

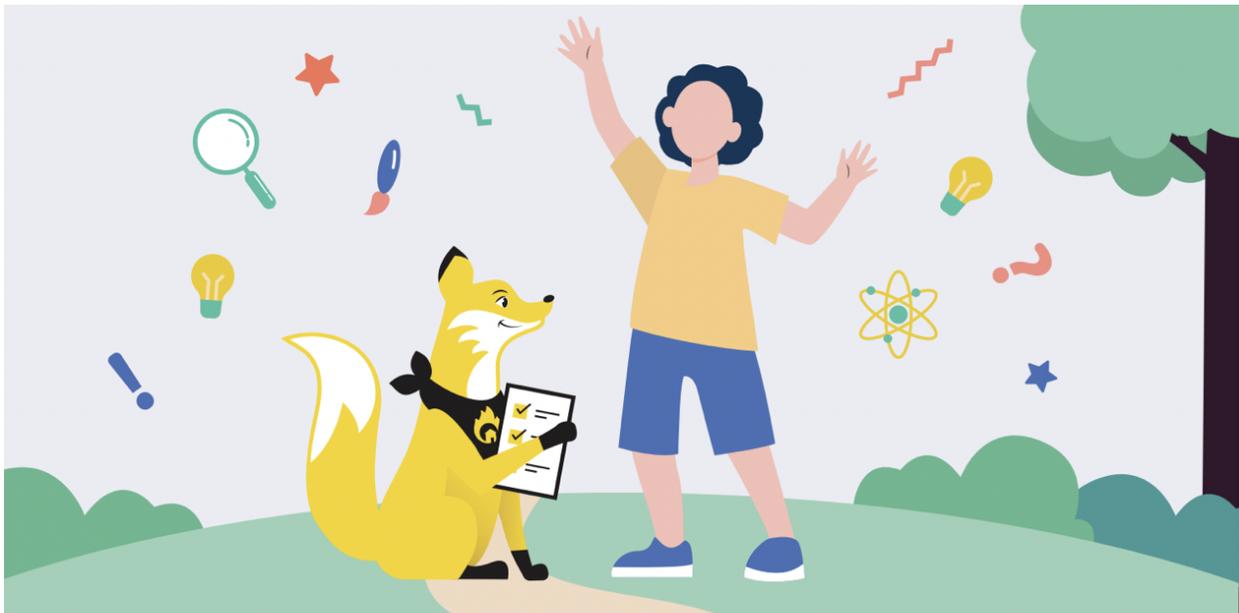
FireSmart Education Program Toolkit

An internal staff resource to help promote the education program at the community level

INTRODUCTION

The [FireSmart BC Education Program](#) is launched, and we are seeking support from FireSmart staff to promote the new education materials at the community level. This toolkit provides the information and resources required for FireSmart Coordinators, Local FireSmart Representatives, Prevention Specialists and other staff to easily coordinate and implement a school/classroom visit.

The ultimate goal: to incorporate the program lessons into student learning throughout the province so that youth are empowered to become champions of fire safety in their communities.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- About the Program
- Key Messages
- Templates (Email and PowerPoint)
- Key Resources
- About FireSmart's Mascot, Ember
- About FireSmart Promo Items
- Presentation Formats
- School Visit Checklist
- Contact information



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The new [FireSmart BC Education Program](#) was launched in 2023. It offers free, comprehensive lesson plans that equip educators and students in grades K-12 with essential knowledge in fire resiliency.

The interactive and inclusive resources are aligned with the BC school curriculum to easily incorporate within existing lesson plans. Designed to make learning fun, the program will empower youth to become champions of fire safety in their communities.

Education themes include:

- Safety
- Fire science
- Ecosystem stewardship
- Wildfire mitigation and prevention

Lessons overview by grade group:

[Grades K-1](#) will learn the basics, including identifying the seasons when wildfire is most likely to occur and determining which items around a home are likely to burn.

[Grades 2-3](#) will learn how to FireSmart a home and community, as well as important lessons about fire from First Peoples.

[Grades 4-6](#) take a broad view with lessons that include the relationship between climate change and wildfires, and how people can best share responsibility for wildfire safety.

[Grades 7-9](#) analyze wildfire behavior trends, recognize the ecological benefits of prescribed fire, draw connections between colonialism and wildfires, and gain insights from Indigenous People's traditional knowledge on wildfire mitigation.

[Grades 10-12](#) assess climate change and wildfire impacts, investigate ecosystem health, engage in community planning to create a wildfire protection plan and use FireSmart landscaping criteria for assessment and revision in wildfire-prone areas.

KEY MESSAGES

- FireSmart BC helps build wildfire resiliency and reduce the negative impacts of fire for everyone in the province. It is based on scientific evidence that suggests that implementing proven steps toward protecting homes and other structures is the best and most cost-effective way to decrease the risk of wildfire damage.
- As we experience increasingly severe wildfire seasons, it becomes evident that wildfire education is not an option, but a necessity.
- We believe that one of the best ways to be FireSmart is to start young. Our new education program introduces students to FireSmart concepts, including how to make homes and communities more resilient to wildfire.
- The FireSmart Education Program is FREE and includes comprehensive lesson plans and activities for grades K-12.
- The interactive and inclusive resources are aligned with the BC school curriculum to easily incorporate within existing lesson plans.
- Designed to make learning fun, the program empowers youth to become champions of fire safety in their communities.
- The program includes a wide variety of themes, including safety, fire science, ecosystem stewardship, and wildfire mitigation and prevention. The program also includes lessons on how Indigenous Peoples use fire to care for the land.

TEMPLATE: Email from FireSmart BC staff representative to local school



Subject: FireSmart BC Complimentary Education Presentation

Dear *{insert school contact name}*,

I am reaching out to inform you about a new, free, all-inclusive education program and to offer you a complimentary school visit from the FireSmart BC team.

The [FireSmart BC Education Program](#) offers comprehensive lesson plans and materials that introduce students to FireSmart concepts, equipping educators and students in grades K-12 with essential knowledge in fire resiliency. Themes include lessons from First Peoples, ecosystem stewardship, and building strong communities.

FireSmart BC is offering complimentary presentations to introduce educators and students to these new materials. Our presentations can be customized to meet your needs. Regardless of the format, they provide an overview on fire resiliency topics that help equip students with valuable knowledge to help keep their homes and communities safe. The cherry on top: a visit from Ember the FireSmart Fox and giveaway items!

We can be flexible in accommodating your school's schedule and needs. If you are interested in scheduling a visit, please email me back indicating your ideal timing and format. Our team is eager to collaborate and create a memorable and informative experience for your students.

To learn more about the FireSmart Education program, visit firesmartbc.ca/education_program.

Thank you for considering the FireSmart BC Education Program. We look forward to the opportunity to educate and inspire your students and teachers.

Best regards,
(Your Name)
(Role) at Fire Smart BC
(Contact information)



TEMPLATES: Email from school administrator to school staff

Dear staff,

We have learned about a new, free education program that we would like to share with you.

Launched this year, the [FireSmart BC Education Program](#) offers comprehensive lesson plans and materials that introduce students to FireSmart concepts and equip educators and students in grades K-12 with essential knowledge in wildfire resiliency. Themes include lessons from First Peoples, ecosystem stewardship, climate change, and building strong communities.

To promote the program, FireSmart BC is offering complimentary classroom visits that can be customized to the age/needs of your students. These presentations include an age-appropriate introduction to wildfire resilience topics that will help equip students with valuable knowledge to help keep their homes and communities safe. The cherry on top: a visit from Ember the FireSmart Fox and some free giveaways!

Studies show that when people are educated in wildfire preparedness, they have improved mental health during and after wildfire season. Many of us have witnessed first-hand the devastation that wildfires cause. This new program would be a good resource for educating the next generation on how to adapt to changing climate and prepare for future wildfire seasons.

To view the program materials, visit firesmartbc.ca/educationprogram. To arrange a classroom visit from a FireSmart BC representative, email education@firesmartbc.ca.

Sincerely,

TEMPLATES: PowerPoint presentations for school/classroom visits

Below are three different PowerPoint templates that can be customized to suit your audience and presentation format. To customize, download the file and save it on your computer with the presentation name and date. From there, edit the presentation as needed.

Tip: To increase engagement, make sure the content in your presentation is suitable for the audience you are presenting to and involve some interactive components (ex: asking your audience questions, handing out promotional items for participation, etc.). For instance, the Ember video might be too juvenile for high school students and likewise, the *Everyday Chores Make Everyday Heroes* video might be too advanced for elementary school students.

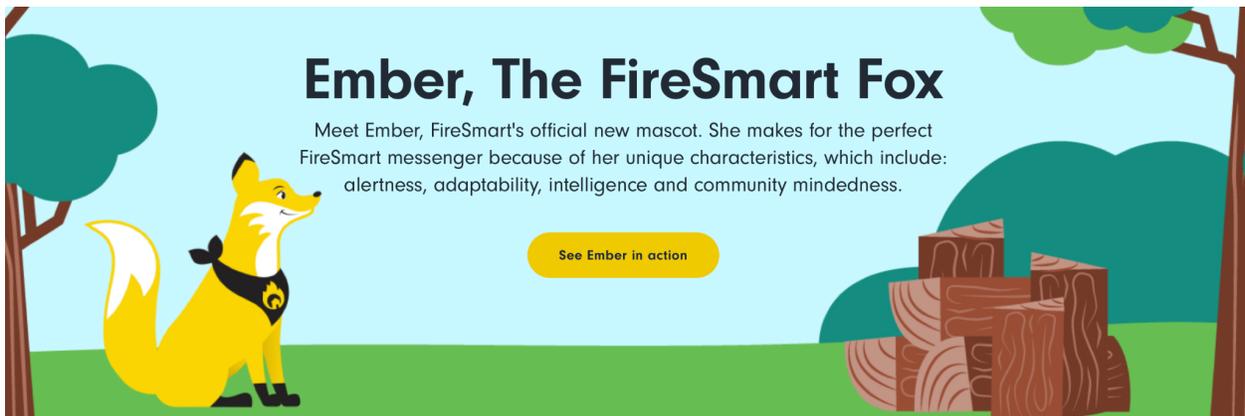
1. [Click here](#) to download the PowerPoint for Elementary school visits
2. [Click here](#) to download the PowerPoint for High School visits
3. [Click here](#) to download the PowerPoint for Professional Development presentations

KEY RESOURCES

Below are some go-to FireSmart resources to help educate audiences on how to make homes and neighborhoods more wildfire resilient. These are not necessarily intended to be included in your school presentation/visit, but are available should a teacher or parent ask for more information on specific topics.

- [FireSmart Key messages](#)
- [Education Materials](#)
- [Kid's home assessment](#)
- [Ember's colouring book](#)
- [Ember's video story](#)
- [Ember word search game](#)
- [FireSmart matching game](#)
- [Factsheets](#)
- [Posters and graphics](#)
- [Home ignition zone](#)
- [Other resources](#)

ABOUT FIRESMART'S MASCOT, EMBER



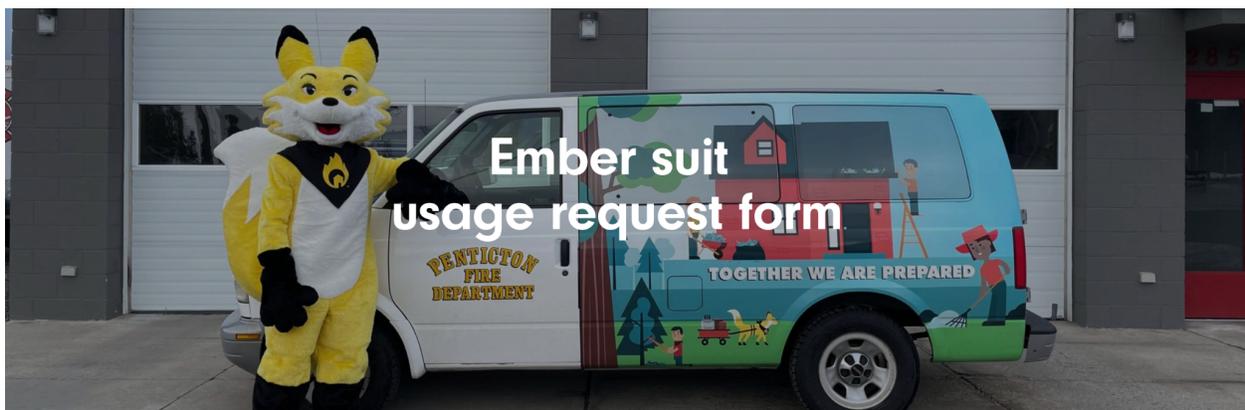
Multiple studies have shown that visual aids are very useful in absorbing information, and while generations of Canadians are familiar with Smokey Bear (created by the U.S. Forest Service in 1944), there were several reasons for a changing of the guard. The most obvious difference is in appearance: the way Ember was drawn represents new approaches to animated characters and how they appeal to modern audiences of all ages.

Ember's job is to put a friendly – but also alert and adaptable – face on FireSmart's messages of preparedness and resilience that is appealing to everyone, especially youth. She will make a great addition to school visits/presentations.

[Click here](#) to learn more and access Ember's Den.

[Click here](#) to request the Ember mascot suit.

*For Elementary school visits, we strongly recommend bringing Ember along to make the experience more fun and memorable for students.



ABOUT FIRESMART PROMO ITEMS



To enhance your school visit, we encourage you to distribute FireSmart branded gifts to educators and students. The quantity and type of items will vary based on the size of the school and the budget available. Below is a list of items available divided into two categories: items that can be distributed in larger quantities and higher-value items that can be distributed more sparingly (as prizes or distributed randomly). [Click here](#) to view the full catalogue of promotional items.

For inquiries and ordering please email FireSmartOrdering@gov.bc.ca

Items that could be distributed in larger quantities:	Higher value items to be distributed more sparingly:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ember bookmark ● Colouring book ● Activity sheets ● Ember themed puzzle ● Postcards for more information about the FireSmart Education Program ● T-shirts ● Stickers ● Fire safety badge ● Solid metal keychain ● Magnets / Stickers ● Temporary tattoo ● Pins ● LED flashlight ● Sticky notes ● Cell phone credit card holder ● Chapstick ● Mint ● Whistles ● Seedlings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tote bags ● Water Bottles ● Coffee mug ● Toques ● Bandana ● Firefighter hats ● Compass ● Magnifying glass ● FireSmart concept cards (firesmart concepts on a deck of playing cards) ● Outdoor adventure kit: binoculars, compass, magnifying glass, flashlight, wildflower seeds, whistle, themed map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This kit could be a giveaway to only a handful of students per school

PRESENTATION FORMATS



There is no one-size fits all presentation for school visits. These should be customized to suit the needs of the school. We suggest asking the school contact what type of format works best for them and build from there. If they are looking for options, below are a few suggestions:

Assembly presentation

This could be for the entire school or divided into one presentation for junior students and one for senior students.

Suggested resources:

- Education Program PowerPoint Presentation
- Education Program Video
- Promotional Giveaway Items (for in person presentations)
- Ember, the FireSmart Fox Mascot

Classroom visit

This could be for one particular class/grade or multiple classes/grades.

Suggested resources:

- Education Program PowerPoint Presentation
- Education Program Video
- Promotional Giveaway Items (for in-person presentations)
- Lesson plan from the online education program resources

Professional development presentation for educators

An in-person or virtual presentation to Elementary or High School educators to introduce them to the FireSmart BC Education Program (what it is, why it's important, what the educational themes are and what each lesson looks like). The goal is to raise awareness of the program among teachers so they can implement the materials in their classrooms.

Suggested resources:

- Education Program PowerPoint Presentation
- Education Program Video
- Promotional Giveaway Items (for in-person presentations)
- Education Program Postcard (for in-person presentations)

Activity ideas to incorporate into the above presentation formats



We encourage you to review the lesson plans in the online education program materials and include some of the activities or concepts in your presentation. Alternatively, you could incorporate an interactive quiz where students can answer questions related to wildfire safety that were shared throughout the presentation

To ensure student engagement and comprehension, make sure the information you select is grade-appropriate. Giveaway items can also help to increase student engagement.

SCHOOL VISIT CHECKLIST

- Ember (mascot costume ordered in advance)**
- Presentation materials:**
 - Laptop / tablet / personal device to present slides
 - Projector if the school doesn't provide one
 - Power cords/connections
 - Copies of presentation notes if needed for reference
- Promotional materials:**
 - FireSmart BC banners, posters or signage to create visual presence during your visit
- Visual aids and interactive props:**
 - Firefighting equipment that is safe enough to be brought in as a visual aid capacity to show what is used to put out wildfires
 - Safety gear such as fire-resistant clothing to demonstrate how fire safety equipment is used
 - [Videos](#) to support your presentation
- Handouts:**
 - Evaluation forms or surveys for collecting feedback from teachers and students about the presentation
 - Promotional giveaway items
- Backup materials**
 - Extra copies of handouts, promotional items, supplies
 - Backup hard drive where the presentation materials are available offline and can be used without internet connection
 - Contact information or resources for further inquiries



CONTACT INFORMATION

We'd love to know about local school visits, receive any photos you capture, and hear feedback. We can also answer any questions about the toolkit or the education program. Email education@firesmartbc.ca to get in touch.