

WOHELO

The Official Group Program Newsletter of Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council

A Message from Bridgett Chandler, CEO

Artist-in-Residence Program Debuts

Camp Fire USA closed its fabulous summer of day and residential camp experiences with our first ever “artist-in-residence” program at Camp Sealth. We were pleased that campers worked with **Sharlet Driggs** to create individual pieces of felt art to represent the natural world and also worked together to create a community piece. And we “dusted off” the camp bugles as professional musician **Carey Rayburn** taught our budding bugle corps. These were the first in a series of regular opportunities for kids and families to learn and create with artists-in-residence. Watch for future announcements. Thank you, Sharlet and Carey, for sharing your talents and love of the arts with our campers.



Art piece by Sharlet Driggs

Kudos to our Counselors and Camp Staff



Day Camp counselors show off their new looks.

Our campers think that Day Camp and Camp Sealth counselors are the best in the world—and we agree! From creative “camp names” to encouraging kids to try new things to knowing the right words and actions to make sure everyone feels welcomed, included, and challenged—our counselors are tops. It is so gratifying to see kids attend as campers and then move through programs like “Counselor in Training” to emerge as strong leaders. Camp counselors, volunteers and staff: An enormous **THANK YOU**—you are the key ingredient in the camp experience!

Expanding Group Program: We’d love to have your ideas!

Group and Community Family Club Leaders—as you gear up for the school year; know that our outstanding program managers, Janelle Kitson and Mary Olsen, are here to support you. Whether you need training or would like to talk over an idea or a challenge, feel free to call. YOU make the Camp Fire experience come alive. I would appreciate your advice as we work to bring Camp Fire to more kids and families. Do you see potential for another group to form in your community—at your schools, church or other community gathering spot? Would you be willing to be an ‘ambassador’ for Camp Fire by talking with friends and community members about the value of groups? And, would your group consider adding another member or two? We frequently receive requests from parents who can’t form a group but would love for their child to be in Camp Fire, and we’d love to accommodate all interested youth. If you have answers to these questions or any other ideas about expanding our group program, please contact Janelle at JanelleK@campfire-usa.org or Mary at MaryO@campfire-usa.org.



Camp Fire kids work on team-building.

I also welcome your ideas—my email address is BridgettC@campfire-usa.org.

Wohelo!
Bridgett

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Welcome Back, Leaders!

Leaders and leader teams bring Camp Fire activities and learning alive for hundreds of boys and girls. The time they devote to training and planning, plants the seeds of success in every life they touch. Welcome back to the leaders that have decided to enjoy another year of Camp Fire (as of the time of publication):

NORTH

Barb Bodovinitz
Becky Harper
Carrie Campbell
Clarissa Hsu
Debra Rosenthal
Diane Torre
Ellen Mori
Felicia Forrest
Gayle Teramoto
Hanna Mandt
JoAnn Kosai-Eng
Joyce Kato
Joyce Tsuji
Karen Boyle
Karen Montes
Kerri Schneider
Kris Croonquist
Lisa Butler
Lori Chisholm
May Chin-Honmyo
Mel Williamson
Michelle Kelly
Stacy Carlson
Tracy Pozil

SOUTH

Amy Hallmon
Cheri MacKinnon
Ellen West
Jeanne Martin
Jessica Patton
Judy Mannard
Kara Holt
Kelly Ringoen
Kim Hutchinson
Laura Widdice
Loretta Freilinger
Mary Nelson
Meesa Taylor
Michele Huston
Renee Clark
Richard Dunn
Sheila Airis
Shena Rodgers
Stacey Sherburne
Susan Nelson
Trese Justis

EAST

Casey Engstrom
Catherine Boysen
Christa Ostrem
Christy Kirchmeier
Glenna Stone
Janice Leitzke
Kirsten Lints
Lolo Levy
Lynda Minter
Pam Zackula

WEST

Ivaly Alexander



Remember to Renew

Remember to renew your membership now for savings and convenience. Membership renewal forms were mailed out in May. If you didn't receive yours or are worried you may have misplaced it, please contact Elaine Bacon at ElaineB@campfire-usa.org and she will send you a replacement.

Register your family now so you can enjoy the benefits of Camp Fire USA.

Registered members...

- Are covered under Camp Fire's Accident Insurance during all Camp Fire sponsored activities.
- Receive a bi-monthly *Wohelo* Newsletter with information on upcoming events.
- Can attend Camp Fire sponsored weekends and functions.
- Are offered group rates for family friendly community activities.
- May earn emblems and awards.

Responsibility
Integrity
Tolerance
**We build more
than campfires.**

CAMP SEALTH NEWS

New Challenge Shed at Dupar Meadow

You may remember Camp Sealth's pilot program of Construction Camp last summer—four youth rebuilt the Wrangler tack shed, originally constructed in 1992, and replaced it with a brand-new barn of their own making. Riding on the tails of last summer's success, this year's program was bigger and better. Six high school students came to camp for 13 days and spent at least four hours a day working hard to serve Sealth.

The project this year was similar to last year's: the challenge and outdoor living shed at Dupar Meadow was sorely in need of repair. The door was nearly off its hinges; the shelves were straining under the load of supplies they stored; there was even a hole in the floor, complete with grass growing through! Hula hoops, stuffed animals, orange cones, and carpet squares for our low-ropes challenge course were subject to the elements, and outdoor living supplies for campers on overnights were shuttled back and forth since they lacked a permanent home. This was a livable but undesirable state for our Challenge Course and Nature specialists, who use the shed on a daily basis.



Our new shed is more than twice the size of the original, and it can easily hold all of the supplies we use in upper camp during our summer season. Our hope is that it will weather as many, if not more, years as our much-loved old shed did. Big thanks go to our six willing and eager campers who worked hard, Camp Sealth maintenance staff Steve and Chad, as well as the counselors, Wolo and Gum. In 2012 we will offer the program again, hoping for an even better turnout and even more successful construction.

Special Activity Permission Forms

Please remember to **turn in** your yellow Special Activity Permission forms for last year to the Camp Fire office. Camp Fire is required by Washington State Law to archive these forms. Please help us remain in compliance by turning yours into your Camp Fire staff member at the end of every program year. Don't forget to pick up new ones for this program year—new forms every fall ensure that emergency information is current.

Join the Fun at Songfest 2011!

On **Friday, September 23rd**, we'll meet at the fire ring at Carkeek Park, in north Seattle.

We will get together for a bring-your-own-picnic around 6 p.m. and have the singing fun start at 7 p.m. Bring your favorite camp songs, new and old, for a night of fun with friends and family!



Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather, bring your Special Activity Permission Forms, a flashlight, cookies to share and a smile!

East and Vashon Songfests TBD.

The Puyallup Fair and YOU!



Would you like **free tickets** to the Puyallup Fair?

Sign up to demonstrate a special skill or craft at the Camp Fire site on the first floor of the Pavilion building for a ½ to 1 hour shift by calling Jenny after September 1st at 253 841 5207.

Looking for new craft ideas? Visit the Camp Fire USA display area at the Fair between September 9th and 25th on the first floor of the Pavilion building! And, while you are there, think about what items your child could enter next year!

Camp Fire's Motto is "Give Service"

All age groups in Camp Fire can receive recognition for giving service. The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our communities.

If you would like to earn the President's Volunteer Service Award, document all the hours you volunteer between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012. Record forms are available at the Council office or can be downloaded from our website at www.campfire-usa.org under "Forms."

Remember to track your volunteer hours as you go. President's Volunteer Service Award forms are due April 11, 2012.



Call to the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council will be held Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 4 p.m. in the Camaraderie Room of the Council Office in Seattle. The election of officers and members of the Board of Directors will take place. For questions, please contact Ngoc Do at ngocd@campfire-usa.org.

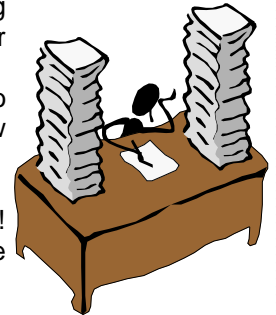
Is volunteering for Camp Fire worth your time?

Schedules are crammed with work, activities, meetings and obligations! Days and weeks fly by and we wonder where the time went! Sometimes it seems like one year fades (or crashes) into the next with hardly a minute to breathe! **STOP!** In this whirlwind of time, how can we keep our child(ren) involved in worthwhile activities and why is it important?

Research has shown that children who regularly participate in groups with positive adult role models do better in school, have a more positive view of their personal future, and are better equipped to get work done. It may look like we just have fun in Camp Fire, but **the reality is: we build caring, confident youth and future leaders.** Imagine a world full of caring, confident adults. That would be a safe place to live!

Everyone is busy! Study the list below and share your time with children:

- *Provide transportation for a field trip
- *Stay at a group meeting to be an extra pair of hands
- *Share a special skill (knitting, outdoor skills, etc)
- *Sign up to bring snacks for some meetings
- *Volunteer to attend the monthly leaders' meeting
- *Offer to host a meeting in your home
- *Sign up to be your group's Candy Captain
- *Serve on a planning committee for a weekend or event
- *Take Camp Fire training so you understand "how everything works"



Sharing the gift of time is priceless! Sharing your gift of time will make a difference that will last a lifetime!

Mary Olsen, Dir. of Group & Older Youth Programs

Lost and Found

Every year we end up with a box full of items left at program events, at Camp Sealth, at local day camps, and at a variety of other Camp Fire activities. Now is the time to claim what is yours.

If you think something belonging to you or a family member might be in our lost and found, give us a call at the council office and we'll see if we have it. Or arrange a time to stop by and check for your lost possessions. Anything not claimed by October 31st will be donated to a local charity.



The Inquiring Leader Asks

Q: My friend, who has a grade schooler, is asking me, "What's the difference between Camp Fire and Girl Scouts?" What should I say?

A: First of all, tell her that Camp Fire and Girls Scouts are both excellent programs! Both strive to help kids become confident, responsible, and ethical citizens by providing fun, adventurous activities with caring adult volunteers.



We in Camp Fire believe that parents should see which program, Camp Fire or Girls Scouts, feels most comfortable to them and join it, comparing on "feel," philosophy, customer service, how much time is demanded of parents, and total costs including uniform, activities, and equipment - not just registration fee.

We truly hope *all* kids join at least one of our programs. (You should also know, too, that the programs are actually enough different that some youth hold dual memberships).

Here are some distinct differences:

1. Camp Fire believes there are times for all girl activities, for all boy activities, and for co-ed activities - and we have all of those times in Camp Fire. Everyone lives in a co-ed world and needs to know how to have friends and equal relationships with members of the opposite sex; one way to develop this knowledge is through cooperation and teamwork.
2. Camp Fire's meeting plans and activities, besides being fun and outcomes rich, form the only youth program tied to academic standards (the MCREL standards) to help youth achieve academically, as well as socially.
3. Camp Fire USA states plainly on all our materials that we are an inclusive organization. Girl Scouts in this area is inclusive in practice with regard to religious beliefs and sexual orientation. The national organization relies on individual councils' interpretations and practices, rather than stating a national position and requiring councils to hold it.
4. Everyone can succeed in Camp Fire. The way CF and the scouts earn awards in elementary school is different. Camp Fire kids earn emblems by participation in activities with their groups; Scouts must demonstrate achievement of individual skills - it's a personal check off for each requirement. Camp Fire emblems are to remind members of their activities; Scout emblems are to allow another person to read the member's achievements and rank, as these are placed in pre-determined areas of their uniform. Camp Fire uniforms are considered an expression of the individuality of each youth, and Camp Fire youth determine their own design placement for their emblems and beads. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts use rank to classify members. In Camp Fire, youth can start at any level, and not be delayed by needing to achieve a rank. Also, they will not be stopped in the program at any point for failure to achieve an award. Parents should decide which system seems better for their child's personality and needs.
5. Camp Fire has reviewed the child development research, and it repeatedly shows that the best youth development occurs in the small group setting. In general, Camp Fire clubs tend to be 2 to 3 times smaller than other youth groups. The ideal size of a classic Camp Fire group is 8 to 10 youth.

So, please encourage your friend to enroll her child in at least one of these programs. Both provide lifelong advantages and great memories.





Save the Date!

September 16-18	Alumni Reunion at Camp Sealth
November 5	Woodland Park Zoo Overnight Adventure <i>(3rd grade and over)</i>
February 24-26	Adult Weekend at Camp Sealth
March 3-4	Dad/Kid Weekend at Camp Sealth
March 17-18	Discovery/Horizon Weekend at Camp Sealth
March 24	Pacific Science Center Camp-In
April 28-29	Adventure Weekend at Camp Sealth
May 26-28	Special Family Weekend at Camp Sealth

National Art Competition

Bring out the fabric, rope and textiles! The medium for the 2012 National Art Competition is **fibers**.

All youth members of the council can submit an entry to the competition. Entries must be submitted by April 16, 2012. Camp Fire kids can work on their art projects with their group, or on their own. Either way, the National Art Competition is a fantastic opportunity to explore art and have fun.

For more information about the competition, please contact your Program Manager. We look forward to seeing our member's creative and imaginative works of art!



"Think Outside The Trash!"

Mark your calendar for Adult Weekend at Camp Sealth on February 24-26, 2012! We will be revisiting recycling inspired workshops, including steam punk jewelry and coffee can lights. Some of the other workshops include garden art glass totems, a Vashon tour and healthy gourmet cooking.

Watch the website this fall for sample photos and detailed workshop descriptions. The November/December *Wohelo* will have the registration form. Come on your own or bring a friend!



A Salute to Hospitalized Veterans



Join Camp Fire Councils across the country in remembering America's hospitalized veterans.

Salute to Hospitalized Veterans has been a popular Camp Fire USA program since 1976. Every Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, etc., veterans across the United States receive cards and notes from Camp Fire USA members.

The project is a learning experience for youth, as well as being fun, allowing youth to develop a better understanding of veterans and what they have done for our country. The program has its own emblem, which youth can earn every year through learning about veterans and by making cards and remembrances for them.

Flyers with activity information are available from your Program Managers and at Leaders' Meetings. Please submit cards and remembrances by January 6, 2012 and the Council will send them to hospitalized veterans.

Come say "hi" as we spread the word

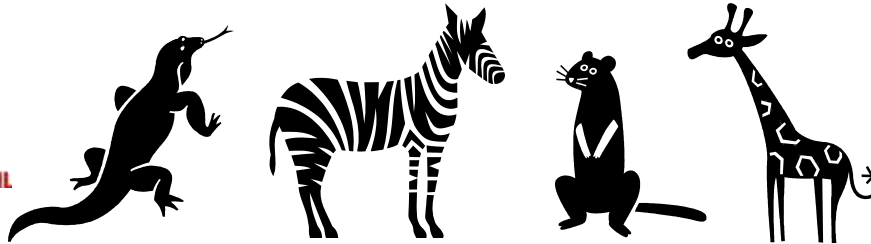
about Camp Fire!

We are exhibiting at several events this fall – we'd love to see you!

Saturday, Sept. 17 The Mountaineers OutdoorsFest 10 a.m.-4 p.m., NW end of Magnuson Park Activities for kids and lots of resource information. (Camp Fire exhibit) www.mountaineers.org/outdoorsfest/

Friday, Sept. 30 S'mores Roast at MLK Community Center, 3201 E Republican St, 7:30-9 p.m. Join Camp Fire for marshmallow fun at Seattle's newest center for family, arts, mentoring and enrichment (F.A.M.E.)





A Zookeeper's Life for Me

Welcome to the exciting world of the Night Keeper! On this overnight adventure, you'll investigate the triumphs of caring for some of the smallest and largest animals on earth. How is a gorilla transported? A lion fed? A sick animal healed or a healthy animal made to feel at home? Your group will learn about life as a zookeeper while exploring the impressive range of animal care offered at Woodland Park Zoo. A highlight will be creating an interactive element (enrichment item) to be introduced to one of our exhibits and then watching the animals engage with the enrichment item in the morning!

- WHO:** 3rd grade and above *(All participants must be at least 7 years old)*
- WHEN:** Saturday, November 5th, 6:30 p.m.—Sunday, November 6th, 9 a.m.
- WHERE:** Woodland Park Zoo, 601 N 59th Street, Seattle, WA 98103
- COST:** \$45 per person (adult chaperones also pay the registration fee).
 Pizza dinner and light breakfast are provided. *(Special diets are the responsibility of individual program attendees.)*
 Please feel free to bring your own snacks to enjoy before bedtime.

TO REGISTER, complete the registration form and send it in with your payment to the address below. Don't forget to include a list of attendees. Confirmation and information packets will be e-mailed to you. The Zoo can accommodate up to 75 participants. It fills up quickly so send your registration in soon! *One adult per six youth, please!*

Registrations must be postmarked by October 15th. There will be no refunds for cancellations. Partial scholarships available for current Camp Fire members *(please submit Event Scholarship Form no later than October 15th).*

T-SHIRTS: Zoo Overnight t-shirts are available for \$15-18. T-shirt order forms will be sent with your confirmation packet. *Please do not send t-shirt money with your registration.*

Zoo Overnight Adventure 2011

Adult Chaperone(s): _____

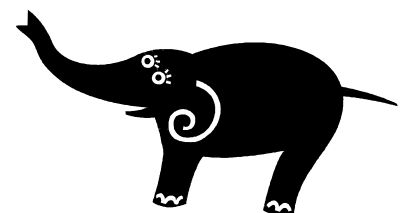
All children must be accompanied by an adult at a minimum of a 1:6 ratio of adults to children

Phone: _____ **E-Mail Address:** _____

Names, grades of each participant: _____

attending Overnight _____ **x \$45 = \$** _____

TOTAL \$ _____
(checks payable to Camp Fire USA)



Return to: Camp Fire USA
 Zoo Overnight Registration
 4241 21st Ave W, Suite 200
 Seattle, WA 98199-1250

Questions? Contact Ngoc at 206 826 8922 / NgocD@campfire-usa.org



2011-2012 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2011		OCTOBER 2011		NOVEMBER 2011	
5	Labor Day (Office Closed)	19	Council Board Meeting	5	Veterans Day Parade (Auburn)
9-25	Puyallup Fair	31	2010-11 Membership Expires	5-6	Woodland Park Zoo Overnight
16-18	Alumni Reunion at Camp Sealth			11	Veterans Day (Office Closed)
21	Council Board Meeting			13	Starflight Carnival
23	Songfest @ Carkeek Park			16	Council Board Meeting
30	Group Membership Early Bird Registration Deadline			24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)
DECEMBER 2011		JANUARY 2012		FEBRUARY 2012	
1	Candy Orders Due to Council Office	6	Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Cards Due	15	Council Board Meeting
14	Council Annual Meeting	16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office Closed)	20	Candy Fundraiser Ends
14	Council Board Meeting	18	Council Board Meeting	20	Presidents Day (Office Closed)
23-31	Winter Holiday (Office Closed)	27	Candy Fundraiser Begins at 4 p.m.	24-26	Adult Weekend @ Camp Sealth
		TBD	Candy Rallies	28	Wohelo Award Documentation Due
MARCH 2012		APRIL 2012		MAY 2012	
3-4	Dad/Kid Weekend @ Camp Sealth	11	Arbor Day	12	500 Seller Day
15	Absolutely Incredible Kid Day	11	President's Volunteer Service Award Forms Due	16	Council Board Meeting
17	Camp Fire USA Birthday	16	National Art Competition Entries Due	26-28	Special Family Weekend @ Camp Sealth
17-18	Discovery/Horizon Weekend @ Camp Sealth	18	Council Board Meeting	28	Memorial Day (Office Closed)
21	Council Board Meeting	28-29	Starflight/Adventure Weekend @ Camp Sealth		
24	Pacific Science Center Camp-In	TBD	Open House & Family Play Day @ Camp Sealth		
TBD	Camp Fire Birthday Events				
JUNE 2012		SUMMER 2012		SEPTEMBER 2012	
1-3	Group Camping Weekend	7/4	Independence Day (Office Closed)	3	Labor Day (Office Closed)
2	National Trails Day	7/18	Council Board Meeting		
10	Peace Arch "Hands Across the Border Celebration"				
20	Council Board Meeting				
TBD	Open House & Family Play Day @ Camp Sealth				
Happening this June:		Happening this July/August:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Sealth Resident Camp • Vashon Day Camp 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Sealth Resident Camp • All Day Camps 			


Camp Fire USA
 CENTRAL PUGET SOUND COUNCIL
 4241 21st Ave West, Suite 200
 Seattle, Washington 98199-1250
 Phone: 206 461 8550
 E-mail: info@campfire-usa.org
www.campfire-usa.org

Bridgett Chandler, CEO
 Chuck McDonald, President


Renew your membership now!

NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 SEATTLE, WA
 Permit No. 642

Camp Fire USA
*builds caring,
 confident youth and
 future leaders.*

Current Resident OR

Start or Join a Camp Fire Club!

If you are thinking about starting a Camp Fire group, or have a friend who is interested in starting a Camp Fire group, it may seem like a challenging task. Wherever you are in the process, from tantalizing consideration to planning your first meeting, Camp Fire staff members are here to help you. Our experienced and knowledgeable staff are eagerly awaiting your questions and are happy to guide you through the process. Please contact the Council office at 206 461 8550.

Spread the Word!

There are hundreds of public schools, private schools, and academies in King, Kitsap, and north Mason counties. At each of these schools there might be a family looking for the experiences and opportunities Camp Fire has to offer. How do we find these families and tell them more about our programs? What is the best way to get the word out and encourage participation? **YOU!** Our volunteers and members are the best resource we have for spreading the word about Camp Fire USA! Please share your positive Camp Fire experiences with another family and encourage involvement.



Camp Fire programs are available to all people without regard to race, gender, creed, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, economic status or mental or physical disabilities. Accommodations for special needs will be provided upon request whenever possible. Make arrangements at least two (2) weeks prior to the activity by calling the event coordinator listed or Patti Spencer at 206 826 8935 or 800 451 CAMP (2257). TDD/TTY users may reach us through the Washington Relay Service at 800 833 6388; TeleBraille users call 800 833 6385.

