



February 2022

Attention Explorers and Explorer Advisors,

US Forest Service, Angeles National Forest-FIRE will be hosting its 28th annual Wildland Firefighter Explorer Academy starting April 29, 2022.

Academy will be 4 weekends / 100+ hours of training that will focus on Wildland/Urban Interface firefighting and fire use knowledge & skills. The academy will also provide a physical training component. Graduates will meet requirements for Firefighter-2 certification.

Academy will include 2 virtual training weekends and 2 in-person training weekends. Graduation will be on May 22, 2022.

We are seeking a diverse candidate pool of Explorers from Southern California. Join this amazing Fire Explorer Academy!

The cutoff and deadline to apply to the Academy is **March 18, 2022 at 6pm.** Explorers will be notified by email if they were selected for the academy. Notifications will be made 2 weeks before the Academy starts. Limited slots available.

If you have any questions, email mail@anfpost99.com

Visit us on the web for more information and academy application: explorewildfire.com

Thank you,

Oscar Vargas
Academy Coordinator



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Explorer Academy COVID-19 Mitigation plan

- Safety of Explorers and Instructors/Staff is the top priority.
- Explorers/Staff must wear masks in accordance with workplace safety protocols.
- Explorers/Staff must provide a Certification of Vaccination form (proof of vaccination) prior to entry. Onsite Explorers/Staff that are not yet vaccinated or who decline to provide information on their vaccination status must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test from no earlier than 3 days prior upon arrival to the Academy Training Center/Facility.
- Adjustments will be made to this plan if Covid laws, policies or regulations change.

GUIDELINES

- Academy Staff must initiate the daily Covid-19 protocols at the start of each Explorer physical training session, event or in-person activity.
 - Ensure each participant is asked the Covid-19 visitor pre-screening questions before entering any USFS facility or before contacting others.
 - If a participant says yes to any question, they will be denied entry, sent home immediately and must not come in contact with other participants.
 - Initiate the daily COVID-19 PROTOCOLS at the training facility to include cleaning/decontamination of door handles, tables, and all common touch surfaces.
 - Ensure all participants maintain the required 6-foot social distance between others.
 - People within 6-feet from each other must wear a face cover unless it is unsafe
 - Consider having training outdoors or in large open area if more than 10 people are present.
 - Participants should always wear face cover unless it is unsafe to do so.
 - Clean/decontaminate door handles, tables, and all common touch surfaces with disinfectant at the end of each meeting,
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- Avoid crowding any training site.
 - Do Not allow unapproved/unscreened visitors to enter or participate in Explorer Academy.
 - Explorers within 6 feet of others must wear a mask or face cover that mitigates the threat of exposure via air droplets between people.
 - Use technology to transfer training materials instead of paper copies.
 - Capture/share lessons learned & best practices for CV19 mitigations.
 - Ensure that there is PPE for each participant and cleaning supplies for training facility.
 - Abide by Learning for Life/Exploring/BSA, Local Health Department and USFS COVID-19 protocols and guidelines.



Wildfire Explorer Academy Class 28 / 2022



Information Sheet

Dates: APRIL 29th, 30th, MAY 1st (VIRTUAL/ON-LINE TRAINING)
MAY 6th, 7th, 8th (IN PERSON TRAINING)
MAY 13th, 14th, 15th (VIRTUAL/ON-LINE TRAINING)
MAY 20th, 21th, 22th (IN PERSON TRAINING)

Time: Fridays: 5:30PM-8:30PM VIRTUAL/ON-LINE TRAINING
6PM-8:30PM IN PERSON TRAINING

Saturdays: 8AM-6PM VIRTUAL/ON-LINE TRAINING
7AM-8PM IN PERSON TRAINING

Sundays: 8AM-4PM VIRTUAL/ON-LINE TRAINING
7AM-5PM IN PERSON TRAINING

Location: Little Tujunga Fire Station Training Center
12371 N. Little Tujunga Canyon Road
San Fernando, CA 91342

Host Agency: US Forest Service, Angeles National Forest-Fire & Aviation Management

Who can Participate: Fire Explorers (ages 16 to 21) from Southern CA Explorer Posts.
Explorers will be notified if they were selected 2 weeks before Academy starts.

Cost: \$175 for meals during in person training, hat, t-shirt and training materials.

Covid-19 Policy: The Academy has a Covid-19 Mitigation Plan. Separate Document.

Curriculum: Courses are certified by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) and exceed the requirements for Firefighter-2 certification.

Training will include the following courses and subjects:

S-110 Basic Wildland Fire Suppression Orientation
S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
S-130 Basic Wildland Firefighter Training
I-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System
FEMA IS-700 and FEMA IS-800
S-134 Look Outs, Communications, Escape Routes
Fire Shelters
L-180 Human Factor on the Fireline
Fireground Communications
Wildland Fire Prevention and Investigation
Fire in the Wildland/Urban Interface
Field Drills (Hoselays/Handline Construction)
Live Fire Training and Scenario
Physical Fitness Drills
Sand-Table / SIM-TABLE training drills

All who pass the course of instruction and physical fitness requirements will receive a National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) certificate of completion that makes them eligible for Type-2 Firefighter certification.

Attendance: Cadets are required to attend all training sessions and not allowed to miss any time during the Academy unless approved in advanced by Academy Coordinator.

Testing: Tests will be given throughout the course with one mid-term and one final. All classroom material must be completed during the course of the academy. Participants who fail courses will not receive certificate for those courses.

Organization: Participants will be divided into Engine Companies & Crews and will compete with other companies/crews for the best academic scores, teamwork, physical fitness, etc.

Awards: Academic and physical fitness awards will be presented during graduation ceremony.

Meals: Meals will be provided during in-person training sessions.

Dress: Academy participants must wear and bring their Explorer uniforms (uniform shirt, Post T-shirt, uniform pants, shorts and sweatshirt) and bring 2-4 plain white T-shirts, running shoes, dark-blue sweatshirt, and physical training gear. The Academy will provide wildland fire gear for field drills if you cannot provide your own.

Academy Rules

1. Comply with Academy safety plan.
2. Comply with Covid-19 mitigation plan.
3. Mutual Respect is required and there is zero tolerance of any form of harassment/hazing.
4. The Academy has a "closed campus policy" during in-person training sessions.
5. Visitors are not allowed on the training center compound.
6. The use of alcohol, drugs or any type of diet stimulants (ephedrine) is strictly prohibited.
7. Any incidents of cheating on exams or insubordination will be grounds for immediate removal.
8. Keep training locations clean and neat at all times.
9. Use of media-players or cell phones is not allowed.
10. Explorers will follow the dress code as written below:
 - a. Hair: Explorers must present a professional appearance. Hair must be clean and styled in a professional manner.
 - b. Shaving Policy: Male Explorers are expected to be clean shaven at all times.
 - c. Uniforms: All Explorers will be required to wear their department approved uniforms. Shirts and pants will be clean and pressed. Department approved belts must be worn. Leather belts must be polished and free of wear.
 - d. Boots: Boots will be polished or oiled to your department's specifications. Wildland, lace-up, leather boots with vibram soles are recommended but not required. Fire resistant boots required for Live-Fire Drills.
 - e. Jewelry: Explorers must not wear jewelry that does not reflect a professional appearance.
 - f. Watches, wedding bands or emergency ID bracelets are acceptable forms of jewelry.
 - g. No Facial jewelry allowed.
 - h. Undershirts: Approved Academy t-shirts (provided) may be worn under the uniform.
 - i. 3 plain white T-shirts for physical training.
 - j. Garments: Female cadets are to wear only dark gray, black or navy sports bras.
 - k. Softcaps: Approved Academy caps (provided) will be worn by Explorers outside and will be removed when entering buildings.
 - l. Jackets/Sweatshirts: Approved department jackets and sweatshirts will be permitted but must be removed during lineup and inspections.

**** Failing to comply/follow the rules could lead to immediate removal from the Academy and Notification to your Explorer Advisor and Home Agency.**