



McCALL SMOKEJUMPER BASE

Region 4 - Intermountain

Payette National Forest



Potential Future Candidate Information

- ***Do you like to experience nature, be outdoors, and travel around the country?***
- ***Are you an active person who likes to stay physically fit?***
- ***Do you enjoy being challenged both mentally and physically?***
- ***Are you graduating high school or college soon and need an exciting yet challenging summer job?***
- ***Were you recently discharged from the military and are looking to start a new career?***
- ***Are you currently in or applying to a forestry/natural resource program at a college or university and looking to expand your work experience diversity?***

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, becoming a McCall Smokejumper may be in your future!

Who are the McCall Smokejumpers and what do they do?

The McCall Smokejumpers are a group of seventy highly trained and experienced wildland firefighters who utilize airplanes as a platform to parachute into forests to manage wildfires throughout the United States.

What is the purpose of this information?

The McCall Smokejumpers are continually looking for individuals with skills, abilities, and talents that will help them transition seamlessly into the existing program. Becoming a McCall Smokejumper requires a large amount of dedication and does not happen overnight. The intent of this information is to draw the attention of dedicated people with applicable skills, abilities, and talents, gain their interest in the program, and help set them on a path of success to becoming a highly qualified applicant for the McCall Smokejumpers.

How to become a candidate for the McCall Smokejumpers?

McCall Smokejumper positions are not entry level firefighter positions. Most applicants selected to become McCall Smokejumpers have at least 3-5 years as a wildland firefighter prior to applying. If you have no previous experience as a wildland firefighter, you need not be discouraged. The reason this pamphlet was created is to offer guidance on starting you on a path towards becoming a McCall Smokejumper. The intent is to identify skills and talents and provide you a road map of how to set yourself up to become the perfect candidate to be selected into the McCall Smokejumper Program.

If becoming a McCall Smokejumper is not an entry level position, where do I start?

Most prospective applicants begin their wildland firefighter careers with a Land Management Agency (i.e. US Forest Service, BLM, Park Service, BIA, State Agencies, Etc.) on a district fuels module, hand crew, engine or helitack crew. Generally, positions on district resources are close to where they grew up or close to where they are currently living. If you live close to a Land Management Agency, the easiest way to show interest in getting hired as a rookie firefighter is to stop in and talk to the local fire staff.

If you are not close to a Land Management Agency office, the internet will be your best place to start looking for entry level firefighter positions. Research wildland firefighter jobs and locate areas across the country you would be interested in working. Once you decide on a few areas, contact the local fire staff via email, phone call, or in person.

Links

<https://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/smokejumpers/mccall>

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r4/fire-aviation>

<https://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/people>

<https://www.usajobs.gov/>

Additional Questions or Comments may be directed to:

Jeff Schricker – McCall Smokejumpers Training Supervisor

Jeff.schricker@usda.gov

Nate Giles – McCall Smokejumpers Training Assist. Supervisor

Nathan.giles@usda.gov



Here are some tips to use prior to contacting potential employers:

- Have a resume ready to provide them. Emailing your resume prior to talking to them works really well for this. A resume will give them a quick glimpse of who you are. Include items like work history, education, references, etc.
- Be ready with paper and pencil to write down information as they give it to you.
- Have a list of questions written down and ready to ask prior to calling.
- Keep a running log of who you talk to, when you talked to them, and where they are located. This will help keep you more organized

A checklist to help you become a highly qualified applicant for the McCall Smokejumpers

Utilize this checklist to rate yourself on your path to becoming a McCall Smokejumper. Check off each bullet when you feel the essential item is complete. Once all bullets are checked, you should be ready to apply to the McCall Smokejumpers as a quality qualified applicant.

The items on this list will become more familiar as you start and progress in your career as a wildland firefighter. Understand that they might not make sense now, but will make more sense with the more experience you obtain.

A highly qualified candidate for the McCall Smokejumpers has:

- **Experience**
 - Look for opportunities to work during spring, summer, fall, and winter work.
- **Diverse Experience (Employment spent on various different Trail crews, Engines, Hand Crews, Helitack, Hotshot Crews Etc.)**
 - Look for opportunities to gain more exposure and enhance the knowledge you have pertaining to the various resources used in wildland firefighting. Do not be afraid to challenge yourself by applying to and taking new positions on different resources.
- **Training**
 - Be proactive about the training that you receive. Search out training courses that you would like to take. Be open with your supervisors about your career goals, they will help you attain them. Have a plan.
- **Qualifications**
 - Most rookie Smokejumpers are qualified as Firefighter Type 1 and Incident Commander Type 5. Take advantage of every training opportunity that arises. Learn from experienced firefighters.
- **Leadership Potential/Experience**
 - Look for and take any opportunity to lead people. No matter how big or small the projects, one can always learn something being the leader of a group of people.
- **References**
 - Work hard, ask questions, and take every opportunity to learn. Have a goal of leaving every organization better than when you arrived.
- **Safety Conscious Attitude**
 - Wildland Firefighting requires working in high stress dynamic environments. Consider your safety and the safety of those that you work with as your number 1 priority at all times. Have the courage to call out unsafe acts and bring forth solutions on how to accomplish a mission in the safest manner possible.

Additional items that may help, but are not required.

- **Education**
 - Natural resource, forestry, agriculture, fire science, etc. may help
- **Additional Skills (Medical Skills, Second Languages, Welding, Fabrication, Small Engine Repair, Etc.)**
 - Any additional skills make you a more well-rounded firefighter