

Ellington Rescue Post 512 is a non-profit organization that is run by Ellington High School students. It allows us a unique opportunity to receive medical training at the EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) or EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) level and to have hands on experience in the emergency medical field. By being a part of this program we get to ride in the back of the ambulance and respond to numerous emergencies ranging from cardiac arrest to a lift assists. It truly is such a unique program as it is the only program in the United States that allows high school students to respond to emergencies during school. In addition to vigilantly responding to emergencies we aid our community by offering medical standby for large events. These events may not appear to need medical services, but emergent situation occur at any time. Being medically trained at such a young age has given us the power to help those in need.

My name is Megan Chamberland, I am a member and past President of Ellington Rescue Post 512 (ERP 512); I have been a part of ERP 512 roughly for 3 years. I joined in 2012 as a freshman coming into Ellington High School. Being aware that I potentially want to enter into the medical field after high school, I joined the program. A few months after starting the program, I was fully certified by the state of Connecticut and was set to start using my medical training while riding on the ambulance. During my time at ERP 512 I have received a multiplicity of emergencies, ranging anywhere from a gunshot wound, to cardiac arrest, and/or difficulty breathing. I could never imagine myself not being in this program, it is truly matchless and I am delighted that I had the opportunity to be a part of this unique program.

-Megan Chamberland, 17 years old, Class of 2015

My name is Gabriela Ewald, I am a member and past Vice President of Ellington Rescue Post 512. I joined Rescue Post my freshman year of high school, and I can honestly say it was one of the best decisions I have made in my high school career. I joined post to help overcome a challenge that occurred in my life, when I was eleven (sixth grade) I lost my father due to a short-term illness. This event turned my life upside down. The ambulance had come a few times to my home when my father first started to become ill. Sitting in my driveway seeing all the flashing lights and loud noises was frightening especially since I couldn't even help. By joining Rescue Post I felt as though I would be giving back to the community since they had given to me. I wanted to help those in the moments when they felt helpless to their loved ones. Going into high school I really didn't have a place to fit in. At freshman orientation I heard about Rescue Post and thought the idea of the program was not only unique but interesting. Joining Rescue Post has taught me so much more than just how to save lives. I have learned respect, commitment, communication, and dedication. I am no longer the little girl who was scared when I saw the ambulance staff taking my dad out of the house on a stretcher, I am the girl who can jump into the back of the ambulance and know I am making a difference in someone's life.

- Gabriela Ewald, 17 years old, Class of 2015

My name is Julia Scavetta, I am a member and past Membership Officer of Ellington Rescue Post 512. I had first heard about the program as an 8th grader and knew right away that I would want to join the program as soon as I was eligible. I was able to take an EMR class shortly after joining my freshman year and currently get to respond on the ambulance to emergencies in the town of Ellington. I myself have been able to respond to a variety of emergencies and have

been able to take away valuable information from each one. I could never imagine myself not being a part of Ellington Rescue Post 512 and am glad I had the opportunity to take part in this unique program especially since I am looking into entering into a nursing career in my near future. The lessons I have learned are invaluable for my future.

-Julia Scavetta, 17, Class of 2015

With the Public Act 09-94 Connecticut schools are required to have a minimum of one AED available throughout the day. With such standards, it seems imperative to teach the students the proper recognition of a problem and use of both CPR and the AED, which maximizes the benefit to having an AED available for early intervention. This even mimics the first three links of the American Heart Association's five links in the "Chain of Survival". The first three links being (1) recognizing a problem and calling 9-1-1, (2) starting CPR, and (3) applying the AED.

Imagine being put into a life or death emergency and feeling helpless, this is the harsh reality of society. Thanks to trained medical personal these people have a better chance for survival but it is the first couple of minutes that determine life or death. If more people were trained to do CPR this would improve the chances of survival of victims of cardiac arrest. As medically trained teenager, our unique program has given us the resources to be the people making the difference in the survival of those in cardiac arrest. To maximize a community's ability to help their member in a variety of setting, CPR should and could be introduced into the school's curriculum. Our ability to successfully learn and implement CPR (in addition to other medical training) as young as 15 has inspired us to try for our town to add to the school curriculum to increase the number of community member that can potentially save a life. Having young adults understand the process of CPR can aid in a lifetime possibility of change. Early interventions of CPR can save someone's life; it is one simple step that can aid someone's future. People need to stop waiting for the help and instead take action. Learning CPR changed our lives and it can change your as well! It is in this light that we support Senate Bill 684 and now we are asking you to as well...