

## **The Fire Education Corps**

In response to the 2000 fire season, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior developed an interagency approach to respond to severe wildland fires, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and assure sufficient firefighting capacity in the future. The National Fire Plan addresses 5 key points: firefighting; rehabilitation and restoration; fuel reduction; community assistance; and accountability.

One program that has resulted from the 2000 National Fire Plan is the **Fire Education Corps**. In Idaho, this program partners Resource Conservation and Development Districts with volunteers from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and local fire protection districts. The Student Conservation Association ([www.sca-inc.org](http://www.sca-inc.org)) is America's largest and oldest provider of national and community conservation service opportunities, outdoor education, and career training for youth. Last week, the UI-CES Extension Forestry office joined the partnership and will provide technical assistance and landowner information to the program. The Home Depot is also a partner in this educational program.

Seven-person teams will be working with rural communities and homeowners in five locations of concern – Coeur d'Alene, McCall, Boise, Pocatello, and Salmon. Teams are made up of student volunteers that have went through a week-long training that included professionals from the BLM, the National Interagency Fire Center, and the Idaho Department of Lands. They have now moved to their assigned communities and are very enthusiastic and eager to help. Teams will spend the remainder of the summer (until August 22) giving community workshops and doing free fire-risk ratings of private landowner's homes and properties located on the wildland/urban interface. They also have a traveling display (courtesy of Home Depot) that can be loaded on a flat-bed trailer and transported to your area. The display is fully interactive and can be rearranged to demonstrate landscaping and other fire prevention techniques. Activities will be provided for kids while parents view and interact with the display.

We invite you to participate in this excellent educational opportunity. There are several ways county faculty and master gardeners can participate: recommend or provide a place to have a community meeting; help get the word out about local meetings; help volunteers locate communities, sub-divisions, and homes of concern; tell the volunteers where the best places are to eat and camp; and last, but certainly not least, request the traveling display for your county fair.

By now, you may have been contacted by your local team leader. If you have not been contacted and are interested in this program please contact the appropriate person for your area (as listed below):

### **Coeur d'Alene**

Rebecca Stevens

3402 E. Fairway Drive

Apt # 332

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815  
208 665 9328  
[scafec\\_rebecca@yahoo.com](mailto:scafec_rebecca@yahoo.com)

**McCall**

USFS  
Jody Handly  
C/O Danny Ebert  
1249 S. Vinnell Way  
Suite 200  
Boise, ID 83709  
208 382 6720  
[scafec\\_lucas@yahoo.com](mailto:scafec_lucas@yahoo.com)

**Boise**

USFS  
Jody Handly  
C/O Danny Ebert  
1249 S. Vinnell Way  
Suite 200  
Boise, ID 83709  
208 854 1078  
[scafec\\_ron@yahoo.com](mailto:scafec_ron@yahoo.com)

**Pocatello**

Bob Bundy  
1510 Bench Road Apt A5  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
208 637 1110  
[scafec\\_bob@yahoo.com](mailto:scafec_bob@yahoo.com)

**Salmon**

Kevin Hamman  
711 Hope Ave  
Salmon, ID 83467  
208 756 3564  
[scafec\\_kevin@yahoo.com](mailto:scafec_kevin@yahoo.com)

**Jody Handly**

**Project Leader**

Fire Education Corps  
C/O Danny Ebert  
US Forest Service  
Suite 200  
1249 S. Vinnell Way  
Boise, ID 83709

V. 208 854 - 1078

C. 208 241- 8881

F. 208 373 - 4233

<mailto:jody@sca-inc.org>

Yvonne Carree Barkley will be acting as the liaison between Extension and the Corps. Please feel free to call here with any questions you may have. SCA appreciates your support!