

Adopt Your Favorite Lookout!

Simply put, Volunteer Fire Lookout Hosts can't keep the lookouts open without your help.

We're inviting you to **"Adopt-A-Lookout"** to help us keep all seven historic lookouts maintained and staffed.

Everyone who *Adopts a Lookout* will receive the following:

- \$25 Decal and a certificate noting your adopted Lookout.
- \$50 The above plus a detailed history of your Lookout.
- \$100 All the above plus an 8x10 color photo of your Lookout.
- \$500 All the above plus a private tour of your Lookout.
- \$1,000+ Your name on a special recognition plaque in the Lookout and all of the above.

Contact the Fire Lookout Host Coordinators if interested. Pam or George Morey (909) 225-1025

Fire Lookout Host Program 602 Tippecanoe Ave. San Bernardino, CA 92408

The Fire Lookout Host Program is a partnership between the U.S Forest Service and the Southern California Mountains Foundation.



For more information visit
mountainsfoundaiton.org/fire-lookouts

FIRE LOOKOUT HOST PROGRAM



Fire Lookout Hosts strive to provide an enjoyable experience to Lookout guests so that their visit to the forest is complete and well rounded. By providing this service we can help preserve the Lookouts, increase public awareness, and create a desire among visitors to conserve and help care for public lands. Fire Lookout Hosts assist the pre-suppression and suppression units of the Forest Service by watching for and reporting smoke, fire, and collecting and reporting weather data.

The Fire Lookout Host Program

The first known Fire Lookout in America was located in downtown Harlem, New York. A heavy duty iron bell tower and observation cupola was built in 1856, on a hilltop in what is now Marcus Garvey City Park. The tower still stands to this day. In the early 1900's fire detection and suppression became a priority. Towers began to be built across the country; earlier lookouts were on high peaks, in tall trees with platforms built in them. The fire watchers lived in tents and were often the ones to fight the fire.

In the 1910's construction standards were put in place and soon thereafter, wooden cabs and steel towers began to be built for the fire watchers. In 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) formed and was assigned to various public works projects. Building Fire Lookouts was one of those projects. In the peak of building Fire Lookouts there were over 600 built in California alone.

In the 1970's and early 1980's these historic buildings were being closed due to urbanization in the foothills, use of aircraft, budget cuts, smog, and new technology. Many of these buildings were burned, lost in wildfires, vandalized and torn down. Here on the San Bernardino National Forest seven of those historic Lookouts were spared.

Today, through partnership with the San Bernardino National Forest and the Southern California Mountains Foundation (SCMF), the Fire Lookouts once again serve our local mountains.

Visit a Lookout Today!

Come enjoy endless views while learning about Lookouts and the forest they protect. Volunteer Hosts welcome visitors and enjoy explaining how these historic structures are part of modern fire detection and suppression efforts.



Tahquitz Peak Lookout located in Idyllwild was refurbished, reopened and has been staffed since October 17, 1998.

The Fire Lookouts are maintained and staffed by more than 300 dedicated and highly trained volunteers who give more than 17,000 volunteer hours each year. Lookout Hosts work from May through November spotting smoke, educating visitors about the history of the Fire Lookouts, mountain ecology, and keeping the Lookouts a vibrant part of our local mountains. Some are even re-open in winter during the Santa Ana winds.

A Fire Lookout Volunteer looks at a smoke from Strawberry Peak Fire Lookout.



Butler Peak Lookout, located in Fawnskin, was reopened in 1986 by “The Friends of the Forest”. In 1993 SCMF was formed and the Fire Lookout Host Program Volunteers merged to staff the lookout.



A Fire Lookout Volunteer is reading the azimuth of a smoke sighting and transferring to reporting form



Fire Lookout Cook Book

Proceeds from “Cookin’ with Fire Lookouts” helps preserve these historic towers. The original source of the recipes are hand-me-down family recipes, newspaper clippings, and long-lost cookbooks. To order a cookbook send \$15.00 minimum donation per book plus \$3.50 for shipping to:

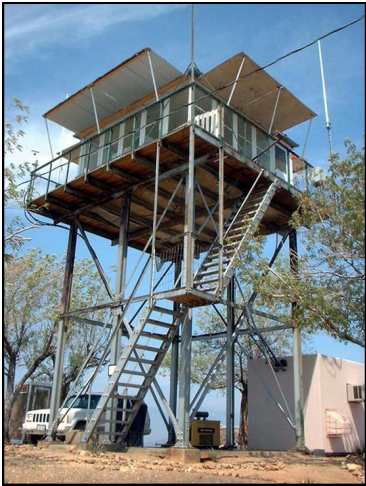
Fire Lookout Hosts Cookbook
602 South Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92408



Watching for Wildfire

Wildfire is a constant threat to our Southern California National Forests and that’s why it’s so important to keep our Fire Lookouts operating. Did you know that there are seven Fire Lookouts in the San Bernardino National Forest protecting our forest and nearby communities?

Morton Peak Lookout located above Yucaipa was refurbished, reopened and has been staffed since 2001.



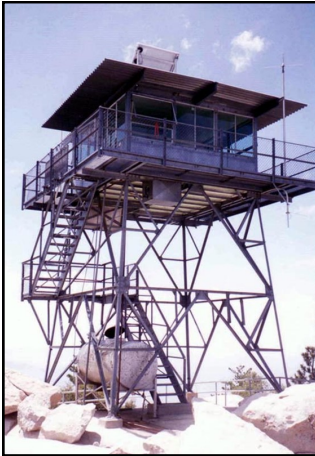
Red Mountain Lookout located in Anza was refurbished, reopened and has been staffed since June 5, 1999.



Keller Peak Lookout located in Running Springs was reopened in 1985 by “The Rim of the World Interpretive Association”. In 1993 SCMF was formed and the Fire Lookout Host Program Volunteers merged to staff the lookout.



Strawberry Peak Lookout located in Twin Peaks was reopened in 1982 by “The Rim of the World Interpretive Association”. In 1993 SCMF was formed and the Fire Lookout Host Program Volunteers merged to staff the lookout.



Black Mountain Lookout located in Pine Cove was refurbished, reopened and has been staffed since September 1996.

A Fire Lookout Volunteer is calling in a smoke sighting to San Bernardino FCC



Become a Fire Lookout Host

Each year training takes place for new volunteers in the month of **April**. There are four mandatory training classes:

- 1. Orientation (2 hours)
- 2. Interpretation/Natural History (3 hours)
- 3. Operations (7 hours)

We offer several dates and locations for each of these classes. After the classroom training, new volunteers will also be required to complete 8 and 1/2 hours of “In-Tower” training in the Lookout of their choice. This is the first actual shift in a Lookout with an experienced Lookout Host. A Fire Lookout Host is **required** to volunteer a minimum of **8 and 1/2 hours** per month in any Lookout they choose.