



Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact

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H. Alan Zentz Memorial Scholarship

H. Alan Zentz started his wildland fire career in 1974 with the Maryland Forest Service serving as a Forest Ranger in Cecil County. He served in various capacities while employed by the Maryland Forest Service culminating as the Maryland State Fire Supervisor. In 1999 Alan accepted a position with the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area as the Cooperative Fire Program Specialist. Alan not only served the constituents of the Northeastern Area, but also provided response assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency during 9/11 and with assistance during hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Alan dedicated his career to helping others. He was instrumental in establishing the Midwest Wildfire Training Academy. He was a husband, father, mentor and friend. He dedicated his professional life to local, state and national wildland fire protection and management and his personal life to his family and friends. He lost a courageous battle to cancer at the age of 56, but he left behind a legacy to all. This scholarship is just a small token from the Big Rivers Compact expressing our debt of gratitude in Alan's memory. This scholarship is our way of ensuring that Alan's legacy of serving others is preserved.

Application Criteria

The Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri) offers a scholarship for one individual to attend a National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) 300 or higher-level course. The scholarship will cover registration for the selected training. The scholarship will also cover lodging including the night prior to the start of classes and continuing through the last day of class. Per diem, mileage and travel will be paid at the General Services Administration (federal) rate. This scholarship will cover actual costs up to a maximum of \$2,000. Reimbursement is contingent upon successful completion of the course. A copy of the Course Completion Certificate will be required for disbursement of funds.

- Eligible applicants must work and reside within the four states of the Big Rivers Compact (IA, IL, IN or MO).
- Applicants will submit a short essay (no more than one typed page) on the importance of this scholarship.
- Applicants will submit a copy of their most current Incident Qualification Card (Red Card) or similar qualification documentation as it applies to target course prerequisites.
- Applicants will submit a listing of their fire experience (number of seasons, number of fires, participation on incident management teams, years with a rural fire department or agency, etc.) **An IQS or IQCS “Master Record” fulfills this requirement.**
- Applicants will indicate if their employer or agency is providing any assistance to attend the requested training such as paid time off, travel reimbursement, registration reimbursement, etc.
- Applicants will include two letters of recommendation addressing the applicant’s commitment to fire and emergency services; serving as part of a volunteer emergency service agency, club or emergency relief provider; or providing assistance to others through organized public service agencies.
- **Application deadline and review schedule:** Applications will be accepted on a **quarterly** basis. Application must be postmarked prior to the end of the quarter to be eligible (**March 31, June 30, September 30, December 31**). All applications will be reviewed prior to the 15th of the month following submission closure and each applicant will receive notification by the end of the month following submission closure. Each application will be evaluated by the Executive Committee of the Big Rivers Compact.
- **All applications and supporting documentation should be submitted to:**

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Electronic submissions are acceptable.



H. Alan Zentz Memorial Scholarship Application

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Daytime phone:

Evening phone:

Email:

Employer, Agency or Affiliation:

List of your target course(s). *List course location and dates if known.*

Provide a cost estimate to attend this training. *Include travel (POV or airfare), tuition or registration fee lodging, per diem, rental car, long-term parking, etc.*

Application attachments:

- **Copy of your most current Incident Qualification Card (Red Card) or similar qualification documentation as it applies to target course prerequisites.**
- **Summary of your fire experience:** *Number of seasons, number of fires, participation on incident management teams, years with a rural fire department or agency, etc. An IQS or IQCS "Master Record" fulfills this requirement.*
- **Two letters of recommendation**
- **Official course announcement, if available**