



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest



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Blackwell Job Corps CCC students train to fight wildland fires



Rhineland, Wis. – April 24, 2007. Smokey Bear has a few new helpers this year. Twenty newly trained wildland firefighters from the Blackwell Job Corps Center near Laona are helping out on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

The Blackwell students received classroom training and participated in field day exercises to hone their craft. They will be available to help with prescribed fires on the Forest this spring as well as available for assignment this summer during the busy Western fire season.

Hand crews serve as the infantry of wildland fire forces. Their main responsibility is to construct a “fireline” – a strip of land cleared of flammable materials – around wildfires to control them.

During the classroom phase students were introduced to fire behavior, communications, safety procedures and leadership skills. Later, during field exercises in the Forest, they learned how to build fire line, grid, use different fire tools and how to maintain those tools.



Forest Service firefighter Tym Sauter (left) instructs Blackwell Job Corps students during field day exercises.



Students construct fireline during field day exercises.

“We’re really glad to have the help,” said Fire Management Staff Officer Jim Grant. “The students are trained and ready to hit the fireline.”

Northern Wisconsin’s busy fire season is upon us. Please be careful with fire.

- Burning Permits are required for burning brush and are available from your local fire warden.
- Always burn in the evening when the wind is light and the humidity is higher.
- Don’t burn brush piles or burn barrels on a windy day.
- Never walk away from a fire before it is completely out.
- Fishermen – Please make sure your shore lunch cooking fire is completely out before returning to the lake.

(More)

Visit the website www.firewise.org and learn more about preparing your home for the wildland fire season. Lend Smokey Bear a hand this spring. He needs all the help he can get. Remember – Only you can prevent wildland fires.

Blackwell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center offers federal scholarships for young adults under the age of 25. In addition to leadership training, students at Blackwell receive academic training that leads to completion of an HSED or High School Diploma as well as vocational training in Welding, Union Bricklaying and Tile setting, Union Carpentry, Union Construction Craft Laborer, Union Painting, Health Occupations (CAN), Business Technologies, and Electrician Training. For information on Blackwell JCCCC or to arrange a tour please call Penny McLaughlin at (715)674-7654. To fill out a free application for a Blackwell scholarship, please call Julie Eder at (715)359-7040.

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