

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAMP FIRE USA CONFERS HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT TO YOUTH LEADERS

Seattle, Wash – Leadership, teaching, service and advocacy. That's how thousands of teens across the country spend hours and hours each week as they work toward the Wohelo Award, the highest achievement in Camp Fire USA, one of the nation's leading youth development organizations.



Christine Elizabeth Swanson of the Central Puget Sound Council has successfully completed the requirements for Camp Fire USA's highest honor. A member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Christine actively advocates for both environmental awareness and boating safety. She has translated these interests into teaching young children the importance of life jacket use and proper fit, as well as the harmful effects beach trash can have on marine mammals, birds and fish. In addition to her work on behalf on Camp Fire programs at Day Camp and Spring Weekend, Christine became actively involved in the political process by working on an Appeals Court judicial campaign. Christine says that earning the Wohelo Award has taught her that "hard work and perseverance pay off." After graduating from North Kitsap High School, Christine plans to earn an AAS degree in Librarianship at Highline Community College.

According to Christine, Camp Fire USA has taught her to "do everything the best you can and be who you want to be, not what others want you to be."

The Wohelo Award provides an intensive, individualized experience requiring recipients to plan, lead, teach, take action, and advocate for three service causes, utilize adult experts, and evaluate their projects at the conclusion. This award helps foster key developmental assets in youth, such as service to others, constructive use of time, planning, decision-making, and self-esteem. The word Wohelo comes from the first two letters of the words work, health and love. In 1910, Wohelo was coined as the organization's watchword. Each year, approximately 200 youth nationally receive this prestigious award. The Wohelo Award allows Camp Fire USA to serve its mission of building caring, confident youth and future leaders.

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Camp Fire USA provides all-inclusive, co-educational youth development nationwide. Founded in 1910, with national headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, Camp Fire USA's mission is to build caring, confident youth and future leaders. By design, Camp Fire USA's programs include family and small group experiences, after school programs, camping and environmental education, child care and service learning. The Camp Fire USA experience builds confidence in younger children and provides hands-on, youth-driven leadership experiences for older youth. The Central Puget Sound Council serves King, Kitsap and North Mason counties. For more information, visit www.campfire-usa.org.

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