

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Camp Fire USA Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

SEATTLE, WA – JUNE 1, 2010

On July 31st, campfires will be blazing across America as thousands of people celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Camp Fire USA. In Seattle, Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council will host a free, family-friendly Centennial Celebration at Magnuson Park from 3:00 – 9:00 PM. Join us for activities, traditional camp fare cooked by Camp Sealth staff, a ceremonial campfire at precisely 7:30 PM in conjunction with communities across the nation, and the launching of dreamboats.

“Our ceremonial campfire will be open to everyone - current and past Camp Fire participants, their friends and families and the many community members that have supported the organization through the years. We really hope to see Camp Fire alumni at our event. It’s an opportunity to honor the past and rededicate ourselves to a future of serving youth across America,” states Jane White Vulliet, CEO, Camp Fire Puget Sound Council.

Founded in 1910 by Dr. Luther and Charlotte Gulick, Camp Fire Girls was the first non-sectarian organization for girls in the United States. Dr. Gulick chose the name “Camp Fire” because campfires were the origin and center of early community life. This focus on the outdoors, nature, and conservation continues to be a centerpiece of Camp Fire activities.

Today Camp Fire USA has evolved into a contemporary non-profit organization serving youth, with a new name to reflect the times, while maintaining its core values. As early as the 1950s, Camp Fire was calling for greater inclusiveness of all groups within society. In 1975 boys were welcomed into the programs, and today 46% of Camp Fire USA youth are boys. Camp Fire is unique in its inclusiveness serving everyone regardless of race, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, disability, or sexual

orientation. “We realize the dignity and worth of every individual,” states White Vulliet, CEO. “Our programs are focused on changing young people’s lives. Through their interaction and involvement with Camp Fire, girls and boys build confidence, independence, and develop an awareness of who they are and what they can become.”

Camp Fire USA calls its program areas the ‘Four Cs’ – Cares, Camps, Contributes, Connects. “ We care for children with before-and-after school programs, offer camps where kids can explore and learn respect for the environment, inspire youth to contribute to their communities with service projects, and connect children, adults, and families together in small groups and clubs,” explains White Vulliet.

Each Camp Fire council customizes its programs based on local needs of children and youth. “In 2009, our Council served more than 13,000 youth and families with day camps, summer camps, child care, after-school programs, and youth service opportunities”, states Russ Woodruff, Board Chair.

“Our programs may have changed from our humble beginnings 100 years ago, but we’re proud that Camp Fire USA has never wavered from its mission of building caring confident youth and future leaders,” concludes White Vulliet, CEO. “Please join us on July 31<sup>st</sup> to celebrate our legacy and spark our future.”

For more details about Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council’s Centennial Celebration, local programs or volunteer opportunities, please contact Sue Bean, Chief Development and Marketing Officer at [susanb@campfire-usa.org](mailto:susanb@campfire-usa.org) or 206 826 8953.

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Camp Fire USA is celebrating 100 years of building caring, confident youth and future leaders. We do this by providing quality programs nationwide for children, youth and families that reflect our “Four Cs”: We CARE for children with after school programs, offer CAMPS where kids can explore and learn respect for the environment, inspire youth to CONTRIBUTE to their communities with service projects, and CONNECT children, adults, and families together in small groups. Camp Fire USA headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has 84 councils in 31 states. Last year Camp Fire USA provided nearly 30 million program hours, to over 300,000 youth, in hundreds of communities across the United States. For more information, visit [www.campfireusa.org](http://www.campfireusa.org).