

**2024 USFS Al Dunton Smokejumper Leadership  
Award Winner: Dakota “Bo” Brooks GAC ‘16**





## Dakota “Bo” Brooks, **USFS** (GAC 2016)...



Recognized for the excellence he showed in all phases of smokejumper training, spotting, and leadership under duress. Bo started smokejumping in 2016 at Grangeville, the last rookie class to jump the FS-14 round canopy. He completed Ram-Air Transition Training 2 years later and has since become the Lead Rookie Trainer in Ram-Air transitions.

Bo developed training programs that have helped bridge gaps in training between the USFS and BLM. He is known for his communication skills, team-building, supervisory rigging duties in the loft, and proficiency in Operations. Bo is a self-starter and jumps into projects without being told, taking charge and using his experience to lead and teach subordinates. He is known and respected as a “Bro’s bro...,” noted for communicating and taking a strong interest in the welfare of his troops.

Bo was raised in Orofino and attended the University of Idaho. He is the proud father of James Lee and a loving husband to Samantha Jo in Grangeville. Bo’s confidence, work ethic, positive attitude, and ultimate professionalism led to his selection for the 2024 USFA AI Dunton Smokejumper Leadership Award.

**2024 BLM Al Dunton Smokejumper Leadership  
Award Winner: Jake Budd FBX '17**





## Jacob “Jake” Budd, **BLM** (FBX 2017)

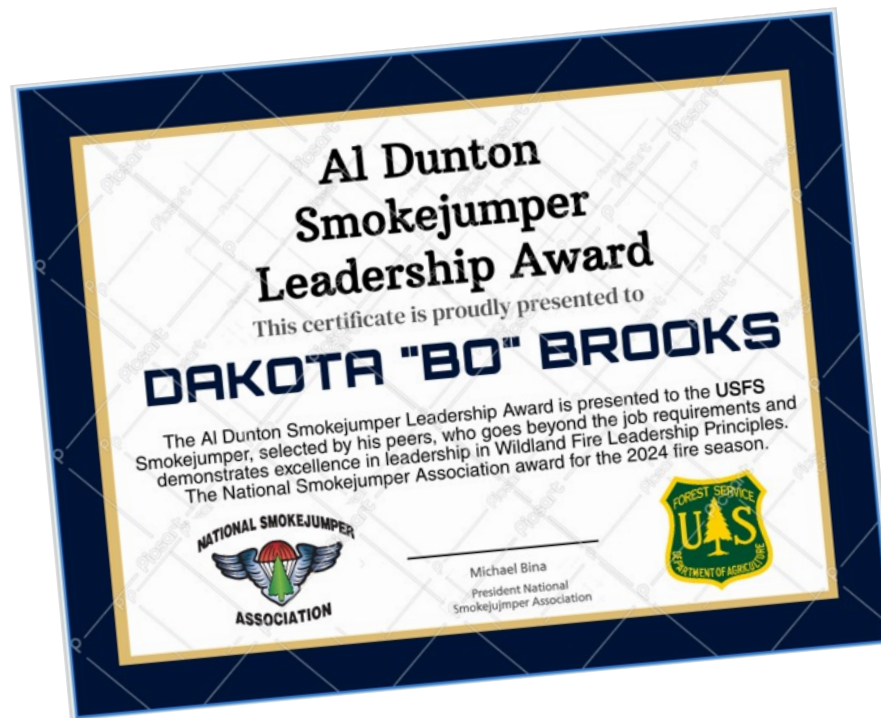


Selected for his exceptional work ethic and overall dedication to smokejumping. Jake was also commended for his strong decision-making skills under duress and for his work in training and developing new jumpers.

As Lead Rookie Trainer for the Alaska Smokejumper base, he played a pivotal role in developing rookies while providing guidance and leadership to veteran jumpers. He was recognized for his willingness to take on new challenges and leading by example, both in the field and in the training environment. Jake’s career in WLFF began with a degree in Range Management at the University of Wyoming and gaining firefighting experience with the Tatanka Hotshots (Custer, SD) before signing on with the Alaska Smokejumpers in 2017. After two years as Lead Rookie Trainer, he was promoted to Assistant Training Coordinator, where he continues to influence and shape the next generation of smokejumpers. The NSA recognizes his outstanding performance in 2024 for the Al Dunton Smokejumper Leadership Award.



# Certificate of Achievement for Personnel Record and Personal Records



# SMOKEJUMPER



|      |                               |      |                                  |                       |
|------|-------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1971 | Frankie D. Romero<br>WFO 1968 | 1971 | Gary L. Baumgartner<br>1968 1969 |                       |
| 1972 | Joshua Mathiesen<br>WFO 1968  | 1972 | Ben Oakleaf<br>1968              | Chris Swisher<br>1968 |
| 1973 | Nana Olme<br>WFO 1968         | 1973 | Mark Urban<br>1968 1969          |                       |
| 1974 | Sam Pfahler<br>WFO 1968       | 1974 | Todd Johnson<br>WFO 1968         |                       |
| 1975 | Eric Messenger<br>WFO 1968    | 1975 | Ezra Butterfield<br>AF 1968      |                       |
| 1976 | Dan Booth<br>WFO 1968         | 1976 | Porter McQueary<br>AF 1968       |                       |
| 1977 | Kyle Hoyt<br>WFO 1968         | 1977 | Chris Wennogle<br>WFO 1968       |                       |
| 1978 | Mitch Holmstrom<br>WFO 1968   | 1978 | Dan Staab<br>WFO 1968            |                       |
| 1979 | Ed Lynn<br>WFO 1968           | 1979 | Seth Alberts<br>WFO 1968         |                       |
| 1980 | Naomi Mills<br>WFO 1968       | 1980 | Kevin Norton<br>WFO 1968         |                       |
| 1981 | Joe Rock<br>WFO 1968          | 1981 | Matt Bowers<br>WFO 1968          |                       |
| 1982 | Sam Bullington<br>WFO 1968    | 1982 | Brandon Kobayashi<br>AF 1968     |                       |
| 1983 | Erik Becke<br>WFO 1968        | 1983 | Ben Faust<br>WFO 1968            |                       |
| 1984 | Bo Brooks<br>WFO 1968         | 1984 | Jacob Budd<br>AF 1968            |                       |

Al Dunton rookied in Fairbanks, Alaska in 1967 and was a smokejumper for the BLM through 1984. He was the base manager from 1972 thru 1984 and the impact of his vision, ideas, and inspired leadership carries through to the present. He created a jump base where a widely diverse group of smokejumpers could combine their many strengths, voice their concerns and ideas openly, pursue new ways of firefighting and parachuting, and work together for the best overall results. He inspired many smokejumpers and other firefighters to practice a style of leadership that built strong, loyal, effective teams. After leaving the Alaska Smokejumpers, Al served as the BLM's State Fire Management Officer in Nevada and as National Fire Director at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. This leadership award was established by the interagency smokejumper base managers in conjunction with the National Smokejumper Association to recognize outstanding leadership among the ranks of current smokejumpers and to encourage the kind of inspired leadership that Al Dunton practiced and taught.



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