



# LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Media Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2016

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### Honorary Lakeland Firefighter for a Day

Lakeland, FL – When Caleb Krzywkowski and his family stopped by Fire Station 5 in early February, no one knew the impact the visit would make, not only on Caleb but also the firefighters. Caleb, a huge fan of all things firefighting, stopped by the station to meet firefighters, check out Engine 51, and share his excitement and appreciation for what the firefighters do.

The visit made such an impact on Caleb and his family that his aunt wrote the department to let us know how truly special his visit was and how it made a world of difference to Caleb. In her letter the department learned that Caleb, only 9 years old, has already survived more than most could bear in a lifetime.

Caleb was born with a rare form of brain cancer which led to dozens of aggressive chemotherapy treatments in his first few years. As a baby he wasn't given much prospects of making it very long and his story of survival became well known in the Lakeland community. Being the survivor that he is he has learned to adapt and today is a happy little boy that is thankful for every day. His energy for life and joy on the day of his visit is what prompted firefighters and chief officers to take action and plan a special day for Caleb where he could be named an honorary firefighter at the Lakeland Fire Department.

Being a firefighter requires real strength and courage and Caleb has it in spades. On Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 9:30 AM Caleb will enjoy a *firefighter for a day* experience starting at Fire Station 7 located at 3150 Drane Field Rd. He'll be joined by Firefighter Cody Ritenour, who forged the special friendship with Caleb on the day of his first visit and is also the department's Firefighter of the Year recipient.

It will be an interactive day where Caleb will experience the work firefighters do, ride in an engine, visit stations, and even get to participate in training along with the eleven new firefighters hired earlier in the week (previous release with more information available at <http://goo.gl/HOCyQq>).

The media is welcome. To arrange an interview, filming, etc. please contact Janel Vasallo, PIO.

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