

JFR Crew Locations

2019 Locations and Descriptions

In order to give applicants a better idea of where they may be stationed this summer, we have put together a list of the locations for the upcoming summer.

All JFR crews will take part in a core group of projects surrounding forestry and wildfire such as trail building, mill tours, learning about wildfire operations, invasive species and a few others. However, each forest area has a different set of projects, educational opportunities, recreational activities, firebase and landscape that make them unique to one another. No matter where you are stationed, you will have an incredible summer.

As indicated on the application, we take your top three choices into consideration but this is not a guarantee. We also have to take into consideration the needs of the program to make sure we run a successful summer program for all members and leaders. Here is the list of areas you may be stationed at during the summer:

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Calgary

Mountains! The Calgary area offers two potential locations to visit – The Gap Firebase and The Elbow Firebase. The crew may spend time between both locations. Some projects that make this area unique include:

- Working with the fish hatchery (Bow Habitat)
- Working on Projects in the mountains (Kananaskis)
- Seed collecting in Waterton National Park
- Hiking up to a mountain top lookout tower
- Close to the small unique town of Bragg Creek
- Crews can also expect forest health projects in Canmore
- Great hiking and awesome fishing in the local rivers

Fort McMurray

The Fort McMurray JFR crew returned to the program in 2018 and provides an opportunity for the crew to tackle many projects in the area. Staying at the Grayling firebase, the crew has access to a wide variety of work and recreational opportunities. Here is a list of some of the opportunities Fort Mac has to offer:

- Exposure to wildfire operations and suppression with spending a couple of days on a wildfire
- The highlight of the summer is the exposure to the unique remote landscape and culture of Fort Chipewyan. Learning about traditional life in a remote fly in community that is the oldest settlement in Alberta and has the second largest fresh water delta in the world. Actives could include traditional culture tours learning about netting and dog sledding with a wilderness survival outstrip to Bustard Island only accessible by aircraft or boat
- Some wonderful fishing opportunities in the local rivers
- Some excellent trail building opportunities and the start of some legacy projects

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Fox Creek

The Fox Creek location is in the heart of bountiful wilderness, which includes some beautiful lakes, wildlife, and forests. The JFR crew stays at the Fox Creek firebase and is a short drive to the town of Whitecourt. The vast forests alone in this area make Fox Creek a wonderful location, and some of the projects and recreation opportunities include:

- Spending some time in some local trail areas to get your ATV Certification
- Tubing down the local rivers
- PAL Training (Firearms Licence)
- Helicopter ride!
- An annual tradition of hanging out with the Boys and Girls Club to teach kids about outdoor skills
- The construction and repair of the Crystal Boardwalk
- Bring your mountain bike to enjoy the Fox Creek bike park

Grande Prairie

The Grande Prairie JFR crew will be stationed at the Graham Firebase where they have the privilege of staying in small cabins for the majority of the summer. They have their own JFR area set aside at the firebase, but also have the opportunity to interact with the fire crews. They will also have the chance to go to the Frying Pan Firebase. GP is home to several wonderful recreation areas including Muskoseepi Park and Crystal Lake Waterfowl Refuge. Some of the unique projects and experiences include:

- A two-day outtrip planting trees with two professional foresters
- A prescribed burn/mock fire is held in order for the crew to help out with the mop up
- Timbersports demonstration
- A day of forest health, learning about local ecology and forest pests/diseases
- A dinosaur dig with the local museum to find fossils and learn about paleontology
- Collecting songbird data using a GPS
- Some recreational opportunities include Saskatoon Island, the local farmers market and some wonderful hiking in the local provincial parks

High Level

Tranquility, peacefulness, and the vast boreal forest that is truly Canadian are what is so impressive about High Level. The JFR crew might be treated to dazzling displays of the Northern Lights and a chance to see some of Canada's most spectacular wildlife. Some of the unique opportunities in HL include:

- Legacy projects on Watt Mountain for Tolko
- Firesmart projects and tree planting
- A very high chance of getting on a wildfire during the summer
- Recreational opportunities are canoeing (Footner Lake, Wadlin Lake and Machesis Lake)
- Three hours from the NWT border
- 5 km of groomed trails along Footner Lake
- A highlight of the summer is the crew spends a work week out at Margaret Lake, a wonderful opportunity for canoeing, fishing and wildlife encounters

High Prairie

The High Prairie JFR crew will have an unforgettable summer. The local forestry staff are extremely supportive of the crew and are always around to help out when needed. The HP crew is home to the greatest culture camp around, and is close to important wildlife habitat surrounding the Slave Lake area. Some of the projects that make the summer so meaningful include:

They have a bowling alley in Enilda (15 minute drive east of High Prairie) a swimming pool, show hall and the Elks stampede in High Prairie. The North country fair south of Driftpile and a pow wow (40 minutes east of High Prairie). We have the lakes for swimming/camping over by Grouard (Hillard's bay and Shaw's point). Every summer Local JFR crews spend a week camping and working in Slave Lake, where there are many opportunities for learning and participating in community projects.

- The Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory: The JFR crew spend time learning and participating in the bird observatory's bird banding program.
- Lily Lake Trail and Nine Mile Creek Recreation Area Located in Lesser Slave Provincial Park and the JFR crew have been involved in trail maintenance legacy projects
- FireSmart: Every year JFR works together with the Lesser Slave Region FireSmart Crew and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Firefighters to perform vegetation maintenance in the treated areas.
- Future Firefighters Program: Each year the local fire department mentors and trains a small group of capable and energetic teenagers for potential careers as firefighters, EMTs, police, or forestry officers. The JFR crew has performed a JFR presentation to the youth in this program.
- Every season it is very likely a JFR crew would have the opportunity to work on a wildfire in the Slave Lake Forest Area.
- The greatest JFR Culture Camp is held by the HP crew. Other JFR crews attend this as well but the HP crew is in charge of helping get this set up.

Hinton

Hinton is the gateway to a treasure trove of outdoor adventure, whether it be in Jasper National Park, the Provincial Parks, or out and about on nearby crown land. You'll have ample opportunity to go hiking/biking in the mountains, rafting, rock climbing, camping in beautiful spots, lots of places to go swimming (mind you, in freezing mountain stream fed water!), canoeing, horseback riding and much more! You will stay out at the Cache Percotte Forest located only a short drive from the Town of Hinton in the foothills and forest. There are a variety of cozy cabins available for crew members and the leaders to stay in.

A good variety of projects are what make up an excellent summer calendar here in Hinton. Some of those opportunities include:

- Welcoming staff who will spend time in the field with you: learning about harvesting and reforestation, bats, butterflies, Athabasca rainbow trout, archery, wildfire behaviour and 'sciency' stuff and of course all sorts of wildfire firefighting skills including a mock wildfire, a visit to the top of a lookout tower, a ride in a helicopter
- Excellent relationship with local forestry companies, with the pulp mill right in town
- Trail building with Wild Yonder Rafting in Grande Cache in exchange for rafting trip and paint ball
- Projects (work and education) with Parks Canada staff (habitat restoration, FireSmart, building benches, fixing trails etc.) in exchange for free camping at Whistlers campground and a day spent exploring Jasper.
- Spend a day with researchers with the Foothills Research Institute (fRI) learning about caribou, grizzly bears, healthy forests
- Projects with the Yellowhead County to help maintain historical cemeteries in the County
- Learn about Forest Health: Mountain Pine Beetle biology and ways to control their spread
- Bring your mountain bike to enjoy the great trail network in and around the Town of Hinton

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Lac La Biche

Lac La Biche offers opportunities to work and stay right on a beautiful lake in an updated camp setting. This crew is stationed on the Beaver Lake firebase with direct access to a dock, water activities, and summer sunsets. The crew is surrounded by beautiful landscape and some of the unique projects that the JFR crew may participate in include:

- Canoe certifications
- An opportunity to visit the Smokey Lake Tree Nursery and learn about tree grafting/seed improvement
- To get involved with the operations of a major forestry company
- An opportunity to tour the local fire department and participate in FiresSmart initiatives
- Helping out with projects in the communities of Athabasca and Lac La Biche
- Assist Alberta Parks staff at various sites by promoting conservation and forest health
- Participate at Indigenous Community events in Lac La Biche and Calling Lake
- Learn and get involved in various Wildfire Management Activities including a lookout tower tour

Peace River

The Peace River Forest Area offers a diverse example of a boreal forest ecosystem, as well as spectacular views of the river valley. The landscape varies from prairies, to aspen stands to muskeg. The Peace River crew will undoubtedly have an incredible summer and these are some of the unique projects that will make that happen:

- There are a number of timber companies working in the area, offering a plethora of potential projects and networking opportunities throughout the summer
- A highlight of our summer each year is the mock fire exercise that we offer including helicopter rides, simulated wildfire fighting operations including an air tanker drop
- We also offer opportunities to learn about the wildlife in the area, including electrofishing, BearSmart training, grizzly bear hair snagging and bird banding
- Local forestry staff take the JFR crew out for a night of Owl banding, as well as a day spent setting up bird boxes
- As for recreational opportunities in our area, besides the river itself, we have a number of water bodies in the area that offer up opportunities for fishing, canoeing and kayaking

Rocky Mountain House

The Rocky Area provides a unique location for JFR for many reasons. One of these reasons is the beautiful Shunda firebase. The crew members stay in small cabins and have access to the ball hockey/basketball court. Some of the work projects and other opportunities include:

- A thorough introduction to wildfire management including fitness test, air tanker tour, lookout tour, Under Control wildfire action and GPS training
- The Rocky Area has a relationship with west Fraser and Weyerhaeuser FMA holders that involve the crew in an in depth tour of the forestry operations from planning, harvesting, reforestation and the mill
- An excellent relationship with Alberta Parks which includes front line public outreach at Parks Day and other events, as well as interpretive programming and discussions with Conservation officers
- The legacy trail project (annual JFR project) at Ravenbrood Trout Hatchery and tour of fish rearing program

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