



The Charged Line

News From Glide Fire



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New Volunteers for 2023

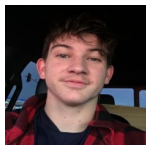
Darren Aspelund

Darren is a Firefighter I with Glide Fire. He is an Athabascan and Aleut Indian born in Anchorage, Alaska, and grew up as a commercial fisherman, a business that he occasionally helps his family with during the summer. He graduated early from Save One High School and went to the police academy at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Over the years, Darren has worked as a bailiff, a policeman, a bail bond agent, a bodyguard for oil company executives, security for oil pipelines, and a safety manager in construction. Five years ago, he was close to death after head injuries caused by a car crash. He attributes his recovery to divine grace and a naturopathic physician. Darren now does corporate sales, and his longterm goals are to gain knowledge, and teach and help others. He also would like to regain his pilot's license and get a plane. Darren has always dreamed of being a firefighter, and his work with Glide Fire is helping him realize that dream. He says, "Always find a way to make a living that you enjoy, because then you'll never work a day in your life."



Zander Rothacker

This new volunteer has been with Glide Fire about two months. Zander graduated from Hesperia High School in Southern California and moved here with his dad. Zander has wanted to be a firefighter since he was a kid, and now has a scholarship from Glide Fire to attend the Fire Science program at Umpqua Community College. This scholarship is funded by FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant. Zander's inspiration for a life of public service stemmed from relatives who joined the U.S. Marines. He loves the Glide community and enjoys local activities such as hiking, jiu-jitsu, shooting, rock climbing, and swimming. Zander describes himself as persistent and dedicated, and one of his main goals is to help and protect others.



No prior Firefighting or Medical experience necessary.

Opportunities to Serve in YOUR Community

All training provided!

VOLUNTEER OPENINGS:

- Structure Fire Fighter
- Wildland Fire Response
- Medical Response
- Driver
- Pump Operator
- Traffic Control
- Vehicle & Equipment Maint.
- Inventory Management
- Social Media Specialist
- Community Outreach
- Fire Prevention & Education
- Fire House & Grounds Maint.

Email: recruiting@glidefire.org



Antennas Up!

Amateur Radio (HAM) can be used in an emergency when we lose communication via other means, such as cell phones, which can be overcrowded or fail to function during power outages. HAM radio operators can work with emergency personnel and operations such as first responders; hospitals; county, state, and federal emergency operation centers; and national organizations such as Red Cross and FEMA, to maintain communications until other means have been reestablished.

HAM radio is not simply radio communication. It also supports computer links, photographs, and video feeds, as well as cell phone links in areas where cell towers are not operational. After Snowmageddon and the Archie Creek Fire, Glide Fire is taking a proactive approach. This summer, we installed antennas for HAM operations for VHF, UHF, and HF radios. By the good graces of our local

HAM operators (thank you Mike, Jerry, Brent, and many others) we have a VHF and HF radio on loan until we purchase our own radios. Currently, two members of Glide Fire have their FCC HAM radio Technician License and will be testing for their General License later this year. If you live near Glide and are interested in HAM training and in maintaining emergency communication during natural disasters, give us a call! Talk to you soon? 73

Go Wildcats!

Glide High School (GHS) has a dual credit program with Umpqua Community College for Fire Science classes. In the past, Glide Fire has provided hands-on experience to students attending the Fire Science class. During the COVID years, this cooperative assistance was sidelined. In the past two years, we have reestablished the partnership and shared some exciting experiences with the GHS students here at Glide Fire. Last year, we extended the training to include CPR certification.

This fall, we are modifying the program. This opportunity comes with a new Training Officer, Richard Chitwood, who has extensive background in training both adults and youth for fire and medical response. In addition, the GHS teacher for the Fire Science class, Loren Shaw, is a recent Glide Fire volunteer with his own firefighting experience. The expertise of our new staff will increase the students' experience in structural firefighting and add an Emergency Medical Services component that will demonstrate different lifesaving techniques.

We're fortunate to have this opportunity to reach out to the youth in our community and share the value of the fire and medical services that we provide as Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians.

Firefighter I and Beyond

In January 2023, Glide Fire began a Firefighter I Academy with 10 students. The Academy was designed to fit our volunteers' schedules by combining online and hands-on instruction. The Academy was a 14-week program in which students would study chapters from the International Fire Service Training Assoc. (IFSTA) *Essentials of Firefighting* textbook at home and watch corresponding videos during the week. Each Sunday, there was a 12-5 pm hands-on practice and qualification training for that week's topics. Upon completion of the Academy, students received their National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firefighter I Certification from the Oregon Department of Public Safety, Standards, and Training (DPSST) for structural firefighting.

At the end of the program, 8 of the 10 students received their NFPA Firefighter I Certification. This certification

requires specific knowledge, skills, and abilities to ensure the maximum attention to safety and performance in hazardous environments. **Our next Firefighter I Academy will begin on January 6, 2024. Please stop by Glide Fire if you are interested in more information.**

Many thanks to the fire instructors at Oregon DPSST; Umpqua Valley Fire Instructors; and the Winston, Sutherlin, and Lookingglass Fire Districts for their expertise and commitment to helping Glide's 2023 Fire Academy be a success.

We are proud to announce our new structural Firefighter I volunteers: Dave Reda, Eric Russell, Nolan Grant, Charlie Hitchingham, Ron Young, Bobby Newport, Darren Aspelund, and Alex Bickle. When they aren't volunteering at Glide Fire, some of these firefighters work in careers including computer programming, engineering, and sales. Others have retired from HVAC installation and commercial truck driving.

See You Soon!

The Oregon State Fire Marshal's office (OSFM) has awarded Glide Fire a 3-year **Community Wildfire Risk Reduction (CWRR) Grant** to help local homeowners create defensible space around homes. Our CWRR Specialists will begin canvassing residential areas this October, speaking with residents about this program and leaving door hangers for those not at home on our first visit. We encourage you to let our CWRR Specialists perform a Wildfire Risk Assessment for your home. The Specialists will propose a Fuel Reduction Plan, which you can perform yourself, organize a work party for, hire a contractor, or request assistance with.

Glide Revitalization will organize volunteer work parties to perform fuel mitigation work and will be organizing community chipping days. Glide Fire has limited CWRR grant funds to help some qualifying homeowners by organizing licensed contractors to limb trees, clear brush, and chip fuels. Glide Fire plans to have chipping contractors travel through residential areas on specified dates to chip limbs cut and piled by residents. Once mitigation work is done, Glide Fire's CWRR Specialists will reevaluate your property to ensure that the work has been properly completed.

Contact a Glide Fire CWRR Specialist at 541-285-2575 or cwrr@glidefire.org for more information or to schedule an appointment with our CWRR Specialists. **By working together with our neighbors to reduce fuels around homes, we will be helping protect the lives and homes in our community from loss due to wildfire!**