

Letter to our new EMTs
(With a nod to Peter Canning, EMT-P)

You are probably excited and apprehensive, beginning this EMT class. We were the same many years ago when it was our turn. We wondered whether we would make it – whether we were cut out for this job, whether we had spent so much time and effort studying only to fail, to have to admit we were not suited for this line of work. Our primary expectations are that you care about being a good EMT, and that you will do your best, which in almost all cases will be good enough.

Here's what you need to strive for:

Attend all classes. Keep up with the reading and homework.

ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ALL LABS. DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET IT BY WATCHING.

Always introduce yourself to your patient by name.

If there are family members, police officers, bystanders on scene, look them in the eye, hear their report and thank them.

Don't cop an attitude with anyone.

See that patients are as comfortable as possible and reassured that you are there to help them.

Explain to patients what you are doing, and why.

Ask questions after each call. Anything you didn't understand or were curious about. Or bring questions to class. We'll do our best to answer them.

Here's what we will do for you.

We will try our best to make this a fun learning experience.

We'll be honest with you. If you're doing well, we'll tell you. If you are doing poorly, we'll tell you that too.

If we don't know the answer to a question, we'll say so. Then we will find someone who does.

We look forward to getting to know you and helping you become the best EMTs you can be. As much as we hope to teach you, please know you teach us as well. Let's have a good time and do some good along the way.

Ellie Salmon
Lab Instructors