

Firewise Council Neighborhood Ambassador Program Volunteer Activity Description & Commitment Form

Name: _____

Subdivision or Homeowner Association (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: Home: _____ **Work:** _____ **Cell:** _____

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a volunteer Firewise Neighborhood Ambassador (Ambassador). This program is operated by the Firewise Council of Southwest Colorado under the umbrella of the San Juan Mountains Association as the non-profit fiscal agent. Firewise Ambassadors are volunteers who:

- commit to mobilize their neighborhoods related to wildfire safety;
- link their neighbors and neighborhoods to trusted wildfire education;
- promote mitigation projects; and
- act as a contact for local fire fighting entities.

The qualifications of becoming an Ambassador include a willingness to do neighborhood outreach in fun and creative ways, enthusiasm, and, an ability to work with others. One need not be an expert in wildfire, law enforcement or fire fighting. Attending a volunteer orientation is required before getting started along with signing a Liability Waiver, reporting volunteer hours, and completing a Volunteer Commitment Form annually. The Firewise Council and the program coordinator provide support, technical assistance, materials, referrals to experts, and various networking opportunities.

Ambassadors report to the program coordinator whose position is overseen by the Firewise Council. Ambassadors are representatives of the Firewise Council of Southwest Colorado and the San Juan Mountains Association, and will maintain a positive, friendly, non-confrontational attitude with the neighbors and groups they contact. In addition, Ambassadors shall not assume or create the impression of having the authority to serve in any law enforcement or fire fighting capacity while performing volunteer work. The Firewise Council of Southwest Colorado and/or the San Juan Mountains Association may terminate this relationship for any reason and at any time by notifying the Ambassador in writing.

Volunteer Commitment Form

Below is a list of volunteer responsibilities that Ambassadors carry out. Please check off the tasks that you are willing to complete and return the form to the program coordinator. You are also asked to sign the Liability Waiver and return it to the program coordinator as well. Ambassadors do not need to complete every task on the list. Every subdivision and homeowners association is unique with its own challenges and solutions. Therefore, Ambassadors need to review this list and select only the tasks that are realistic and do-able.

Public Education/Mitigation

- ___ Plan the occasional informational event for your subdivision inviting an expert speaker(s) on wildfire and/or emergency preparedness.
- ___ Inform residents/neighbors about the www.southwestcoloradofires.org Web site.
- ___ Be an example of a home site where defensible space has been created.
- ___ Provide the residents in your subdivision, through whatever means possible, the wildfire mitigation companies' contractor list kept by the Colorado State Forest Service (this list is found at the above Website under the "prevention" tab).
- ___ Attend the bi-monthly Firewise Council meetings and/or educational events taking information back to your neighborhood, home owner association, subdivision, etc.
- ___ Assist your neighborhood with understanding, supporting and participating in the Red Zone project underway in La Plata and Archuleta Counties.
- ___ Plan a neighborhood mitigation day or week or month to remove and dispose of slash. (over)

Pre-Wildfire Planning with Your Local Fire Department/District

- ___ Make contact with your local Fire Department/District so they are familiar with you and what you can offer. Get to know them and be a resource.
- ___ Share important information about your subdivision including a map of the following:
 - Locations of homes and other structures.
 - Road layout.
 - Possible water supplies such as ponds, creeks and cisterns, including ownership (i.e., private or public).
 - Location(s) of heavy fuel loads (thick forest, lumber piles, stump piles, etc.).
 - Location of hazardous materials (paint, oil for roads, gasoline storage, etc.).
 - Location(s) of above- and/or below-ground propane tanks.
 - Location(s) of power lines and power poles and the name of the electric company.
 - Location(s) of gas lines and name of gas company.
 - Location of homes with pets and livestock.
 - Location of homes with out-of-state owners.
 - Location of homes with residents who have special needs (disabled, elderly, etc.)
 - List of homeowners who do not have a land line with their cell phone number.
- ___ Make a list of all possible locations for distribution of wildfire information in the event of a wildfire (e.g. bulletin boards, public gathering places, etc.).

Communication – General

- ___ Work with local residents to ensure their addresses and street signs are visible.
- ___ Establish an email tree through which residents in your subdivision can receive information.
- ___ Assemble contact information for homeowners with addresses, phone numbers (work, home, cell, emails).
- ___ Update all information annually.

During a Wildfire Event

- ___ Call 911 if you witness a wildfire. Provide information the 911 operator may request.
- ___ If you are evacuated, please go to the official evacuation center and be a contact person for local fire fighters/entities when and if asked.

Your role during a wildfire event is to ensure your own personal safety and to evacuate if necessary. Remember ~ the best time to make contact with your fire department is before an event happens! Note: Some Fire Departments/Districts may ask you to sign a separate form clarifying your role in a wildfire event.

Other: Please share other ideas: _____

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

(You will receive a copy of this signed form.)

Questions?
Marsha Porter-Norton
Firewise Neighborhood Ambassador Program Coordinator
c/o San Juan Mountains Association
P.O. Box 2661
Durango, Colorado 81302
www.southwestcoloradofires.org
970-247-8306 or 385-1256
porternorton@animas.net or or gabi@sjma.org

WAIVER, RELEASE and INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

Please read carefully before signing.

IN CONSIDERATION, for being permitted to participate as a volunteer with Firewise Council Neighborhood Ambassador Program which is operated under the umbrella of the **San Juan Mountains Association's** non-profit status, I, the undersigned, for myself, my spouse, legal representatives, heirs, and assigns, [hereinafter collectively "Releasor"] hereby release, waive, discharge and agree to indemnify and hold harmless San Juan Mountains Association its employees, agents, representatives, directors, officers, volunteers, affiliates, successors and assigns, and any agencies that sponsor the activity set forth above, [hereinafter collectively "SJMA"] for every cause of action, claim, injury, loss, demand, of any kind, whether in law or equity, for injury, death or damage to person or property, including consequential damages, occurring as a result of my participation in the activity, regardless of the cause, including but not limited to, injury, death, or damage caused by the negligence of SJMA.

Releasor further releases, waives, discharges and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless SJMA from any cause of action, claim, injury, loss, demand or any kind whether in law or equity, including but not limited to injury, death or damage to person or property, including consequential damages, occurring as a result of first aid, treatment or service rendered to me as a result of participation in the activity set forth above, regardless of the cause, including but not limited to injury, death or damage caused by the negligence of SJMA.

Releasor understands that there are inherent risks associated with participating in the activity set forth above, including, but not limited to physical injury, exhaustion, dehydration, exposure, death, or property damage, whether by the result of man-made or natural phenomena. Releasor may also work with tools and other participants who may not be accustomed to this type of labor. Releasor, hereby knowingly and voluntarily, assumes full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury, death or property damage due to any cause, including, but not limited to injury, death or property damage caused by the negligence of SJMA, or otherwise, as a result of participation in the activity.

In the event of any asserted claim, SJMA shall provide the Releasor reasonably timely written notice of same, and thereafter the Releasor shall at its own expense defend, protect and hold harmless indemnities against said claim or any loss or liability arising there under.

In the further event the Releasor shall fail to so defend and/or indemnify and save harmless, then in such instance SJMA shall have full rights to defend, pay or settle said claim on their behalf without notice to undersigned and with full rights to recourse against the Releasor or all fees, including attorney's fees, costs, expenses, judgments, and payments made or agreed to be paid to discharge said claim.

Releasor, expressly agrees that this waiver, release, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Colorado, and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Nothing in this Waiver, Release and Indemnity Agreement [hereinafter "the Agreement"] is intended to supercede or conflict with any Volunteer Agreement for Natural Resource Agency signed by the Releasor ["hereinafter Volunteer Agreement"]. To the extent that any provision of this Agreement does conflict with any such Volunteer Agreement, the terms of the Volunteer Agreement shall control over the conflicting provision. That fact notwithstanding, all other terms of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

This agreement shall be unlimited as to amount and duration.

In the event that this Agreement is signed by a parent or guardian, that parent or guardian, by signing below, represents to SJMA that he/she has the authority to enter into this Agreement on behalf of said minor and on behalf of any other parent or guardian of said minor and agrees to defend and indemnify and hold harmless SJMA from any and all claims or damages arising from the minor's participation in the activity.

This agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties, their successors, assigns and personal representatives, and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Colorado. Venue and Jurisdiction for any action arising out of this Agreement shall be La Plata County, Colorado.

I grant SJMA and other project sponsors and partners permission to utilize my image in photographic recordings of the activity and I waive any right to claim compensation in exchange for participating in the activity.

The undersigned affirms that he/she is over the age of eighteen years of age, has read this agreement, understands its contents, and freely and voluntarily agrees to its terms. The undersigned also agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Firewise Council and its Neighborhood Ambassador Program while participating in the program.

Participant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(Parent or guardian must sign for participants under the age of eighteen.)

Participant's Printed Name: _____