



FIRESHED AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

WHAT IS A FIRESHED AMBASSADOR?

Fireshed Ambassadors are individuals who wish to take a greater role in helping their communities improve their adaptation to wildfire. Ambassadors only need a desire to help others take steps that will make their homes, neighborhoods, and communities better prepared to live with fire. They do not necessarily need to be “experts” in forestry or wildland fire fighting to make a difference. The Ambassador Program is available to provide the knowledge, experience, and support necessary for ambassadors to guide others in reducing their wildfire risk. Experience has shown us that collaboration is one of the most effective ways to reduce wildfire risk. Sharing resources, whether they be stories of success, ideas to combat challenges, labor or financial, enables Ambassadors to have an outsized impact in their communities.



HOW DO I BECOME AN AMBASSADOR?

The first step to becoming an Ambassador is to attend an Ambassador meeting. Meeting locations and dates are posted online at: www.santafefireshed.org/ambassadors. Next, Ambassadors will need to complete paperwork that allows them to be volunteers for the City of Santa Fe.

You will need to complete this paperwork even if you live in the County. Upon completion of the paperwork, program mentors or other Ambassadors will help you get started. Organizing community chipper days, sharing a success story about a neighborhood fuel reduction project, or hosting a home hazard assessment training for your neighbors are all examples of how Ambassadors can help propel their communities to become more fire adapted.

I'M AN AMBASSADOR, NOW WHAT?

The first responsibility of a Fireshed Ambassador is to be an active participant in the Ambassador Program Network. This includes engaging with the Network through in-person meet-ups and on the Ambassador webpage to share resources, knowledge and tips with your fellow Ambassadors.

Your other responsibility as an Ambassador is to increase fire adaptation in your community. Some suggestions for how to engage your community are,

1. Convene in-person community events. This could be as simple as a barbecue or neighborhood meeting over coffee to discuss the upcoming fire season, or perhaps your community wants to hear a lecture on fire ecology. You can organize the event and we will bring the speakers.
2. Host a Home Hazard Assessment Training and train your community to conduct their own assessments. Once risks are identified, folks can take action. The Ambassador program will train you how to conduct assessments.
3. Recruit community members to take action to become more wildfire prepared.



**THE VISION FOR THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM IS TO
CREATE A SELF-SUSTAINING NETWORK OF
INDIVIDUALS SHARING RESOURCES, SOLUTIONS,
CHALLENGES, AND LESSONS LEARNED IN ORDER TO
TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION TO LIVE WITH WILDFIRE.**

BUT, I'M NOT AN EXPERT...

Luckily, you don't need to be an expert to be an Ambassador! The program will provide you with the tools and information necessary to empower you to engage your community. By joining the Ambassador Program you will have access to resources, industry professionals and peers who are doing the same thing for their communities. This network of resources will embolden you to be a citizen voice for your community's fire adaptation. Learning how to live safely with fire is becoming ever more important. With help from the Ambassador Program, you can guide your community to be part of the solution!

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Simply by taking the initiative to engage with your neighbors and working to reduce fire risk, you can take the most important step in building fire-adapted communities; taking responsibility for living in a fire adapted ecosystem. While the Ambassador program will provide tools and resources for Fireshed Ambassadors to conduct their work, it is important to harness the capacity that already exists in our wildland-urban interface communities. Through our collective action, we can spread good ideas and success to move all of our communities further towards fire resilience.

