

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2009

Contact:

Susan M Bean, Chief Development Officer, 206 826 8953 or SusanM@campfire-usa.org or

Karen M. Aoyama, Chief Program Officer, 206 826 8919 or KarenA@campfire-usa.org

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.



Kathryn Olleman of the Central Puget Sound Council has successfully completed the requirements for Camp Fire USA's highest honor. For her three Advocacies Kathryn served as the Nature Director at Hans Jensen Day Camp, where she "had the pleasure of seeing my plans in action" as she taught fire and pocketknife safety, tree and ecosystem activities, and knot tying. She also helped lead and promote Camp Fire events such as the Salute to Hospitalized Veterans to the membership. Deeply committed to assisting families in poverty, Kathryn led her church's annual school supply drive and a tool drive for Habitat for Humanity. With her church's youth group, Kathryn worked in Mississippi to help rebuild after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Kathryn will be graduating from Bellevue Community College with an AA. Degree this month, and will attend Whitworth College in the fall to study Engineering or Physics.

Olleman describes her Wohelo work: "I have had leadership opportunities in Camp Fire that I couldn't have experienced elsewhere."

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.

###

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.

###