



January 2026

Attention Explorers and Explorer Advisors,

US Forest Service, Angeles National Forest-FIRE will be hosting its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wildland Firefighter Explorer Academy starting March 28, 2026.

Academy will be 4 weekends / 120+ hours of training that will focus on Wildland/Urban Interface firefighting and prescribed fire knowledge & skills. The academy will also provide a physical training component. Graduates will meet requirements for NWCG Firefighter-2 certification.

Academy will include 1 orientation day & 4 in-person training weekends and Explorers will stay at the Training Center during the Academy. Graduation will be on April 26, 2026.

We are seeking Fire Explorers from Southern California.  
Join this amazing Fire Explorer Academy!

The cutoff and deadline to apply to the Academy is **February 28, 2026, at 6pm.**  
Explorers will be notified if they were selected, 2 weeks before Academy starts.  
Limited slots available.

If you have any questions, email [mail@anfpost99.com](mailto:mail@anfpost99.com)

Visit us on the web for more information and academy application: [explorewildfire.com](http://explorewildfire.com)  
Scan QR code for video & academy info.

Thank you,

Captain Peter Rosas  
Division Chief Oscar Vargas  
Academy Coordinators



[Academy Video](#)



[Academy Info & Application](#)

# Wildfire Explorer Academy

## Class 32 / 2026



### Information & Details

**Dates:**

MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>. Orientation day. 9AM to 5PM. Required.

APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>. Academy week 1

APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Academy week 2

APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> Academy week 3

APRIL 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> Academy week 4

Explorers arrive on Friday afternoons and go home Sunday evenings.

**Times:**

Fridays: 5:00 PM-10:00 PM. Explorers can arrive early.

Saturdays: 6:30 AM-10:00 PM.

Sundays: 6:30 AM-5:00 PM.

**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 Fire Explorer Posts.

**Application deadline:** Application deadline is February 28, 2026.

**Selections/notifications:** Explorers will be notified if they are selected 2 weeks before Academy starts.

**Cost:** \$375 (included meals, hat, T-shirts, gear, training materials and more)

**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

Incident Command System (ICS)

FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800

S-134 Look Outs, Communications, Escape Routes

Fire Shelters

L-180 Human Factor on the Fireline

Leadership skills and knowledge

Fireground Communications

Wildland Fire Prevention and Investigation

Fire in the Wildland/Urban Interface

Field Drills (Hoselays/Handline Construction)

Live Fire Training and Scenarios

Physical Fitness Drills

Land Navigation

Sand-Table / SIM-TABLE training drills and much more

Explorers that pass all courses 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:** Required to attend all training sessions and not allowed to miss any time during the Academy unless approved in advance (before academy starts) by Academy Coordinator.

**Orientation:** Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> (9AM to 5PM) will be an orientation day. Attendance is mandatory to get into the Academy. Explorers must bring lunch, uniforms, personal protective equipment and workout clothing. This day is designed to ensure Explorers are registered, ready, briefed, and properly equipped for the rest of the Academy.

**Testing:** Tests will be given throughout the course with one mid-term and one final. All classroom work must be completed while in the academy. Participants who fail courses will not receive certificates 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 are not provided during orientation day or Fridays. Meals are provided on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Uniforms:** Explorers must wear and bring their uniforms (uniform shirt, Post T-shirt, uniform pants, shorts and sweatshirt) and bring 2 plain black 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. Mutual Respect is required and there is zero tolerance of any form of harassment/hazing.
3. The Academy has a "closed campus policy" during in-person training sessions.
4. Visitors are not allowed on the training center compound.
5. The use of alcohol, drugs, or any type of diet stimulants (ephedrine) is strictly prohibited.
6. Any incidents of cheating on exams or insubordination will be grounds for immediate removal.
7. Always keep training locations clean and neat.
8. Use of media-players, cameras or cell phones is not allowed.
9. 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 always clean shaven.
  - c. Uniforms: 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 leather boots with Vibram soles are recommended but not required. Fire resistant boots required for Live-Fire Drills.
  - e. Jewelry: Wearing jewelry is not allowed due the risk and hazards during drills.
  - f. Watches, wedding bands or emergency ID bracelets are acceptable forms of jewelry.
  - g. No Facial jewelry allowed, clean nails cut short to provide proper fit of gloves.
  - h. Undershirts: Academy t-shirts (provided) or plain white t-shirt may be worn
  - i. Garments: Female Explorers are to wear ONLY dark gray, black or navy sports bras.
  - j. Soft caps: Approved Academy hats (provided) will be worn by Explorers outside and will be removed when entering buildings.
  - k. 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.**