

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEST BRANCH

1109A Warren Avenue, Bremerton, WA 98337-1606; 360 377 5513

January/February 2006

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Clip and Save

January

- 1 Advance Candy Sale Begins
- 2 New Year's Holiday - Offices
..... Closed
- 3 Leaders' Meeting - 9:30 a.m.
..... or 6:30 p.m.
- 12 ... Salute to Veterans Cards Due
- 16 ... MLK, Jr. Day - Offices Closed
- 20 ... West Branch Candy Rally
- 27 ... Candy Fundraiser Begins

February

- 7 Leaders' Meeting - 9:30 a.m.
..... or 6:30 p.m.
- 20 ... Candy Fundraiser Ends
- 20 ... Presidents' Day - Offices
..... Closed
- 24 ... Adult Weekend @ Camp
..... Sealth

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Welcome 2006!

The beginning of a new year! How exciting! How full of potential! Do you know how important it is to keep our children involved in self-esteem and skill building activities?

When I was a child in Camp Fire Girls (a very long time ago), I thought the entire "point" of Camp Fire was to **have fun!** And we did have fun! I also thought my leader was a genius, because she had such neat things to do at every meeting. When I volunteered with my own children, I learned that there was real learning with all the activities! AND I learned that my childhood leader was not a genius, she was following the written materials provided to volunteers by Camp Fire.

Lots of things have changed in all those years. And I am very proud to work for an agency which keeps pace with the needs of today's children.

* Camp Fire is coed, because boys as well as girls need to develop high self-esteem, good decision making skills and the skills to combat peer pressure.

* Parents are more pressed for time than ever before. The most successful groups have several parents sharing in the responsibilities of the group. Have **you** offered to help at a meeting, drive on a field trip, take members to sell candy, serve as the Candy Captain, or make phone calls?

* Camp Fire meeting plans are written with today's busy people in mind. Open the book and the meeting is complete! And, all the meeting plans are tied to educational objectives and assets, the building blocks which help our children become caring, confident youth and future leaders!

We have dozens of boys and girls waiting for groups in the West Branch. Do you know someone who would like to share their time and talent with youth? We have some of the best volunteers in all of Camp Fire USA! AND we have a firm commitment to keeping groups small so children have lots of individual attention. But smaller groups mean recruiting more volunteers. Please talk with a friend, neighbor or co-worker about the joy of volunteering. Training and support are provided.

Thank you for keeping your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or neighbor involved in such a worthwhile program. Together we are building the future of every life we touch!

Mary Olsen
South/West Regional Director



Welcome New Leaders!

Leader/Coordinators for new groups:

Deanna Wiggins - Starflight in Bremerton
Betsy Stauffer - Starflight in Central Kitsap

Jessie Gaudio - Little Stars in N. Kitsap
Irene Guinn - Little Stars in S. Kitsap

New Leader/Coordinators who stepped forward to help existing groups continue:

Lejanna Bayha - Adventure in S. Kitsap
Carol Glad - Adventure in N. Kitsap

Jill Brenner - Adventure in Central Kitsap

Skating Party to Celebrate Camp Fire's Birthday!

Happy 96th birthday, Camp Fire! Earn the "Celebrate Camp Fire" emblem that evening by:

1. **Attending the party** on Sunday, March 19th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bremerton Skateland (1740 NE Fuson Road).
2. **Honoring someone special.** (That will happen at the party!)
3. **Doing a Service Project.** Bring nonperishable food items for the Bremerton Food Bank. After the holidays, the food banks have a great need! and that need increases every year. Can we fill Mary's truck to overflowing?
4. **Donating** a penny, nickel, dime or even a quarter for every year of your age to the Camp Fire USA Membership Growth Fund. Adults, who may be sensitive about their age, may donate one dollar.

Cost: \$4 for each skater, bring \$1 extra if you want inline skates. Youth members, who complete steps 1-4 above, will take home the Celebrate Camp Fire Emblem



Bring: Cupcakes or cookies to share. And don't forget lots of change, many bags of nonperishable food items, personal hygiene items, diapers and other baby needs to donate.

Be ready to have a great time as we celebrate another Camp Fire USA year. See you there!

West Branch Candy Rally

Who: Camp Fire Members and their families
When: Friday, January 20th, 2006 at 6 p.m.
Where: Mountain View Middle School,
 2400 Perry Ave in Bremerton
What: FREE dinner and family fun!

- *See this year's incentives.
- *Practice selling strategies.
- *Learn the benefits to you, your group and Camp Fire.
- *Share how you and your group have used the money you earned.

Call 360 377 5513 and tell us how many are coming from your family so we can be sure to order enough pizza.

Plan for Day Camp

Niwana Day Camp: Circle July 24th – 28th on your calendar. The Committee's planning meeting will be on Wednesday, March 15th from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the West Branch Office. Come with ideas for this year's theme and activities. Contact Teresa Hopper at 360 779 1814 or e-mail hoppers5@aol.com to reserve your favorite volunteer job at camp.

Fay Bainbridge Day Camp: Better use a pencil when marking July 17th – 21st, 2006. These dates are tentative until springtime.



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