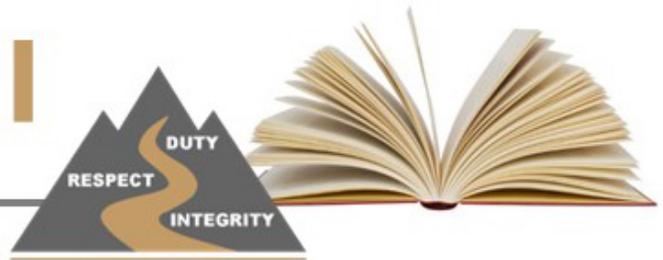


Professional Reading Program

Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program



The Leader's Bookshelf by Adm. James Stavridis, USN (Ret) and R. Manning Ancell

Why Read *The Leader's Bookshelf*?

"But the best leaders, in my experience, do not spring forth fully formed. They are forged through a combination of parenting, teaching, training, educating, and gaining vibrant real world experiences—effectively practicing to be better leaders. ... But I have come to believe that throughout all of those important developmental steps, perhaps the single best way a leader can learn and grow is through reading."

"Very important, as you read to lead, talk to others about the book you are reading. The more conversations you can have with others about the book itself, the leadership lessons you think you are learning from it, or the life experiences of a more senior leader that relate to the content of the book, the better."

One of the greatest self-development tools available to a leader is reading. This book is an excellent list of books on a variety of topics, each with a summary by the authors explaining why they thought this book was important, some information about the author, and what leadership ideas it contains. The titles within were compiled by interviewing and surveying over 200 military leaders, and listening to their recommendations.

There are several videos about the book available online. Find some of them at the links below, or by using an internet search engine.

- **Dean Stavridis Interview: The Leader's Bookshelf (4 minutes):**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g3be6nY5g>
- **The Art of Manliness #373: The Leader's Bookshelf (audio only) (33 minutes):**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqgzZVNQdqE>

For more leadership ideas and to dig deeper, check out the Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program (WFLDP) blog, Facebook page, Professional Reading Program, and more at the links below:

Blog: <http://wildlandfireleadership.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WFLDP>

Professional Reading Program: <https://www.nwccg.gov/wfldp/toolbox/prp>

Main WFLDP page: <https://www.fireleadership.gov>

The Leader's Bookshelf Challenges

Challenge One: Read the book!

Read the book, including the sections before and after the list.

Challenge Two: Read more books!

Pick three books from the list and read them. See if you can find any videos, podcasts, or other “bonus” materials about the books that will help with your leadership development.

Challenge Three: Get Social!

Have discussions about the book, and other books, with some of your coworkers. Start a library at your station or unit. Start a reading program on your crew or module. Reach out to the NWCG Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program on social media and let them know what you think of the book. The sky is the limit here—get creative!