Twenty-four Alice Springs high school students have signed up to be part of the Territory’s first Emergency Service school cadet unit, which will be launched this afternoon by Emergency Services Minister Paul Henderson.

The students are from St Philip’s College and aged between 13 and 17.

"This unit, the first of its kind in the Territory and believed to be the first in Australia, is the result of hard work from dedicated students, Emergency Service volunteers, College staff and parents," Mr Henderson said.

"In particular, student Dean Williams deserves congratulations for his initial work in approaching the Territory Government and NT Emergency Service staff for support of what will be a great program."

As cadet volunteers, the students will be trained in a range of skills, including communication in the workplace, map reading and navigation, team work and abseilling.

Two staff members from St Philips have been recruited as Cadet Leaders, and appointed as members of the Alice Springs Volunteer Unit.

The NT Emergency Service will provide students with caps, overalls, training manuals and communications equipment.

"The skills the students will learn will hold them in good stead for future careers, and indeed for life," said Mr Henderson.

"There are almost 600 Emergency Service volunteers across the Northern Territory who give up their time to support and protect the community in times of crisis and danger. The students are to be congratulated for signing on to be part of one of the most important groups in our community."