

FAC Leader Engagement Action Sheet

Creating Connections & Building Momentum in Your Community

Ideas for Action — HOA & Non-HOA Communities

These are activities for both FAC leaders and committee members.
Consider breaking into small groups to divide tasks.

Simple Outreach & Social Actions

- **Walk the neighborhood with flyers** — especially to welcome new homeowners.
 - **Host impromptu meetups** in open spaces (e.g., wooded lot, cul-de-sac).
 - **Organize social events around holidays:**
 - July 4th BBQ, Halloween block party, spring clean-up day.
 - The key is the more events and activities, the more volunteers you can bring in and the more action you can take.
 - **Coffee shop gatherings or garden meetups** to chat casually.
 - **Create a phone tree** to stay connected and alert neighbors.
 - **Use community boards or Facebook groups** for announcements.
 - **Host pop-up events** — invite neighbors to your garden or hold doggie get-togethers to connect with younger families.
 - **Hand out Go Bags** with preparedness materials to new homeowners; make one-on-one contact through Street Ambassadors and Meet & Greets.
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Community Engagement & Outreach

- **Connect with local realtors** to welcome and educate new buyers.
- **Reach out to second homeowners** during holiday events.
- Attend and speak at **HOA meetings**.
- Join **FAC monthly meetings** to stay engaged and learn.
- Attend **fire district meetings** to stay informed and build relationships.
- Share info at **neighborhood or block events**.
- **Establish street leaders and divide larger neighborhoods into zones** to manage communication and engagement more effectively.
- Request that **every committee member and every new neighbor connects with their adjacent neighbors and streets** to disseminate the information.

Workdays & Preparedness Activities

- Set up **more than one workday a year** and **have specific areas within a neighborhood for work** to take place i.e. help an elderly homeowner.
- **Host community workdays:**
 - Defensible space clearing
 - Fuel reduction on USFS or CTC lands (also possible on State lands with an exemption)
- **Practice evacuation drills** with neighbors.
- Involve **local high school students** in workdays or outreach events.
- Coordinate with fire districts for **chipping and defensible space demos**.
- Provide **demonstration homes** to showcase defensible space examples.
- Work with **agencies** (e.g., fire districts, Tahoe RCD, refuse and water companies) to host **community cleanup days**.
- **Rent a dumpster** from your local refuse company to remove additional debris.

Funding & Resource Building

- **Fundraise locally to support:**
 - Signage, flyers, food for events
 - Website or newsletter maintenance
- Partner **with local groups and request event support** (Tahoe RCD, CERT, Fire Districts).
- **Grants:**
 - **Parasol Action Grant:** Must be a 501(c)(3) or collaborate with an organization like Kiwanis.
 - **South Lake Tahoe El Dorado Foundation:** Offers South Shore Firewise funds for new groups — up to \$300, up to three separate requests. Use funding one time for a barbecue.
 - Some HOAs have successfully held **wine auctions** to raise funds.
 - Always seek opportunities to **work with other organizations** to expand resources and partnerships.

Community Examples & Success Stories

Spring Creek HOA (4 Years)

- Provides **newsletters, emails, and a group chat** for communication.

- Hosts **many Zoom meetings** (due to part-time residents) and **one annual in-person meeting**.
- **Committee members focused specifically on Firewise coordination.**
- Schedules **multiple workdays each year** and advertises chipping services.
- Organizes a **green waste dumpster** for community use.
- **Committee members assess and inspect lots**, offer feedback, and help residents improve.
- **USFS partnership** has been key — stewardship agreements and state/federal guidance are valued and appreciated.

Al Tahoe (Non-HOA, 4 Years)

- Holds meetings with local agencies and provides **workshops with insurance reps, state officials, and evacuation planners**. These larger meetings on bigger topics reach and engage more people.
- Engages in **town hall discussions with fire agencies**.
- Hosts **cleanup days in partnership** with fire districts, Tahoe RCD, refuse and water companies, and others.
- Created a **demonstration house** as a model for defensible space.
- Applies for **grant funding** (e.g., Marcella Foundation) to fund food for events — BBQs attract more participation and help grow contact lists.
- Uses **Mailchimp** to improve volunteer participation (note has a cost).
- Promotes **defensible space inspections and local events** like Fire Fest.
- Focuses community efforts on **lot cleanups** and neighborhood beautification.
- **Use grant funding to host a larger neighborhood barbecue-** with main intent of eliciting more contacts for your contact list.

Round Hill (Non-HOA, 2 Years)

- Works closely with **GID meetings and local groups**.
- Established **block team captains** for better coordination.
- For large-scale communication, **breaks email lists into smaller neighborhood zones** to manage outreach effectively.

Tahoe Living with Fire (LWF) Website Tour

- Visit the **Neighborhood Leader Library** for updated tools and resources.
- **Explore:**
 - **“Ideas for Leaders”** document: a growing list of actions to take as you build your FAC.
 - **FAC homepage:** access planning guides, checklists, event templates, and more.

- **Resource library:** includes videos, contact lists, neighborhood guides, and links to partner organizations.



New Leader Checklist

Outreach

- Form committee of 3-5 dedicated members to begin organizing neighborhood
- Create flyer to advertise new FAC (Tahoe RCD will assist new groups with printing)
 - Create contact information collection form (Google Form, Excel sheet, etc.) and create a QR code to link it on your flyer
- Walk neighborhood to distribute flyers; meet neighbors and introduce FAC program
- Establish a social media channel or newsletter email list to distribute information (Nextdoor, Facebook groups, etc.)
- If possible, capitalize on already-existing neighborhood events like block parties, annual BBQs, etc. to advertise FAC program

Workday

- Decide on workday date and timing
- Invite fire district and/or Tahoe RCD staff to present information on defensible space and home hardening
- At Meet & Greet table, collect contact information
- Encourage residents to sign up for defensible space and chipping services from local fire district
- Record the amount of yard waste removed
- If applying for Firewise, collect neighbors' time and expenses at workday

After Initial Establishment

- Work with Tahoe RCD to sign stewardship agreements for adjacent USFS lots to improve defensible space
- Apply for grants for additional funding for workdays, outreach, etc.