



The Prairie Enthusiasts



2026 Burn School Next Steps

This document is designed to give anyone who attended the classroom portion of Burn School through our annual virtual conference or live event the information you need to complete the next steps for becoming a certified Burn Crew member with The Prairie Enthusiasts.

Step One: Watch Burn School Conference Sessions

The first step is to make sure you have attended either our annual Burn School through our virtual conference or completed the classroom portion of Burn School through one of our Chapters. All the material presented is quite important. If you would like to know more about upcoming Burn School opportunities, contact Info@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org or reach out to your local Chapter.



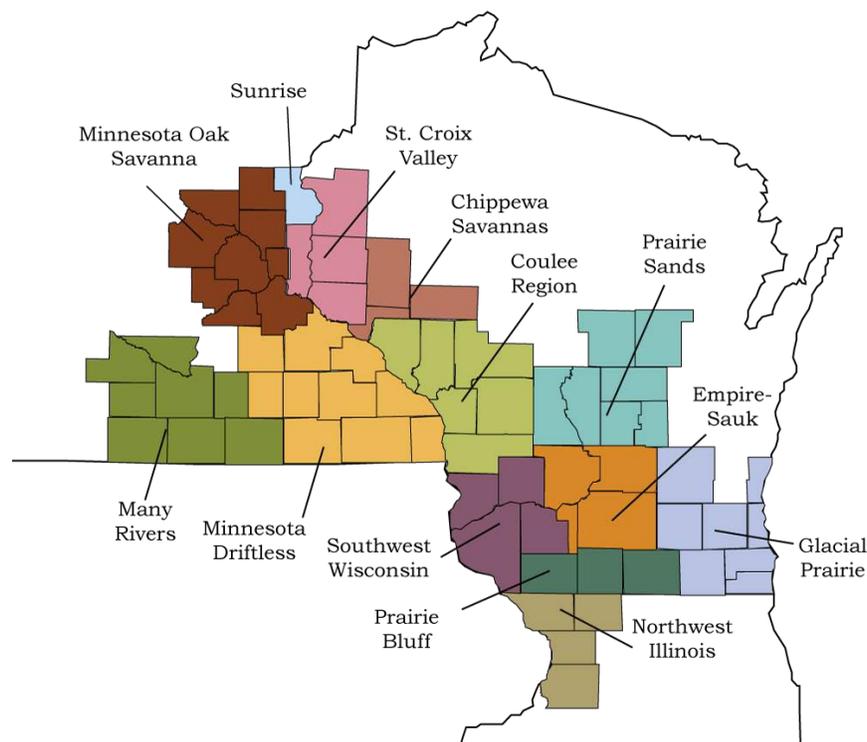
Photo of Minnesota Driftless Chapter Burn School by TJ Boettcher

Step Two: Contact Chapter and Complete Field Training Session

The next step is to complete a field training session put on by one of our 13 local Chapters. This is primarily to give you some exposure to the burn tools and equipment, and in some cases some experience with handling live fire. All our Chapters do this a little differently – some as a separate program, some as part of an annual refresher for all of their members, some just prior to the first burn of the spring season, some just on the day of a scheduled burn prior to the burn.

Since we do not know which Chapter is closest for you or with which you would like to burn, you will need to reach out yourself to the appropriate Chapter burn coordinator to find out about their field training program and sessions. Let them know you have just completed Burn School. Where you go is totally up to you.

You can find a map of our Chapter territories [HERE](#). You can find the contact information for the Chapter burn coordinators below.



Chapter Burn Coordinators and Contacts

Chippewa Savannas Chapter

Kathy Ruggles ([EMAIL](#))

Coulee Region Chapter

Jim Rogala ([EMAIL](#))

Empire-Sauk Chapter

Rich Henderson ([EMAIL](#))

Glacial Prairie Chapter

Dan Carter ([EMAIL](#))

Many Rivers Chapter

Tom Romaine ([EMAIL](#))

Minnesota Driftless Chapter

Stephen Winter ([EMAIL](#))

Minnesota Oak Savanna Chapter

Alex Carroll ([EMAIL](#))

Northwest Illinois Chapter

Ryan Hance ([EMAIL](#))

Prairie Bluff Chapter

Fred Faessler ([EMAIL](#))

***Prairie Sands Chapter**

Matt Dettlaff ([EMAIL](#))

St. Croix Valley Chapter

Evanne Hunt ([EMAIL](#))

***Sunrise Chapter**

Martha Rueter ([EMAIL](#))

**Note that the Prairie Sands Chapter and Sunrise Chapter do not currently have an active Chapter burn program, so you will need to get your field training and apprenticeship burns done elsewhere. Contact the Chapter contact for additional information.*



Photo of Glacial Prairie Chapter burn and crew by Helen Holtz

Step Three: Serve as an Apprentice Crew Member on The Prairie Enthusiasts Burns

Once you have completed your field training session, you will need to serve as an Apprentice Crew Member on two different The Prairie Enthusiasts burns. Prior to the Apprentice Burn, you will need to sign the The Prairie Enthusiasts Burn Volunteer contract, in which you agree to abide by the The Prairie Enthusiasts Burn Policy.

During these Apprentice burns, you will be assigned a mentor to help explain what is going on and assist you in learning the techniques. Please try to work in as many of the different crew roles on these burns as you can. Forms for prescribed burning can be found [HERE](#).

Step Four: Become Burn Certified!

After you have completed your second Apprentice burn, please request with the Chapter burn coordinator that you be placed on the list of certified Burn Crew members.



Photo of Empire-Sauk Chapter burn crew by Eric Preston

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Cassidy at Chapter Support at CCoulson@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org. Keep an eye on the events calendar for future events.

Good luck, have fun, and stay safe!

[Events Calendar](#)

With heartfelt gratitude,

The Prairie Enthusiasts

Chapter Support Staff

P.S. Members make it possible! Through their financial support, members help make our shared vision possible. A gift at any amount makes you a member of The Prairie Enthusiasts community. If you're not already a member, please join us—give today!

[Donate](#)

Questions? Contact Cassidy Coulson at CCoulson@ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org.

This document was last updated February 2026.

*Header Photo by Gary Shackelford.
Background Photo by Rob Baller.*



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