

# MAINE 2025 TREX

## Information and Nomination Details

### September 14 - 26, 2025

### Porter, Maine



#### General Information:

**Program Details:** The objective of this two-week prescribed fire training exchange (TREX) program in Southern/Western Maine (ME TREX) is to facilitate peer-to-peer, experiential learning for prescribed fire professionals and others interested in advancing their understanding of innovative tools to restore fire-adapted ecosystems. Participants will learn, practice, and share knowledge, skills, and experience in a unique, hands-on training environment focused on the ecological, social, communications, monitoring, and operational dimensions of planning and implementing prescribed fire.

In a coordinated effort, ME TREX will be organized and implemented using the Incident Command System. Participants will serve in qualified and trainee firefighting positions on a burn team and will assist with preparing, scouting, briefing, igniting, holding, mop-up, and patrol on numerous prescribed burns in the area. We will also complete pre- and post-fire monitoring, train with equipment, practice fireline leadership skills, and learn about local fire ecology and fire management. The training will include field trips to management treatment areas including previously burned areas in recent wild and prescribed fires, presentations from local scientists, land managers, and practitioners. Additionally, participants will practice developing key messages and using them for media interviews and outreach efforts will be implemented to increase public understanding of how prescribed fire can be used as a tool in forest restoration.

**Program Sponsorship:** The 2025 ME TREX is made possible thanks generous contributions of room and board (for non-local participants), training materials, instruction, cadre, and local resources by The Nature Conservancy of Maine, Fire Learning Network, Forest Stewards Guild, North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange and The Maine Prescribed Fire Council.

**Event Dates:** September 14 - 26, 2025. Attendees are encouraged/expected to attend the entire two weeks to ensure maximal training benefit and team cohesion. A limited number of positions for short-term rotation may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Location:** 'Base Camp' will be at the Maine Teen Camp located at 481 Brownfield Road, Porter, ME. Participants will be traveling from base camp to burn sites located throughout southern and western Maine with possible regional travel within a 2-hour radius. Carpooling is encouraged and those flying in airport pickup can be coordinated.

**Travel/Compensation:** Participants and/or employers are responsible for all travel logistics and costs to the ME TREX in Porter Maine, as well as logistical and administrative arrangements regarding paid or vacation time, and any overtime accrued during the ME TREX.

**Fees:** The participation fee of \$500.00 is due upon selection and acceptance to the program. Scholarship is available to help cover the participation fee as needed. Please contact Tim Bickford ([timothy.a.bickford2.nfg@army.mil](mailto:timothy.a.bickford2.nfg@army.mil)) or Jon Bailey ([jbailey@tnc.org](mailto:jbailey@tnc.org)) for more information.

#### Nomination Submission Information

All interested applicants are encouraged to read the full TREX Program information and requirements listed below prior to completing the nomination form. More information, in addition to that provided below, can be found on the program can be found at the [ME TREX website](#) and [TREX Toolkit](#).

**Nomination Submission:** All individuals interested in the 2025 ME TREX must complete and submit the online nomination [form](#) by **May 1, 2025**.

**Selection:** Participant selections will be announced by May 30, 2025, via email notification. Registration packets, provided with email notification, must be completed, and returned along with the \$500 program fee by June 20, 2025, in order to be fully accepted into the training program.

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## **Pre-Nomination Information & Participant Requirements**

### **General**

**Commitments:** ME TREX requires a two-week commitment for a majority of the training positions. A limited number of positions for short-term rotation may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, there is a high demand for this training with limited enrollment slots and for many, requires advanced planning and coordination.

**Supervisor Engagement:** To most effectively ensure commitment and enrollment, it is strongly suggested that you receive your supervisor's approval prior to participation.

**Travel and Wages:** If you are a paid employee, home units will be responsible for paying your wages while participating in ME TREX. Participants and/or employers are responsible for all travel costs and logistical and administrative (vacation/overtime) arrangements.

**Insurance:** Non-federal participants must show proof of personal or employer provided medical insurance prior to the training.

**Government Employees:** Please note that a "**P Code**" will not be assigned to this project incident.

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### **Qualifications**

**Minimum Training and Currency:** ALL participants must meet minimum training requirement per NWCG 310-1 or Canadian equivalent to participate in TREX. If you do NOT hold a current Incident Qualification Card (i.e., Red Card), you must be able to provide proof of currency of minimum training requirements, including annual refresher (RT-130) and arduous work capacity test.

### **Task Book Focus, Status and Evaluation:**

**Task Book Training Positions:** During the ME TREX, there will be opportunities for the evaluation of the following open position task books:

- RXM2
- RXB2
- ICT4
- FIRB
- ENGB/CRWB
- TFLD
- FFT1/ICT5
- FEMO/FOBS

**Task Book Status:** All task books must have already been open and active prior to ME TREX participation. ME TREX cadre and operational staff cannot initiate new task books.

**Task Book Jurisdiction/Evaluator:** There will be opportunities to serve as trainee and trainer, with task evaluation and signing provided by an individual outside your agency/jurisdiction especially as this program engages a diversity of wildland fire professionals. It is encouraged that this opportunity is discussed with your supervisor and/or training officer proactively address and ensure maximal training and qualification benefit is achieved in compliance with your home agency. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

**Task Book Qualification Achievement Expectations:** While the ME TREX cadre and operational staff will do their best to create as many training opportunities as safely as possible, no guarantees can be made regarding the number of trainee assignments that will be available, nor the completion of task books as numerous factors, especially weather influence the occurrence of daily burn operations.

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## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Participants are required to have all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including:

1. Home agency/Compact approved Fireline-approved boots (all leather work boots, 8 inches tall, non-slip soles)
2. Fireline pack
3. Next Generation Fire Shelter
4. Hard hat
5. Nomex clothing
6. All leather gloves
7. Eye protection
8. Water Bottles

If you are unable to provide some or all of your own PPE, please indicate needs in the nomination form.

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## Equipment Contributions

The TREX program relies heavily on vehicles, equipment and tools brought by participants to build out a self-sufficient team, capable of moving around southern-western Maine (including travel within a 2-hour radius) and to work alongside local resources on prescribed fires. This includes fully outfitted Type 4 and Type 6 Engines, 4 Wheel Drive Pickup Trucks, Drip Torches, Hand tools, PPE, Handheld Radios (Bendix King preferred, with participants responsible for programming other radio types) and other such resources as available. It is for this reason, the potential for equipment contributions from nominees is one criterion applied to participant selection.

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## Further Questions?

If you have any questions on ME TREX, please contact: Tim Bickford ([timothy.a.bickford2.nfg@army.mil](mailto:timothy.a.bickford2.nfg@army.mil))  
Maine Army National Guard or Jon Bailey ([jbailey@tnc.org](mailto:jbailey@tnc.org)), The Nature Conservancy - Maine



*The METREX is hosted by Maine Prescribed Fire Council and funding from The Nature Conservancy in Maine, Fire Learning Network and Forest Stewards Guild. The Fire Learning Network is supported by Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*