

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection CAL FIRE Training Center



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CAL FIRE to Partner with Torlakson Whole Child Institute for Middle School Career Exploration

IONE, CA – The CAL FIRE Training Center in Ione, in partnership with the Torlakson Whole Child Institute (TWCI), will host its first career exploration field trip for middle school students. This initiative, titled "Innovation Generation," is designed to introduce middle school students to careers in the trades, with a special focus on the diverse opportunities available within CAL FIRE.

The inaugural field trip is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 2025, and will welcome students from Ione Junior High School to the Training Center. During the four-hour visit, students will participate in hands-on activities and directly interact with CAL FIRE professionals from various fields, including Automotive Services, Culinary Arts, Maintenance Mechanics, Law Enforcement, and Firefighting.

The partnership aims to inspire early interest in career paths that do not require a traditional college degree, while raising awareness among students, families, and the community about the many career opportunities within CAL FIRE. The program will also highlight Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways available in high school that can help students prepare for career opportunities with CAL FIRE.

Looking ahead, the program could expand to include mentoring opportunities, allowing CAL FIRE employees to support students who demonstrate strong interests in careers with additional fire departments and training centers across the state. The program's impact will be amplified through traditional and social media coverage, and CAL FIRE and TWCI are exploring ways to extend the initiative to local fire departments and training centers.

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