

Sunday, June 04, 2023

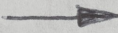
To: American Prison Writing Archive,

The Real Fire Country

I'm writing about the California inmate Fire Camp experience, a low level custody facility which helps inmates on the road to recovering our lives back from the "Just-us" (Justice) system, and to never return. There are only a brave few out of so many that chooses to come to Fire Camp to make a change to better our lives away from our past lives. Many people who have come to Fire Camp, can never return to their gang neighborhoods because of street politics rules. The main reason people elect to Fire Camp is the time cut benefit of getting released earlier than the time that they would of have to done had they not chosen Fire Camp, I myself have chosen the same reason. We work everyday with Fire Captains on wildland projects Monday through Friday with weekends off. The projects range from tree work, to flood control in various parts of the State. We also do possible search and rescue missions when called upon. I have encountered former inmate firefighters who have moved on to become real firefighters after release from prison and parole while joining the parolee Ventura Fire Fighter Training Program.



From the information gathered, the Ventura Fire Fighter Training Program is a live-in 18-month Fire Fighter Training course, classroom and field hours. It also pays the parolee \$2,700.00 a month for 18 months of the course program. This is a difficult program to get into because of limited beds available. There is another Fire Fighter Training Program available for northern and southern California called FFRP (Fire Fighter Re-entry Program), which is way easier to get in because it is not a live-in program. Applicants must provide their own housing and transportation in order to attend required program classroom and field training hours. This program pays a little bit less than Ventura Training program for all the same training. There is also the U.S. Forest Service jobs available that is easy to get hired on with minimal training standards. Starting pay about \$40,000 a year estimate excluding Captains which make over \$100,000 respectively a year. The most difficult part of being or becoming a Fire Fighter is the hiking up tall mountains which takes a lot of energy out of the body in order to do the job. It never gets easy to hike no matter how physically fit one becomes over time. My advice of what works for me while hiking is bring a pickle(s) and protein bars with you in order to keep going to overcome the fatigue.



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There is never enough firefighters available because the continued physical training is so difficult to be attractive enough to new recruits, therefore the door stays open to inmate Fire Fighters who have an option to pursue a firefighting career after release from prison/Fire Camp. I believe California is leading the way in inmate rehabilitation programs across the State in order that inmates receive career training in a job career of our choice in order to work out our career in the free world to avoid coming back to prison. The main reason inmates return to crime is the lack of pre-release career training which subjects us to the life of crime we once lived prior coming to prison. The cause of coming to prison is purely economics of the lack of opportunity for Americans who turn to crime as a way of survival. I believe crime is all by design from our leaders who make the laws to create burdens on the American people shifting the blame away from themselves. It is all by design to get us into trap (prison complex) where we can't get out of, a revolving door to get us confused, to keep the prison system alive, keeping correctional officers retirement paychecks secured. The majority of Americans don't have mental problems, only 5% of the population who do are in mental hospitals. The mental health problems that I

Speak of are the people who commit or conspire to commit murder or mass murder or destroy the planet or tranquility of society are the ones who need to be in mental hospitals for extended periods of time until they are cured. Only through lengths of time we all get a better perspective on life. This prison time has changed the way I view the world now. I have discovered that there is always opportunity for a better life, I just have to do my due diligence to search for the resources available and apply myself accordingly. I will be filing Assembly Bill 2147 - Expungement of inmate Fire-Fighter criminal record when I get released in order to recover my life back from the State, and my past reputation with possible employers. Most other States don't provide Record Expungement possibility in order to rebuild inmates lives across America. There should be a Federal Law in place that prohibits Employers and States from discriminating against former rehabilitated inmates who apply with private employers and State entity positions, regaining all Rights. We need to change the U.S. Constitution/Contract to reflect word for word the Rights of all the American People authentically and ratified into positive Law. The U.S. Constitution didn't include African Americans at the time as equals. This is all for now, I give praise to my Heavenly Father YAHWAH! Halleluyah! Shalom. Pinnak