



SCA Fire Education Corps

To Apply: Submit a cover letter expressing interest with availability dates, updated resume and names/contact information for two references to: realinternships@theSCA.org You will then be considered for an interview and asked to complete an SCA application, which can be obtained online at: www.theSCA.org

Fire Management practices of suppression have resulted in overgrown "unnatural" forests. As a result, fires that occur now tend to be larger and more destructive to the forests and ecosystems. Concurrently, as the population continues to grow, people settle into more rural areas thus creating "wild land-urban interface/intermix" (WUI), or areas that are a combination of settled and unsettled lands .

Wild land fires pose a significant threat to these WUI communities as fires here can be extremely difficult to contain. In turn, WUI communities pose an additional threat to the land as measures to suppress fires continue in an effort to maintain structures -thereby lending to more "unnatural" forests. The unfortunate results are that more homes are burning down; and soil, watersheds and wildlife habitats are being damaged or destroyed.

SCA's Role: In recent years Fire Management personnel are recognizing prevention as a key to solving this problem. Instead of waiting for fires to strike they focus on being proactive and taking necessary steps to protect human life and property - while still allowing fire to play its role in the ecosystem. The benefits of fire in the ecosystem can not be realized by citizens who fear that any encroaching fire could have devastating effects on life and property. This is where SCA fits in. Since June 2000 SCA interns have played a key role in saving lives, property and the environment by working within the established National Fire Plan to educate private land owners on how to protect their lives and property by creating "defensible space".

Your Opportunity: SCA's award winning Fire Education Corps offers opportunities in many disciplines and interests. These are truly multifaceted and professional level opportunities to work with federal land management agencies. Corps members receive unparalleled professional development and mentoring from SCA staff members. They also become part of the community in which they serve and are part of a national support network more than 400 strong. Experiences are geared towards empowering members to become stronger leaders; to grow professionally, and to develop real skills. Corps members finish their service with valuable training and certifications and professional experience that is coveted by employers nationwide. Not to mention having the experience of a lifetime!

Things to Learn, Gain or Do through the SCA Fire Education Corps:

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| ☞ Career Direction in Natural Resource/ Conservation Field | ☞ Meeting Facilitation |
| ☞ Public Speaking Skills | ☞ Youth Education/Curriculum Development |
| ☞ Communication Skills | ☞ Using PowerPoint |
| ☞ Non-profit Administration | ☞ Hands-on GIS/GPS Training and Experience |
| ☞ Budget Management | ☞ To be a Team Player |
| ☞ Initiative and Self-empowerment | ☞ Risk Management |
| ☞ Leadership Skills/Experience | ☞ Orientation to New Areas |
| ☞ Fire Behavior and Ecology | ☞ Pushing One's Comfort Level With Respect to New Experiences |
| ☞ Fire History in the US | ☞ Outdoor and Tool Skills |
| ☞ About Conservation Issues | ☞ Traveling, Camping, Hiking, Biking, Rafting, Canoeing, Rock Climbing (off time) |
| ☞ Researching and Writing | ☞ How Agencies Operate and are Structured |
| ☞ Project and Event Planning | |

When and Where: In 2003 SCA's Fire Education Corps had 33 sites in 20 states (WA, OR, CA, MT, ID, UT, NV, AZ, NM, MO, AR, OK, MA, VA, WI, IN, IL, MN, IA and AK)!

A combination of 6-12 month Team Leader/Individual Placement positions and 3 month Team Member positions will be available. Remaining Team Leaders and Individual Placements begin training 5/22 or 6/14/2004. Team Member positions are available with both May 22 and June 14 start dates.

Member Training Topics

Leave training with the understanding of why fire is at the center of conservation and politics, what is currently being done and how SCA contributes.

Fire Ecology

Fire History/Fire Suppression in the U.S.

Fire Behavior-Red Card Coursework (Fire School)

The Concept of Defensible Space

Team Building

Community Education and Outreach Techniques

SCA and Fire Education Corps Policies and History

Driver Training

Risk Management

Specific Training offered on a rotating basis, possibly only to Leaders/Individual Placements

(Asterisk means this is a possibility that is being explored for the first time this year)

Community Capacity Building	Teambuilding Train-the-Trainer
Diversity Awareness	Tool Training
GPS and GIS	Wilderness First Aid
Leadership	Chainsaw Training*
Media Relations/PR	Grant Writing*

More About The Work of Corps Members and Team Leaders

GPS Data Collection and GIS Mapping Skills-Learn about the latest techniques for creating maps using satellite imagery. Go out into the field and help save the lives of local fire fighters by mapping escape routes, home locations, and fuel loads.

Community Meetings-Bring key community members together and mobilize entire neighborhoods. Teach people how to build relationships with their neighbors. Act as a facilitator, and a consultant, influence public policy and create fellowship and understanding among diverse groups of individuals.

Presentations for Community Organizations-Challenge yourself to stand up in front of a group of professionals and be seen as an equal. Present on fire management and the role of SCA and how individuals can become part of the solution.

Youth Education Projects- Develop curriculum for children and go into schools and camps to talk to them about wild land fire and defensible space.

Conduct a Grass Routes Fire Education Initiative-Go door to door and talk to people about the resources available to them, leave them literature about defensible space, offer them a home evaluation.

Home Evaluations-Learn about the natural ecosystem of the community where you live and work. Spend time with home owners and teach real people how to increase their chances for surviving a wild land fire.

Fuels Reduction Projects-Exercise your back, help homeowners make their land more defensible by being the on-site professional to help plan and gather resources and volunteers to get things done. Conduct and complete large scale community fuels reduction projects.

Interpretive Talks and Walks- Conduct interpretive talks at the site of a fire break or public display to discuss Fire ecology, behavior, Fire Management techniques and defensible space.

Staffing a Public Event-Become a full member of a community by finding out where the important events are and who is putting them on. Take the lead on becoming a presenter, find out how to ensure your team's participation in local parades, carnivals and festivals. Be Smokey the Bear for a day, build a float or create a booth.

Creation of Educational Tools/Displays- From flyers, model homes, display boards, videos, PowerPoint presentations to vegetation manuals, SCA interns have the opportunity to exercise their creativity to develop tools.

Enrichment Opportunities: Have included: Prescribed burning and fire fighting, shadowing agency personnel on other natural resource management projects, and attending planning meetings to learn more about natural resource agency administration, participating in other fire-related projects, work exchanges between teams, team building with SCA staff and members of other SCA Conservation Corps/Internship Programs.

Benefits as follows:

Paid travel; paid housing and related expenses; weekly stipend of at least \$60 (members) or \$160 (leaders or long-term individual placements); free accident insurance; free or low cost health insurance; uniform package; valuable training and certifications

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