



Not Your Ordinary Job – Season Two, Episode Eight Transcript

- Jasmine:** Welcome, everybody to Not Your Ordinary Job Season Two Podcast. I am Jasmine Brown, public affairs specialist with BLM Eastern States and I am here with Mr. Brady Harper, who is our Jackson Hotshot crew member. How are you, Brady?
- Brady:** I'm doing good.
- Jasmine:** That's great. So, tell us a little bit about yourself, Brady, how'd you get into the career of fire?
- Brady:** How I got into fire... I have a I got a forestry degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. My first job was marking timber for the Forest Service in California. And that's kind of where I kind of got exposed to fighting fire. So, I marked timber for the Forest Service for a few years. And then I decided I wanted to get more exposure into fire. I've been on Jackson, this will be my fifth season here on Jackson.
- Jasmine:** Fifth season, that's amazing. Tell us a little bit about your position with the Jackson Hotshots.
- Brady:** Primary sawyers... I think I'm the one with the most experience right now. So that kind of put me into kind of that lead position.
- Jasmine:** And what is the best part about being a part of the Jackson Hotshots and working with your team?
- Brady:** I've met a lot of just really incredible people doing this job and people that I probably wouldn't have met otherwise. There's just so many different types of people are attracted to this line of work. It's pretty incredible.
- Jasmine:** Great! And, then what about like any advice that you would give them?
- Brady:** If you're trying to get on to a hotshot crew, I would... first off, you need to be physically in shape, be in the best shape that you can get in and that will help you out a lot. Second is if you're trying, you need to, of course you need to apply for the job. But once you apply, you need to follow up that application and start calling people and let them know that you're interested. I know that Darren, our supervisor, has specifically hired people just for that reason, they called him and expressed an interest. They didn't just apply through USA Jobs. So that's what I would do. And once you get hired on, if you don't have any experience I would, one is listen more than you talk, learn from the experienced people and volunteer for everything.
- Jasmine:** And what about any success stories that you've had so far with the Jackson Hotshots? Is there anything that you would like to share?
- Brady:** Well, I can't really think of anything... specific success story, but just this job, it can be so difficult sometimes, like I don't want to like, I don't want to say that it's definitely not easy. But when, when you're finished with it, when you've finished all the hard tasks, that there's... one of the reasons that keeps me coming back is that sense of accomplishment. At the end of the day, at the end of the season, like you can look back on it, and you can say, "Yeah, I did something hard. I did something that was worth it." And yeah, I think that's the reason why I've been coming back.

Jasmine: That's great. And now what about like any more goals they would like to achieve? I know you've accomplished so much already with this being your fifth season, but is there anything else you would like to accomplish?

Brady: Well, this season specifically, I'm working on my Incident Commander Type Five Task Book. So for me personally, I think getting that signed off or getting it close to signed off would be a huge goal for me.

Jasmine: That's great, Brady. Well, we would like to thank you for you know, allowing us to interview you today. And we're looking forward to everything that you're going to be doing with the you know, this season and you know, the next seasons to come.

Ashley: Listen to our podcasts every other Friday to learn more about our Jackson Hotshots.