To Potential Fire Lookout Hosts

From George and Pam Morey, February 17, 2020
Fire Lookout Host Program Coordinators

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer for the Fire Lookout Host Program. You are receiving this because you have requested information on how to become a Fire Lookout Host on the San Bernardino National Forest.

**What You Can Expect as a Volunteer**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer for the Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF)-Fire Lookout Host Program. We know that you will enjoy this opportunity to serve the community and local fire agencies in helping to prevent devastating wildfires such as we have experienced in recent years. In addition, you will host visitors to the lookout. The mission of the Fire Lookout Host reflects the mission of the SCMF:

*Southern California Mountain Foundation believes that connecting communities to our public lands is the key to their survival. We mobilize individuals to inspire and engage in environmental citizenship.*

There are three paths through which you can assist with this important public service,

1. Training to become a qualified volunteer fire lookout.
2. Interpret the natural and cultural history of the fire lookouts, and the surrounding area.
3. Assisting in the physical restoration of the lookout structure and grounds.
   …or a combination of the above.

Becoming a fire lookout is an interesting, enjoyable, and rewarding undertaking. **However, it is not a position to be taken lightly.** This quote from our Training Objectives underlines the importance of our role in protecting the Forest.

“Our primary objective . . . is to provide timely and accurate information to fire-fighting resources in the areas of fire detection, weather conditions, and communications and greeting visitors warmly, and providing general forest information.

**Our Fire Lookout Hosts must be professional, reliable, attentive and most importantly, trustworthy** as they may have a larger perspective of the fire environment, how incoming weather impacts it and the safety of personnel in the field.” Anyone age 18 or over can become a Fire lookout Host.
The Lookouts
Fire Lookout Host’s presently staffs seven lookouts in the San Bernardino National Forest. Butler Peak, Morton Peak, Black Mountain, and Red Mountain Lookouts are accessed by Forest Service dirt roads that are rough and steep in places, but normally passable for high-clearance two-wheel-drive vehicles. Strawberry Peak and Keller Peak Lookouts are accessed on a paved narrow road. Tahquitz Peak Lookout is at an elevation of 8,828 and is about a 4.5 mile hike to reach the lookout. All of our Fire Lookout Hosts will be volunteering for the SCMF and the U.S. Forest Service and therefore you must be professional. All of the lookouts have a porta-potty, no running water, and few have heat, you get to choose what lookout you would like to volunteer at. We do not choose for you.

Training
First you need to be sure that you can COMMIT to 8 1/2 hours a month. If you can commit to the 8 1/2 hours a month then you will need to take our four mandatory training classes that must be completed to be a Fire Lookout Host:

- Orientation (2 hours),
- Interpretation/ National History (3 hours)
- Operations (7 hours).

We have several dates and locations to choose from (see below). After the classroom training, you will also be required to complete 9 hours of “In-Tower” training in the lookout of your choice with an In-Tower trainer before being certified to work alone. After certification, volunteers are expected to work, at minimum, an average of one shift per month during fire season (usually 7 shifts). A shift consists of eight and one half hours in-service in the lookout which can be done in one day or two 4 1/2 hours shifts in one month.

Expenses
Uniforms are required; your shirt can be a short sleeve or long sleeve polo shirt with our logo and your pants must be a navy blue or khaki. Volunteers are responsible to purchase their own uniform(s) at the end of our training session.

An initial package which includes, name tag, uniform shirt, and Training Manual is provided at a cost of $40.00 due on Operations Training day.

This may all sound daunting, but becoming a Fire Lookout Host is not as difficult as it may appear. Our hosts come from all walks of life: medical doctors, engineers, clergy, factor workers, and retirees – you name it. Being a Fire Lookout Host is an enjoyable (and at times exciting) experience, and the satisfaction of being an important part of Fire Lookout Host Program fire detection team is well worth the expense and effort of training.

We hope that you will join us.

Sincerely

Pam and George Morey
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Fire Lookout Host Program Coordinators
602 South Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino, CA. 92408
909-225-1025
Training Dates and Locations

Location:
Forest Service Supervisor Office (SO)
602 South Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino

Orientation:
Monday, April 6th 6:30pm–8:30pm
Saturday, April 11th 10am–12 noon

Interpretation/Natural History:
Saturday, April 11th 1:00pm–4:00pm
Monday, April 13th 6:30pm–9:30pm

Operations:
Saturday, April 25th 9:00am–4:00pm
please bring a lunch

Location:
Keenwild
23500 Highway 243
Mountain Center

Orientation:
Saturday, April 4th 10am–12 noon

Interpretation/Natural History:
Saturday, April 4th 1:00pm–4:00pm

Operations:
Saturday, April 18th 9:00am–4:00pm
please bring a lunch

Location:
Skyforest Work Center
28104 HWY 18
Skyforest

Orientation:
Tuesday, April 14th 6:30pm–8:30pm

Interpretation/Natural History:
Tuesday, April 21st 6:30pm–9:30pm

Operations:
Sunday, April 26th 9:00am-4:00pm
Please bring a lunch