

# THE FIRE COLLEGE SEAL

The emblem of the Florida State Fire College contains a great deal of symbolism that adds to the meaning of this insignia and the mission of the people who wear it.

The eagle represents the eternal vigilance of the fire-rescue service, 365 days a year, seven days a week, and 24 hours a day. The shield motif below the eagle stands for the mission of protecting the public, as individuals and as a community.

The shield is divided into four quadrants, each with its own message. In the upper left, the Maltese cross is the traditional symbol of the fire service, dating back to the firefighting gallantry of the Knights of Malta in the Crusades. In the upper right, the open textbook represents the never-ending quest for knowledge. In the lower left, the crossed bugles stand for the transition to leadership and command responsibilities. The map of Florida in the lower right represents the Fire College's statewide mission to serve all of the fire service, from Pensacola to Key West.

The banner below the shield refers to the establishment of the very first Florida State Fire College, originally a week-long training event held in Daytona Beach under the auspices of the Florida State Firemen's Association. As a state institution, the Florida State Fire College has since been under the Governor's office and the Department of Community Affairs. From 1975 through 2001, the Florida State Fire College was part of the State Fire Marshal's Office within the Department of Insurance. Then in 2002, the Florida State Fire College became a part of the State Fire Marshal's Office within the Department of Financial Services.

The motto *Progressio Per Eruditionem*, translated from the Latin, means "Progress Through Learning." The Florida State Fire College is forever committed to the increased professionalism and safety of the fire-rescue service through its educational leadership.

The Fire College Seal has transformed over the years and now includes vibrant colors and new insignia pictures. The open textbook replaced the Lamp of Learning, modernizing a never-ending quest for knowledge. The crossed bugles replaced the single bugle representing the transition to leadership and command responsibilities. The map of Florida signifies the statewide service from Pensacola to Key West. The motto was moved to circle the shield and the banner includes the establishment date of the very first Florida State Fire College. The Fire College Seal forever embodies the meaning of symbolism and mission.