

GCWC Education Committee Roles, Goals, and Resources - 1/16/2023

The GCWC Education Committee seeks to support the mission of the GCWC as stated below.

GCWC Education Committee Members

Co-Chairs- Katlin Miller and Laurie Pope

Mary Sangster

Sue Hagerty

Doug Smith

Manny Janisch (ad hoc advisor from Grand Fire).

GCWC Board Members as they desire

Grand County Wildfire Council (GCWC) Mission Statement

“Through collaboration, education and action, engage in wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and survival.”

GCWC Education Committee Mission Statement

The education committee’s mission is to provide general knowledge pertaining to wildfire awareness, preparedness, and prevention but stop short of making home or community assessments / recommendations that require certified professional firefighting personnel from local, state or federal agencies per NFPA Firewise USA guidelines.

Because the committee must have flexibility to use whatever means we feel necessary to accomplish these goals, we do not have a rigid list of objectives. Rather, we seek to keep the means of accomplishing our goals fluid.

Roles of GCWC Education Committee

1) Educate about Creating Fire Adapted Homes and Communities

- Through education, encourage and engage people to create more fire adapted homes and communities (aimed at more at residents).
 - Participate in community events/functions to create awareness of services provided by local fire departments such as free (HIZ) inspections.
 - Provide general information resources and collect email addresses to connect residents / second homeowners and their local fire departments.
 - Add emails to GCWC e-newsletter list.
 - Encourage HOAs and homeowners to participate in the NFPA Firewise USA program and Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) practices.
 - Provide support for community members applying for NFPA Firewise USA designation as necessary.
 - Act as the “first contact” between property owners and their local fire departments.

2) **Educate about Wildfire Risk, the Wildland-Urban Interface, and Fire Restrictions**

- Through education and public outreach, encourage responsible WUI behavior by residents, second homeowners, and visitors.
 - Have a presence at community events to provide information to residents and visitors on their responsibilities regarding fire safety to our community.
- Educate the populace about local, state, and federal fire restrictions and what the different stages of fire restrictions mean.
 - If we are in Fire Restrictions, publicize current restrictions.
- Increase general awareness of wildfire risks.
 - Educate and connect community members to fire safety resources such as Code Red, reflective address signs, evacuation protocols, the resources located on www.bewildfireready.org, and other resources available in the community such as their local Fire Departments.
 - Helpful resources to promote:
 - Home Hardening and Defensible Space and Home Hardening SELF-ASSESSMENT: <https://bewildfireready.org/new-defensible-space-home-hardening-self-assessment-survey/>
 - Ultimate Wildfire Guide: <https://bewildfireready.org/ultimate-wildfire-guide/>
 - Resources for Residents: <https://bewildfireready.org/resources-for-residents/>
 - Resources for Visitors: <https://bewildfireready.org/info-for-visitors/>
 - Steps to becoming a Firewise USA community: <https://bewildfireready.org/firewise-grand-county-info/>

Education Committee “Guide”

As a means of role clarification, the Education Committee began using “*The Neighborhood Ambassador Information Guide*” with its new ambassadors in early 2021.

- **Neighborhood Ambassador Guide:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/12SlzMfvY-ThUfpsM6DaFryZMCbgZiStM/view?usp=sharing>
 - The Ambassador goals were set forth by Schelly Olsen and Katlin Miller as the mission for the education committee in 2019 and have expanded as needed to further support the mission of the GCWC through education.