



Mission Statement

The Club will promote activities and opportunities that help Plant City, Florida, area young people build strong character and realize their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders through service, personal development, and recreational opportunities.

As an IRS-designated 501-c-3 non-profit, we depend on the time, talent, and treasure of our volunteers and area businesses to help provide a comprehensive array of programs to support Plant City area youth! We hope you will join us in this effort!

Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc.
PO Box 1755
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**PLANT CITY
CHAMPIONS
FOR YOUTH**

ENCOURAGE - SUPPORT - ACHIEVE



Fire Rescue Appreciation Dinner

October 5, 2026 - 6:30 pm

Sadye Gibbs Martin Community Center



CLUB ACTIVITIES

Fire Rescue Appreciation Program
Youth Excellence Awards
Parks & Rec Recreation Sports Programs
Flag Football Skills Challenge
Parks & Rec "Monster Mash" Trunk or Treat
Basketball Skills Challenge
Citizen Of The Year Program
Parks & Rec Easter Egg Hunt
Law Appreciation Program
Soccer Skills Challenge
High School Graduate Scholarships
Plant City Police Department "Kid Care Packs"
United Food Bank of PC Youth Programs
Plant City Family YMCA Youth Scholarships
Other community youth needs as they arise

FUNDRAISERS

Annual Christmas Tree Lot
(located behind Plant City High School,
near the corner of Maki Road and West Alexander Street)

Plant City Champions for Youth / Plant City
Parks & Recreation Department
Golf Classic Tournament
(held at Cleveland Heights Golf Course, Lakeland)

www.PCChampionsForYouth.org



FIRE RESCUE APPRECIATION DINNER

WELCOME

Jeb Hicks, President, PC Champions for Youth

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

David Kinghorn, Director, PC Champions for Youth

DINNER

GUEST SPEAKER

David L. Dittman, Fire Chief, City of Plant City

RECOGNITION & PRESENTATION

*David Kinghorn, Fire Rescue Appreciation Chairman
Plant City Champions for Youth
Introductions by Fire Chief David L. Dittman*

Captain Christopher DeFrancesco

Battalion Chief William Wimberly

CLOSING COMMENTS

Jeb Hicks, President, PC Champions for Youth



A Plant City native, **Captain Chris DeFrancesco** has dedicated much of his professional life to serving the community he has always called home. Since joining Plant City Fire Rescue in 2009, Captain DeFrancesco has built a career grounded in teamwork, preparation, and a commitment to continually strengthening both himself and those around him. For nearly four years, he has served as a Captain, taking on a leadership role focused on developing his crew, strengthening operational readiness, and maintaining the high standards expected of those in the fire service.

That commitment took on a new form in early 2025, when Captain DeFrancesco became one of the five original members of PCFR's Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) competition team. Initially, the group began training and competing as a way to push themselves beyond their comfort zones, improve their individual skills, and become a stronger, more cohesive team.

Since then, the team has continued to challenge itself through training and competition. Most recently, Captain DeFrancesco and the PCFR RIT team competed in the Palm Beach State Invitational, where they faced 27 other fire department teams and earned sixth place in the state. The accomplishment reflects the team's dedication to consistent training, preparation, and performing under pressure.

What began as a goal among five firefighters to better themselves has developed into something much larger. The experience gained through training and competition has helped advance firefighter development and operational readiness throughout Plant City Fire Rescue while encouraging a strong department-wide training culture. For Captain DeFrancesco and his teammates, the mission is rooted in a simple philosophy: stay ready, test your limits, and prepare for the worst so you can perform at your best when the situation demands it.

Outside of his career, Captain DeFrancesco enjoys an active lifestyle that includes working out, playing hockey, soccer, and golf, as well as traveling. He and his wife have been married for 21 years and have one son.

Today, Captain DeFrancesco continues his service with Plant City Fire Rescue with an emphasis on building capable, prepared, and confident firefighters. Through his work with the RIT competition team, he remains committed to strengthening a culture where consistent training, teamwork, and readiness are central to serving the Plant City community.



Battalion Chief William "Billy" Wimberly is a University of Tampa alumnus and longtime public safety professional who has built his career around leadership, teamwork, and service to his community.

Chief Wimberly attended the University of Tampa, where he was a member of the Tampa Spartans baseball program. During his collegiate career, he established himself as an accomplished infielder, earning recognition as Freshman of the Year and receiving All-Conference, All-Region, and All-National honors. In 2006, he was part of the Spartans' National Championship team. While at the University of Tampa, he also met his wife, Maggie, who played for the university's soccer team.

Following his collegiate baseball career, Chief Wimberly carried his commitment to teamwork and leadership into the fire service. He joined Plant City Fire Rescue in 2008 and has continued to advance throughout his career, serving as a Firefighter/Paramedic, Field Training Officer, SWAT team member, Captain, now newly promoted Battalion Chief, and member of the Rapid Intervention Team. His dedication to the profession was formally recognized in 2016 when he was named Firefighter of the Year.

While Chief Wimberly has achieved many accomplishments throughout his athletic and professional careers, his proudest is the family he has built with his wife, Maggie. Together, they are the proud parents of three daughters: Paisley (12), Finley (8), and Tinsley (6).

Today, Chief Wimberly's career reflects a natural progression from collegiate athletics to leadership in public safety. His experience as a University of Tampa student-athlete provided a foundation in discipline, teamwork, competition, and leadership—qualities that have carried throughout his career of service to the Plant City community.