive what you put in. If you give 110% and try your hardest, this job will give you 110% back and fulfill your needs.

What would you do (for a career) if you weren't in the fire service?

If I was not a Firefighter I would most likely be in the Army. My Mom was in the Army and I saw how well it treated her. When I was younger I wanted to follow in her footsteps.

What do you like to do when you aren't working?

When I'm not working I like to travel, play video games, and find some good food to eat. I love exploring new places and eating different foods. After a long shift, nothing beats staying in and playing games all night.

What's a fun fact about you many people may not know?

A fun fact about me that people don't know is that I love to sing. I used to sing in church when I was little and I took choir every year in high school. Singing calms me down and gets my head on straight when I'm in stressful situations.

If you could choose anywhere in the world to vacation where would you go?

If I could go anywhere on a vacation I would love to go to Japan. I love the culture, the food, and the innovations of Japan. That has always been on my bucket list.

What is your motto or personal mantra?

My personal mantra is just keep going. I like to think of my life as a heartbeat; you have to have ups and downs because if you were neutral every day, you'd flatline.

If you could meet anyone in the world, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

If I could meet anyone in the world I would want to meet Mae Jemison. She was the first African-American woman to travel to space. She is a woman in a male-dominated field just like me. I would love to tell her how welcome I feel and how much society has changed as I am in a similar position.

Three expressions that best describe you?

Three words I would use to describe myself are steadfast, outgoing, and daring.

What is the one thing you can't live without?

One thing I can't live without is my phone. I'm a very family oriented person and my family is all over the the East Coast so I love to stay in contact with them.

What tv show/movie are you ashamed to admit you love?

SpongeBob is a show I'm ashamed I love because as I get older I've realized I love it even more. I even have a tattoo of SpongeBob, Patrick, and Squidwards house on my arm.

If you could have any superpower what would it be and why?

If I could have any superpower it would be teleportation. Traveling anywhere in the blink of an eye would not only improve our response time (hahaha) but I would be able to visit my friends and family at any time.

What is one food that you cannot resist?

Tacos!!! I love tacos because I grew up in San Antonio TX and that has always been a go to.

What is your favorite fire safety message?

"Close Before You Doze!" Because of modern synthetic materials and furniture fire can spread up to 7x faster than it did 40 years ago. Closed doors reduce damage and slow the fire spread as well as give the Fire Department more time to save your belongings.