



National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Grand Teton National Park

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Grand Teton National Park Fire Management: SCA Community Outreach



With the smell of fried chicken lingering in the air, two local Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns took the opportunity to use an annual community event as a forum to encourage homeowners to assess defensible space around their homes.

The interns are part of SCA's Fire Education Corps, now in its second year in the valley. Their internship this summer includes acting as an educational outreach resource for the local fire community. Trained in assessing property for wildland fire protection, the team offers a valuable free service to area homeowners. They attended the Wilson Fire Department Chicken Fry this month to promote their service and offer fire education materials to the public.

The annual Chicken Fry draws thousands of people from around the community and is a major fund raising event for the agency. The interns staked out a location along the path where the food line formed, using a backdrop that explained the importance of defensible space. An assortment of literature was available at a booth, and homeowners were also offered a chance to test their knowledge with a defensible space quiz. Regardless of their score, all participants were rewarded with a customized fortune cookie that promised a bright future to those that practiced Firewise principles.



"We had a high profile location, and we made some good contacts," said David Marks with SCA. "It was a fun way to interact with the community," added partner Erik Peterson. The two also plan to publish an interagency newspaper insert and organize a community fuels reduction project before they complete their internship this fall.