



Tolerance  
Responsibility  
Integrity

We **build** more  
than campfires.

**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.



Mackenzie Carlson of the Central Puget Sound Council has successfully completed the requirements for Camp Fire USA’s highest honor. A junior at Nathan Hale High School and a member of Camp Fire since kindergarten, Mackenzie Carlson’s commitment to community service sparked her interest in increasing awareness of service in the youth of her church and in increasing visibility and membership in Camp Fire. Mackenzie organized 3 multi-age service learning projects with her church’s youth classes. One especially successful one raised money to assist African communities to transport water. For Camp Fire, Mackenzie led her group in planning the popular Dad/Kid Weekend at Camp Sealth, adding active “funshops,” such as juggling, outdoor cooking, and archery. She worked to increase Camp Fire membership by representing Camp Fire at community events and school open houses. Mackenzie feels that Camp Fire has taught her to be a “better time-manager, communicator and leader.” She plans to attend a four year college after graduation in 2010.

Camp Fire USA has made a great impact on Mackenzie’s life. “This strenuous 3-year project has become much more than I had ever imagined. I am not exaggerating when I say I have learned so much more about myself and about this organization!” states Carlson

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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