

SAFE So Far! 2016-2017

SAFE (Student Association for Fire Ecology) has been on fire this past year! From training wild land fire fighters to community service and educational outreach, SAFE has been becoming a great part of Northern Arizona's community. What we want to share in this semester's newsletter is what we have been up to, and where we plan to go!



Spring break of 2016 Richard Lamont, our now club president, went to TREX wildland firefighting training exchange in Nebraska. Here he learned how to implement prescribed fires as well as how to use wildland firefighting tools. This spring break we sent five students to TREX!



Fall 2016 kicked off with SAFE volunteering at the Kids for Conservation booth at the Coconino fair. Here we taught fair attendees how fire burns when going through a healthy stand compared to an unhealthy stand with the rebar forest.

This past year SAFE has branched out in its educational outreach. SAFE has put together a portable presentation that teaches the youth about the importance of Northern Arizona's historic fire regime, and the role of our wildland fire fighters. The presentation has two focuses, forest health and firefighting. In the forest health part of the presentation we teach the kids about the locally fire adapted plant life like ponderosa pine. We then play educational scenarios with them, like building the rebar forest, so that they have a better idea of how nature works where they live.



In the firefighting portion of the presentation, we teach the children of the various tools used by the fire fighters (such as line tools, hard hats, and packs) and explain to them the importance of managed fire. We have taken this presentation to several schools, like the STAR school and even to the Flagstaff Arboretum.



Our goals going forward are to work with Rocky Mountain research in building a more professional fire ecology curriculum through their fireworks program. Whenever we put on these presentations, we greatly express the dangers of fire and always make safety our first priority. Teaching the youth about fire ecology is of great importance and a way SAFE really enjoys giving back. A more mindful youth is a more mindful future.

Our most recent club event was the Grand Falls clean on the Navajo Nation. The event was started by a high school teacher on Facebook who was getting tired of seeing the beautiful falls polluted with trash. One of our club members caught wind of the cleanup initiative and SAFE showed up to help! SAFE has also been involved with clean ups at the Flagstaff Arboretum as well as yard work for



previous forestry professors. We plan on adopting a trail off the FUTS and volunteer our time whenever and wherever the community needs.



SAFE also finds importance in club bonding. We have had a couple of hikes as well as gym days where members get to push each other as well as get to know each other better. For the future, we plan to get together with other clubs in outdoor activities and friendly competition like Ultimate Frisbee.

Our club's meetings alternate in firefighting and ecology every other week. For firefighting, we have been showing members more of what it means to be a wildland fire fighter, and how to prepare for the job.



In our ecology segments, we have guest speakers come and share with us about how fire effects the world around us as well as other ecological news. We have also been working with members in getting them job ready. We have had resume workshop nights and mock interviews, so that members are prepared for what the working world throws at them.