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March

- 7 Leaders' Meeting, 9:30 a.m. or
..... 6:30 p.m.
- 15 ... Niwana Day Camp Planning
- 16 ... Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
- 17 ... Camp Fire USA Birthday
- 19 ... Camp Fire USA Birthday Party

April

- 1-2 .. Service Weekend @ Camp
..... Niwana
- 1-2 .. Camp-In @ Pacific Science
..... Center
- 11 ... Leaders' Meeting, 9:30 a.m. or
..... 6:30 p.m.
- 21 ... Ice Cream Social

Contact information for West Branch Staff:

West Branch Office 360 377 5513

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Skating Party to Celebrate Camp Fire's Birthday!

Happy 96th birthday, Camp Fire USA! To earn the "Celebrate Camp Fire" emblem:

1. **Attend the party** on Sunday, March 19th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bremerton Skateland (1740 NE Fuson Road in Bremerton).

2. **Honor someone special.** (That will happen at the party!)

3. **Do 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.

4. **Donate** a penny, nickel, dime or even a quarter for every year of your age to the Camp Fire USA Campership 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 one through four above, will take home the Celebrate Camp Fire Emblem

Bring: *Cupcakes or cookies to share.

*Lots of change to help low income children attend camp

*Many bags of nonperishable food items for the food bank
(See following article on the "challenge")

*If you come with your group, remember your signed Special Activity Permission Form

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

Are YOU Up to the Challenge?

What challenge?

Can Camp Fire USA members bring more food than will fit into Mary's pickup truck?

Why?

The food banks in Kitsap County run low on food in the spring months and your donations will help feed hungry people. And, it is the service project to help youth earn the Celebrate Camp Fire emblem.

Where can I get food for the food drive?

- *Your own family
- *Walking around the block asking neighbors
- *Calling friends and relatives
- *Asking a grocery store if you can place a collection barrel
- *Asking a grocery store if you can hold a food drive on a weekend
- *Having a scavenger hunt during a meeting for nutritious items
- *Your own creative idea



Where do I take the food?

Bring the food, in bags or boxes, to the skating party on Sunday, March 19th and load it into Mary's truck, between 5 and 6 p.m.

Service Weekend at Camp Niwana

Plan ahead for the service weekend at Camp Niwana, April 1st and 2nd. Come out with your group or family and help get our beautiful camp ready for spring and summer camping events.



Spend the day on Saturday clearing trails, sweeping cabins, or doing any of the many tasks required to ready the camp for spring and summer; there are jobs for all ages. Dinner will be served, and you're invited to spend the night and enjoy some time around the campfire in the evening. Plan to arrive around 9:30 a.m., bring a sack lunch, work gloves and tools. Dinner will be served around 4:30 p.m.



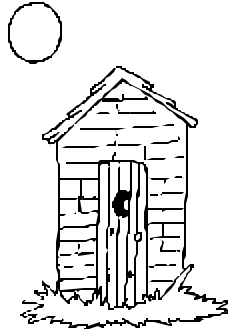
Being a part of the maintenance and operations of Camp Niwana help youth feel ownership and pride in the camp. Contact the West Branch Office at 360 377 5513 with any questions and to sign up.

Plan Ahead for Day Camp

Niwana Day Camp: Circle July 24th – 28th on your calendar. The first 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: Day Camp at Fay Bainbridge State Park for July 31st - August 4th.

No matter which Day Camp you choose, fun is a guarantee, and, as all Camp Fire kids, volunteers and staff know, it is never too soon to begin planning for fun!



Council Fire/ Spring Weekend

Spring Weekend is the final big West Branch event of the Camp Fire USA year. It's a chance to do some camping with your group, teach some outdoor skills, swim, canoe, recognize the accomplishments of our youth, and have a wonderful time in the great outdoors at Camp Niwana, south of Port Orchard.

Decide which parts of the weekend are most important to you and mark your calendar:

June 2nd:

*Discovery and Horizon members, their Leaders and chaperones gather in the evening for special activities and to prepare for the awards ceremony on Saturday.

June 3rd:

Groups can arrive in the early afternoon for camp activities, swimming, canoeing, hiking, and outdoor skill practice.

Groups can arrive in the late afternoon for the Council Fire (awards ceremony) practice, dinner and stay to attend Council Fire that evening. Families can arrive in time to eat dinner and stay for the Council Fire.

Families can arrive for the Council Fire. Your group can spend the night.

June 4th:

For those who spent the night, enjoy a continental breakfast, clean up camp and depart for home before Noon.

We are still in the planning stages. More specific information and registration details will be in the May/June *Wohele*.



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