

**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.



Lacey Steward of the Central Puget Sound Council has successfully completed the requirements for Camp Fire USA's highest honor. Camp Fire has been a part of Lacey Steward's life since she was five-years-old, and all of Lacey's Advocacies centered on service to Camp Fire. As a Purchaser at Tall Timbers Day Camp, Lacey supported good nutrition and sanitation by creating an outdoor recipes cookbook to promote healthy menu options. She has also worked with two Starflight groups, leading them in songs, games, ceremonials and service projects. Her work on dozens of Camp Fire events in the South County is impressive, culminating in her chairing the highly successful Discovery/Horizon Weekend in March 2008. From recruiting volunteers, coordinating registration, managing the event budget, menu planning and activity coordination, Lacey managed this multifaceted weekend with skill, with the result being lasting memories and friendships for the youth who attended. This summer Lacey will work as a Kitchen Assistant/Rover at Camp Sealth and will go on to Whitworth University in the fall with the intention of majoring in mass communications and journalism.

Camp Fire USA has made a great impact on Lacey's life. "I know now that I have the power to change my community and myself for the better." states Steward.

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](http://www.campfire-usa.org).

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