

FIRE SCHOOL

MINISTRY TRAINING FOR THE HARVEST

Student Manual

Greetings,

Welcome to the beginning of a journey that, should you choose to walk it out, will completely change your life! The information that you will find on these pages is here to help answer your questions about Fire School and help you understand the expectations and responsibilities you have as a student. Fire School is committed to raising up a generation who will be trained, equipped, and mobilized to transform their own cities and the nations of the world. Our staff has committed their lives to this call. We are taking His command and empowerment seriously in order to see His Kingdom come to change the world.

Please feel free to contact the staff if you have any questions regarding the school or the admissions process. May God's blessing be on you and your family! We pray for an outpouring of His presence on you. May your life be wrecked for His purposes!

Fire School Information

Fire School is a Christian ministry training school with an emphasis on impartation and equipping students for a life of supernatural discipleship. The school specializes in training radical followers of Jesus who are ready to be mobilized into the greatest harvest of souls in Church history. Fire School is a non-accredited academic institution. Courses are only offered on-site at The River in Kalispell, MT. Upon completion of each program year, a Certificate of Completion will be awarded. Fire School is a ministry of The River.

The Fire School student body is diverse in age, culture, ministry experience and educational accomplishments. From high school graduates to retirees, all come together seeking more of God through this school of supernatural ministry. God's truth, love, and power are key values of our school and are reflected in our worship, outreach and personal relationships.

Why "fire"?

Because "our God is a consuming fire" (Heb 12:29) and this present unfolding move of the Spirit will be released by disciples who have been touched by and release the fire of God. Their lives will be marked by these fiery characteristics:

Power - "Be assured today that the Lord your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire. He will destroy them; He will subdue them before you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them quickly" Deut 9:3.

Elijah was a man like us who brought the forces of the kingdom of darkness to its knees by bringing a confrontation of power through fire.

At Fire School you will:

- Learn who you are in Christ
- Learn the basis of your authority and power in Christ and how to use it
- Be trained in doing the powerful works of Jesus and how to release them
- You will learn how to live from heaven toward earth and partner with the hosts of heaven as they bring in the harvest

Passion - "His eyes were like a flame of fire" Rev 1:14

The Bride of Christ in these last days will carry a burning love that looks like a cross. They will not be complacent but they will be the forceful ones who seize the Kingdom of God and release it on earth at any cost.

At Fire School you will:

- Learn how to develop a lifestyle of worship as it is in heaven
- Be challenged to walk in the fullness of God's love that casts out all fear
- Learn how to live as "laid down lovers" of the Bridegroom
- Be challenged to develop a zeal for the Lord and His harvest in the earth

Purity - "For He is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap...and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness" Malachi 3:2,3

The end-time army of God will also be that glorious bride, without spot or wrinkle. She will come into full measure of the stature of Christ that will truly carry the brightness of the glory of God in the midst of a lost and perverse generation.

At Fire School you will:

- Learn to walk in the power of the resurrected life
- Learn the power of holiness to defeat the world, the flesh and the devil
- Learn God's keys to promotion and how to attract favor with God and man
- Learn the pathway and power of the character and maturity of Christ

Purpose - "I have come to cast fire upon the earth" Luke 12:49

The end-time followers of Jesus will be caught up in the cause of Christ, giving themselves wholly to His vision and what He is building. They will be the revivalists who take dominion and influence every part of society for the Kingdom.

At Fire School you will:

- Learn to develop your sense of destiny in God
- Discover your God-given gifts, dreams, callings and purpose
- Develop the heart of a servant-leader
- Learn how to maximize your potential to change the world

Fire School Staff

Paul Arends // Founder, President

Margie Arends // Founder, Executive Director
Email: margie@therivermontana.com

John Arends // Instructor, Worship
Email: john@therivermontana.com

We have many other wonderful, part-time volunteers who will also be serving you at Fire School. They are leaders in from The River and Cowboy Church, and several others are Fire School Alumni. You will meet them as the school progresses. Our staff may be contacted by email or by contacting the church office by phone: (406)752-4141.

Weekly Schedule

Fire School has the following required classroom hours:

Sunday: 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Tuesday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM

Thursday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM

Important Dates for the 2014-2015 School Year

Registration: Open until August 31st – Late registration considered on a case by case basis. Late fees will apply.

First day of class: September 16th

Thanksgiving Break: November 24 – December 1st

Christmas break: December 19th - January 5th

No School Easter: April 5th

Mother's Day Break: May 10th

Last day of class: May 21st

Graduation/Commissioning Service: May 24th

Admissions Information

In order to attend Fire School, prospective students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Have a genuine “born again” experience (if you are not familiar with this concept, one of our staff would be happy to speak with you)
2. Be at least 18 years old
3. Have completed high school or possess a GED or its equivalent (exceptions made with written approval of the Director)
4. Agree with Fire School’s Statement of Faith (see the end of this manual)
5. Complete and turn in an application along with all required references
6. Pay all associated tuition fees
7. Have access to a computer in order to facilitate communication. (Speak to our staff if this is a problem for you.)

Financial Information

Fire School charges a standard tuition of \$1,500, which covers classes, books, admission to conferences put on by The River, and local outreaches. Tuition does not include meals, housing, or any other additional missions trips.

In the event that a student withdraws from school prior to December 31st, they may receive a pro-rated refund figured by calculating the remaining weeks of school minus a \$500 withdrawal fee. Tuition is non-refundable after December 31st.

Application Fee: \$35. – Non-refundable, not applied toward tuition

Total Tuition: \$1,500. – May be paid by cash, check, or money order. Credit card payments will also be accepted provided that the student can demonstrate ability to pay when the credit card payment is due.

International Mission Outreach: \$2,200. – Fire School students will have the opportunity to participate in an international mission outreach as part of their ministry training experience. (Possible outreach locations include Thailand, Malaysia, India, or Rwanda.) This is a life-changing opportunity. However, students are NOT required to go on the trip. This money is not due until the time of the trip.

Discounts

Young Adult Discount: We offer a discount for individuals under 30.

Married Couple Discount: A discount of \$500 will be given to married couples who attend the school together (total tuition will be \$2,500).

Module Discount: If you have completed any of our previous modules, we will deduct the amount you paid for those from your tuition (\$50 per module).

Early Bird discount: \$50 discount if the first payment is paid by July 11th or \$100 discount if tuition is paid in full by July 11th. (See information about payments below.)

Standard Tuition Schedule

By August 31st, the first \$750 of the student's tuition is due. Upon acceptance, this non-refundable confirmation deposit holds the student's place in the school. By October 17, the remaining \$750 of the student's tuition is due.

Monthly Tuition Schedule

If a student would like to pay for school monthly instead of using the Standard Tuition Schedule, he or she may arrange a meeting with our staff to discuss the possibility of a monthly payment schedule. There is a one-time fee of \$100 to set up a monthly payment plan. The \$1500 yearly tuition will be divided into 8 payments of \$187.50 per month. Those students must sign a separate agreement provided by the staff.

Late payment: Add a \$50 late fee for each payment not received on time. If payments are not made on time and no arrangements for payment have been made with the staff, the student will not be allowed to attend classes.

Tuition Contribution

Contributions given for individual students will be applied to their account. Checks should be made out to The River. The student's name should NOT appear on the check, but on a separate note attached to the donation. Any amount that exceeds that student's tuition will be applied to a fund for scholarships, mission trips, outreaches etc. Contributions for tuition are NOT tax deductible, but gifts to the school or for the mission outreach trips ARE tax deductible.

Student Responsibilities and Policies

Priorities and Honor

During your time here, it is important that you choose to make our school your priority over other activities and events. In order to make the most of our time together, students must give themselves over to what God has for all of us here and now. Any exceptions are at the discretion of the Staff. Your primary focus will be on growing in your relationship with Christ and learning together with the student body as a whole. In order to maintain these priorities, we expect that you will:

- Focus on God and the entire student body, not on the opposite gender
- Make it your goal to be all-inclusive in relationships and avoid cliques or exclusive personal relationships
- In all cases possible, allow men to minister to other men and women to minister to other women
- Submit any prophecies given to you to the proper staff authorities

We expect that students will honor God and His ways. In addition, we expect the students to honor those in leadership and your fellow students. This includes your speech, your actions, and your attitudes. Finally, we expect students to honor each other and the people we minister to. In order to honor God, the leaders, and others:

- Give your full attention during this school year both in class and outside class
- Avoid distractions in your life and avoid distracting others
- Avoid leaving class unnecessarily, impromptu gatherings in the foyer, cell phone use or other loud activities that might keep you from focusing on the Lord or prevent others from focusing on Him
- Be considerate of others' time and space by being careful not to keep them from ministering to others, completing their homework, or their personal activities etc.

Requirements for Certificate of Completion

To receive a Certificate of Completion from Fire School, each student must have:

- Satisfactorily completed required readings, book reports, and assignments
- Satisfactorily completed Bible reading and quizzes
- Paid all tuition balances
- Complied with the attendance and outreach policy

There will be a Commissioning Ceremony the Sunday after the last day of classes.

A student's Certificate of Completion may be in jeopardy if he or she has

- unexcused class absences of 2 or more

- unexcused tardiness to class of 5 or more
- unexcused late assignments of 3 or more
- unexcused missed outreaches of 2 or more

Absences and Tardiness: Class attendance is not optional. All missed class sessions, excused or unexcused, must be made up by listening to the recording (purchased from The River) from the missed day and writing a report on the session missed in order to receive a Certificate of Completion. Personal recording or video taping of classes is prohibited.

Excused Absences or Tardiness: It is expected that students notify the staff when they know they will not be in class. A request for permission to miss more than a single class should be submitted in writing to the director. In order to be considered excused, written permission must be obtained from the director with the exception of missing a single meeting due to an emergency. The following reasons may be considered “excused absences” or “excused tardiness,” although the student is still responsible for making up the class:

- A ministry opportunity that the staff have approved in writing
- A medical problem affecting a student or a family member whom they are responsible for
- A situation that is out of student’s control that is approved in writing by the director as an excused absence
- A conference, trip or some other “receiving” opportunity that is approved in writing by the director

Examples of absences or tardiness that will *not* be excused include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Deciding you are just too tired to show up or sleeping too long
- Just needing personal space or time to “process with God” instead of joining with the class
- You are in a bad mood and decide not to participate with the class
- You decide to go hunting or to hang out with friends instead of coming to class

Homework: Fire School students will be expected to read certain assigned books (and/or listen to recorded material) and to write a report on the materials they have studied.

Reports are to be typed using a 12pt font size and be a minimum of two full pages in length or a maximum of four full pages. Include the following information on the heading of all reports:

- Your name
- Date
- Book Title
- Author's name

Each student is expected to read through the Bible during the school year. The Bible reading requirement is a minimum of 15 minutes per day. A guide for daily reading will be provided. Report forms for each period will be provided for the student. Weekly quizzes will be given on each week's Bible reading assignments. These quizzes will be an essential part of achieving a certificate of completion. Our goal is for each student to develop a lifestyle of daily spending time in God's Word.

Church Attendance: As a part of training all students are expected to participate in one of our church services each week (either on Sunday morning at The River or in the evening at Flathead Valley Cowboy Church). We believe commitment to a local church is extremely vital for personal growth and spiritual renewal. It is necessary to relate to people of all ages, to see the Church in action, to have practical outlets for ministry and to get involved with a local body of believers. Students will be required to sign in order to demonstrate attendance at church meetings. Attendance exceptions will be made on a case by case basis and only with written permission from the director.

Service: Every student is expected to serve the local church in some capacity. Jesus came to serve, and we expect that students will also serve as they progress in their discipleship. Areas of service will be determined as students work with school staff.

Outreach: Outside of class time students are required to go on outreaches as scheduled. Anticipated time per outreach is approximately 2-3 hours. Students may attend any organized outreach event of The River or any outreach approved by the school staff. Attendance will be tracked by small group leaders. Though Fire School organizes outreach opportunities for students to live out what they learn in class, we do not believe that this is the only place that the supernatural is put into action. Students are taught to live in the supernatural culture of Christianity daily!

There will be opportunity in class for students to share testimonies of God's power. Students are encouraged to write down miracles that happen while on outreach (and daily life) in a journal and to share these testimonies with the class.

Small Groups: Students will meet in small groups, during class times, throughout the school year. The purpose of these groups is to build trusting relationships, give opportunity for processing book reading and class topics and to facilitate accountability both personally and with school requirements. The groups will be gender specific in order to increase the level of security in sharing. More details about small groups will be given in class before small groups begin.

Fire School Policies

Name Badges: Each student will be given a name badge at the beginning of the school year. The name badge also serves as the student's clearance into conferences. A \$20.00 replacement fee will be charged if a student name badge is lost.

Computers/Electronics and Usage: You may bring a laptop to class for the purpose of note taking only. Games, surfing the net, working on other personal items, etc. are not permitted during class time. Cell phones, tablets, iPods and similar devices must be on silent mode or powered off. Texting is not permitted during class unless granted permission by staff.

Intellectual Property: The use of the Fire School name and logo must be approved by the director.

Childcare: We will not be able to provide child care during class sessions. Bringing children to teaching sessions is not allowed without prior approval from our staff.

Speaking Engagements: Since students minister as representatives of Fire School, all itinerant ministry opportunities must be approved by the school staff. Students may not confirm speaking engagements until they have approval. First year students need to be focused on the Fire School program and sensitive to what God is doing in their lives at that time. For this reason, outside speaking engagements will be the exception for first year students. All students are prohibited from soliciting speaking engagements without prior approval from the school staff.

Honorariums paid for speaking engagements may be made payable to the student speaker directly. Students are responsible for paying tithes and reporting the income on their personal taxes.

Student Guest Attendance: If a student has a guest that would like to come to class, a \$25 fee per class day will be assessed. Each request to bring a student guest to class must be submitted to the staff in advance. Guests will NOT be allowed during sessions with guest speakers. NOTICE: Our staff may restrict class sizes. Please submit all requests early for approval.

Guidelines for Conduct

These are guidelines, not rules in a legalistic sense, and are meant to be obeyed from the heart. So let us allow God to deal with our hearts individually and as a community together.

Christian Conduct

All students are a part of the mission of Fire School and each is expected and required to conduct themselves in their personal lives in such a way as to complement the image and mission of Fire School, The River (local church), and the Kingdom of God.

Dress Code

The aim of the Fire School is to encourage students to engage in a pure spiritual environment. Therefore, students should dress in a manner that does not distract from the primary mission of the program and they should maintain appropriate standards of modesty and safety in attire. Students are encouraged to demonstrate by their dress and appearance a mature Christian attitude and the ability to discern propriety. Our dress and grooming communicate a great deal to others about our personal values and attitudes. Accurately or not, others do form first impressions about our character by the way we dress and present ourselves. Part of the educational process, then is to learn to dress appropriately.

We ask that students wear modest clothing that fits in a reasonable manner (not too tight or too loose) and that is not too revealing. Specifically, proper attire includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- No shorts or skirts that are too short. Shorts and skirts should fit so that they never reveal undergarments, whether the student is standing, sitting, bending over, or reaching for something above.
- No bare midriffs or cleavage are to be shown. Shirts should cover these areas whether the student is standing, sitting, bending over, or reaching for something above.
- No spaghetti-strap tank tops. Sleeveless tops are to have a strap at least an inch in width and must adequately cover undergarments in order to be worn without a covering or undershirt.
- Profane or offensive language or images on T-shirts or other articles of clothing are prohibited. These include (but are not limited to) language, graphics, or scenes which are sexually suggestive, crude, vulgar, violent, or racist in motivation, or that promote the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any illegal substance or activity.

Whether particular articles of clothing are inappropriate or not is at the discretion of the staff and administrators.

Substance Free Living

Students attending Fire School agree not to possess or use alcohol, tobacco, smokeless tobacco or other illegal substances. Students who violate the conditions will be subject to disciplinary action, including fines, sanctions, and expulsion.

Dating and Romantic Relationships

The general approach of the administration of Fire School is that the student's primary priority for the season of enrollment at Fire School is their developing spiritual and academic training. Therefore dating will be discouraged for currently unattached singles. In any case it shall be expected that dating should not interfere or distract from attendance and focus. Where it becomes evident that a dating relationship is interfering with academic, social, or spiritual development, the student(s) will be appropriately advised.

Purity

Sexual immorality is strictly prohibited by God's Word and therefore by the school. This includes premarital sex, extramarital sex, homosexuality, and any other sexual activity outside the bounds of a Biblical heterosexual marriage. ***Sexual misconduct is immediate grounds for dismissal.***

General Behavior

Scripture teaches that certain attributes and the behaviors which flow out of those attributes are to be nurtured by each believer. As an example, Galatians 5:22-24 encourages us to walk in the "fruit of the Spirit": love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In contrast, the Bible also condemns certain attitudes and actions. Not only do these behaviors displease God, but they will tear down the life of our school community. Some of those behaviors are: stealing, lying, gossip, racist conduct, use of pornography, vulgarity, back biting, sexual promiscuity, drunkenness, carousing or night club activities, brawling, and illegal activities including drug use. Members of the Fire School community are required to commit themselves to Biblical standards of behavior. This commitment serves the good of the individual and fulfills the expectations of community life. Mutual trust and accountability are important values to our community. Therefore, violations of these Biblical standards are considered a breach of integrity within our community and will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Discipline Policy

The goal of Fire School is to create a safe, healthy environment, in which every student can grow and prosper. We recognize that the students of Fire School must be in correct relationship with God and with others in order to ensure completion of the school's mission objectives. The consequences of one's sin or disobedience have the potential to bring confusion and destruction in Fire School. We desire to come along side each

student in loving correction only when necessary. It is our intent to follow the biblical patterns of discipline within the confines of all student activities. If any individual is involved in any sin that cannot, at the discretion of our leadership, be taken care of in a timely manner or would affect the students in an adverse way, our leadership reserves the right to give correction, public rebuke and/or dismissal.

Students that are used in positions of authority, such as outreach leaders, worship leaders, etc. need to be current in book reports, attendance and tuition payments at all times.

Fire School Core Values

Our core values listed below reflect those themes that our staff invest ourselves into. Everything that we do is at some level reflected in one or more of these values.

Impartation. The power and anointing of the Holy Spirit are transferable through the “laying on of hands.”

Outreach. The impartation of power and the blessings of walking in the Kingdom are meant to be given away. Our confession is: “In me, for them.”

Supernatural Lifestyle. All believers were made with the capacity to live in the Kingdom realm of the supernatural. Personal holiness is valued as well as personal gifting.

Prayer. It is only possible to walk in and flow with the heart of the Father, when we maintain the discipline of relational communication with Him.

Leadership Development. In order to be people of cultural influence, we must develop the ability to direct others through Holy Spirit directed and anointed leadership.

Destiny Clarification. Each person has a specific calling/assignment upon their lives. Through the clarification of our calling, we can establish plans to walk into our destiny.

A Culture of Love. We will always seek to relate to you out of love. Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” We must learn to love ourselves biblically, receive God’s love for us, and trust others enough to receive their love.

Empowering Culture. An empowering culture has honor and respect as its core value.

Responsibility. We will never work harder to solve your problems than you will. We will solve problems with you, but not for you.

Accountability. We expect you to give an account for your life within the context of relationship with others.

Risk. Faith is spelled RISK. You will be asked to do things which will be faith/risk steps.

Honor. Always deal with God, your leaders, yourself and each other with honor and respect.

Royalty. You are royalty, princes and princesses of the King. You are not paupers. We want to learn to think and live out of our identity in Jesus Christ.

Supernatural Power. You are in a culture that expects the supernatural to happen often. You will find yourself in situations where it will take a miracle from God to get you through it. These are times to press in and pray.

Honesty. Trust is built on honesty and integrity. Telling half-truths, cheating or lying destroys trust.

Mind of Christ. As a Christian you have the mind of Christ. We want to teach you how to think, more than what to think.

Passion. Passion in worship, passion in outreach, passion in our personal relationships.

Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE that God is the Eternal King. He is an infinite, unchangeable Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, goodness, justice, power and love. From all eternity He exists as the One Living and True God in three persons of one substance, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory.

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom is everlasting. From His throne, through His Son, His eternal Word, God created, upholds and governs all that exists: the heavenly places, the angelic hosts, the universe, the earth, every living thing and mankind. God created all things very good.

WE BELIEVE that God created mankind in His image, male and female, for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth. Under the temptation of Satan, our original parents fell from grace, bringing sin, sickness and God's judgment of death to the earth. Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good creation. Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin. Human beings are born in sin, subject to God's judgment of death and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness.

WE BELIEVE that God did not abandon His rule over the earth which He continues to uphold by His providence. In order to bring redemption, God established covenants which revealed His grace to sinful people. In the covenant with Abraham, God bound himself to His people Israel, promising to deliver them from sin and Satan and to bless all the nations through them.

WE BELIEVE that in the fullness of time, God honored His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation by sending His only Son, Jesus, into the world. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, as fully God and fully man in one person, He is humanity as God intended us to be. Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit, inaugurating God's Kingdom reign on earth, overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation, preaching the good news of salvation, healing the sick, casting out demons and raising the dead. Gathering His disciples, He reconstituted God's people as His, dying for the sins of the world; Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the church. The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us for spiritual worship, personal sanctification, building up the Church, gifting us for ministry and driving back the kingdom of Satan by the evangelization of the world through proclaiming the word of Jesus and doing the works of Jesus.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is our abiding Helper, Teacher and Guide. We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit

and in the exercise of all biblical gifts of the Spirit. We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit, for healing, for impartations of gifts of the Holy Spirit and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the church. We also recognize that another of the two ways recorded in the Bible that God empowers people is through individual or corporate prayer and waiting upon God and in this latter scenario there is no laying on of hands. We value both of these ways of receiving impartations and empowering experiences from God.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of the Holy Scripture so that the Bible is "God-breathed." We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

WE BELIEVE that the whole world is under the domination of Satan and that all people are sinners by nature and choice. All people therefore are under God's just judgment. Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, God regenerates, justifies, adopts and sanctifies through Jesus by the Spirit all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign.

WE BELIEVE in the one, holy, universal Church. All who repent of their sins and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and form the living Body of Christ, of which He is the head and all are members.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both are available to all believers.

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ - His return to the earth as King. After Christ returns to reign, He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked. Finally, God will be all in all and His new heavens and the new earth, recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells and in which He will forever be worshiped.