



HELICOPTER TRAINING ACADEMY

To: All Interested Potential Students and Management Supervisors.

From: Grand Canyon South Rim Helibase,
Helicopter Training Academy Coordinator

Re: An Interagency Aviation Opportunity for Helicopter Crewmember
(HECM/HEAC) and Helicopter Manager (HMGB/HEAM) Trainees.

The Grand Canyon Helicopter Training Academy has been developed to meet the increased need for well-trained Helicopter Crewmembers and Helicopter Managers. Now approaching its 27th year, the Academy provides an opportunity to satisfy task book requirements as well as refresh and develop skills and experience. Trainees are provided with hands-on helicopter experience which may include fire, search & rescue, medevac and long-line operations. This assignment is not limited to fire employees; resource/project individuals will be accepted as well.

Grand Canyon National Park has two contracted Type 3 helicopters. One is staffed year-round, and the other is typically on contract for three months or more a year. There are opportunities in the spring and summer to participate in the highly active helicopter program. The instructors/helicopter managers are experienced helitack supervisors who teach using a balance of classroom training and practical field experience. Students complete Academy curriculum workbooks in addition to working on their NWCG/NPS Task Books.

Trainees will work in a helitack crew environment and will be a part of the module. This will require participation in the daily physical fitness program, which consists of running, hiking, and strength training exercises based at 7000 feet elevation. Students should be prepared.

The training opportunity consists of a two week assignment at the South Rim Helibase. Assignments of less than two weeks are not suitable for training needs and will not be permitted. It is preferred that the individual plan accordingly and treat the Academy like a two week fire assignment. There is no guarantee of completing task books or all training needs, as every assignment will consist of ever-varying missions. Efforts will be made to accommodate all trainees, but progress and success will be dependent on individual effort and incident opportunities. Minimum requirements for trainees will consist of the following;

- Current initiated NWCG task book for HECM or HMGB, or NPS task book for HEAC or HEAM.
- Ability to work in harsh environments.
- Completion of A-110 Transport of Hazardous Materials.
- Successful completion of S-271 (Helicopter Crewmember) prior to attendance
OR
successful completion of S-372 (Helicopter Manager) prior to attendance.

There is no tuition expense to the sending unit for this training academy. However, base salary, travel expenses and per diem will be the responsibility of the sending unit. Overtime and hazard pay while assigned will be charged to any ongoing incidents as appropriate, however, there is no guarantee of on-going incidents and arrangements should be made prior to coming for overtime and hazard pay for which we cannot provide pay codes.

Students should be ready to camp for the two weeks or make other arrangements for lodging.

Sessions are offered from June to September. When registering, it is important to indicate on the application what two week time frame (session) is desired as a first and second choice. Also include which task book you wish to work on. The application form is available at our website (below), which needs to be filled out entirely and signed by your immediate supervisor and unit training officer.

The application period is open through February 28, 2026. Completed applications must be received on or before February 28, 2026. Upon completion, applications may be emailed to GRCA_Helibase@nps.gov. All potential participants should refer to our website listed below or may contact the following individual for any additional information:

Jeremiah Boyd, Park Aviation Manager
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Email: Jeremiah_Boyd@nps.gov
HTA Website: https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/management/heli_program.htm