

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEST BRANCH

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September 2005

Contents

Your Children Are the Lucky Ones	1
Help Camp Fire USA Grow	1
Training	2
"News Hounds" Wanted	2

Clip and Save

September

- 1 Magazine and Music
- Fundraiser Begins
- 5 Labor Day, Office and
- Program Resource Center
- Closed
- 13 ... Leaders' Meeting**
- ****Note:** Date Change
- 9-25 Puyallup Fair
- 17-18 Alumni Weekend @
- Camp Sealth
- 17-18 Mom/Kid Weekend @
- Camp Niwana
- 25 ... Camp Fire's Seahawk Blue
- Ribbon Partnership
- Fundraiser Game
- 30 ... Group Early Bird Registration
- Deadline

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Your Children Are the Lucky Ones!

Yes! Your children are the lucky ones! Lucky, because **YOU** see the value in Camp Fire USA and plan for them to participate!

Some youth in today's world are "busy" playing video games, instant messaging, web surfing, and watching reality TV shows. They are "watching" rather than "experiencing" life.

In talking with adults who were involved in Camp Fire as children, I hear the same things over and over again, "If it were not for Camp Fire, I would not have really learned about myself, set high goals, marched in a parade, gone to college, gone to camp, toured a candle factory, made these special friends, learned to be responsible for my actions, or received a scholarship." Every person's list is a little different. But, there is one thing in common: "I'm so glad I stayed in Camp Fire! It made a tremendous difference in my life and who I am."

And then there are the adults who say, "I was in Camp Fire for a while. I wished I had stayed!" But "we moved," or "I changed schools," or "my leader quit," or "I got really busy with other things."

Schedules are busy and many people seem to be in a hurry all the time. Your children are the lucky ones because **YOU** have found the time and the place to help them learn and live and experience and grow. **YOU** have made an investment in the future by nurturing the next generation.

Is it simple to get your child to the meetings? Sometimes, but not always. Is it easy to juggle all the demands on our lives? No. Is it easy to find the time to help with group activities? Not usually. Is it important to build caring, confident youth and future leaders? **YES!**

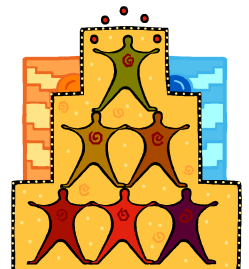
Thanks you for the commitment you have made! **Your children are the lucky ones!**

Mary Olsen
South/West Regional Director

Help Camp Fire USA Grow!

Our community and country needs more caring, confident youth and future leaders! Think about the people you know. Who enjoys being around children? Who likes to see children and teens learn and grow? Talk with them about the fun of sharing with children and the support available from Camp Fire. The West Branch Office is eager to talk with people you think would enjoy helping with groups. We offer training by appointment and lots of TLC.

Word of mouth is our best advertising! **YOU** can help more children belong by identifying potential volunteers. What if every group leader suggested a name and that name led to a new group? Our membership would double! How exciting!



Training

Leaders and parents are invited to learn more about the Camp Fire program by attending training. The trainings are free and are presented in the West Branch Office at the corner of 11th and Warren in Bremerton. At least one adult from each group is required to take training, but it is most useful when several adults know how Camp Fire programs can benefit their children. Training topics include:

Getting Started: Camp Fire history, policy and safety standards, and how to start, and register a group.

Program Level Trainings: How to use the curriculum at each program level.

Little Stars: Pre- Kindergarten (NEW THIS FALL!)
 Starflight: Grades K – 2
 Adventure: Grades 3 – 5
 Discovery: Grades 6 – 8
 Horizon: Grades 9 – 12

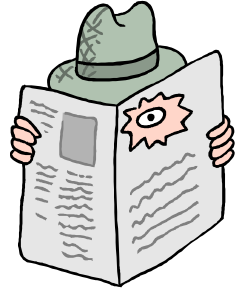
Community Family Club (CFC): Are you tired of running each child to a separate location on a different night for quality youth programs? Community Family Club is the answer. Families gather once a month, enjoy a meal together, and divide into age appropriate groupings for activities. CFCs may meet every week or twice a month.

Field Trip Training: Safety and policy review, which is required before taking groups away from the regular meeting place.

Call the West Branch Office to set up a time 360 377 5513.

“News Hounds” WANTED

We are looking for “News Hounds” to help us with extra sets of eyes (and scissors) to find Camp Fire USA articles printed in local newspapers, cut them out and mail them to the West Branch Office. We have a publicity plan to increase Camp Fire’s visibility. This fall we are committed to sending regular news releases to local papers and need to know when the articles are published.



Call today and sign up with Dianne (360 377 5513) to be the “NewsHound” for one (or more) of the following papers:

Bainbridge Island Review
Bremerton Patriot
Central Kitsap Reporter
Kitsap Chronicle
North Kitsap Herald
Port Orchard Independent
The Sun Newspaper

Camp Niwana Work Party

Mark your calendar and plan to help prepare Camp Niwana for the winter months. Join us on October 1st and/or 2nd. Bring a sack lunch for Saturday. If you can stay for dinner and/or want to spend the night, call the West Branch Office to sign up so we will have enough food. There are painting and wood cutting projects as well as trail trimming.


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