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Sarah M. Shoemake is awarded 2008 WoHeLo Award



(Seattle). Sarah M. Shoemake will receive her WoHeLo Award at the annual Camp Fire USA C.A.R.E. Dinner and Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 14, 2008,

The Wohelo Award is Camp Fire USA's most prestigious youth award. It is open to all youth members in high school regardless of the Camp Fire USA programs they participate in. "Wohelo" is a word one of Camp Fire USA's founders, Charlotte Vetter Gulick, created by combining the first two letters of work, health and love. To be awarded a Wohelo Award individual must complete an intensive and individualized project that typically takes two to three years of planning, service and documentation to complete as the project generally entails significant leadership and decision making. The award requires candidates to plan, lead, teach, take action and advocate for three service causes, utilize adult experts and evaluate their projects at the conclusion. About 200 youth earn the Wohelo Award, nationally, each year. The Central Puget Sound Council generally accounts for 5-10% of the total Award winners.

Shoemake's advocacies included encouraging youth involvement in Camp Fire USA activities through organizing, leading, recruiting and advertising for the annual Puget Sound Council Carnival of Beads. Promoting and supporting small farming communities throughout the world which produce fair

trade, organic, shade grown products as well as the Wallingford Church Youth Group Fund by selling products through Equal Exchange Interfaith Coffee Program. Shoemake also worked on promoting breast cancer awareness and early detection through the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and a video produced for Public Service Announcements.

Sarah has been in Camp Fire USA 13 years and has participated as co-leader of the Carnival of Beads, co-organizer of the North Branch 2008 Council Fire, song leader and Day Camp Junior and Senior Counselor. Sarah has six '200 Service Hour Awards', two 'President's Student Service Awards' and a ten year 'Tenure Award for Day Camp' participation. She plays in the Ingraham High Marching Band and has been a section leader for three years. She has also been on the Varsity Softball team for four years and is team co-captain her senior year. Sarah is an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate and as a member of the National Honor Society, tutors Spanish students. She has played recreational soccer the past 12 years on a team of City Tournament Champions. She also participates at Wallingford Presbyterian Church as a youth group member, Sunday school teacher and attended national conferences. She will attend the University of Washington to major in social work then later attend graduate school to work in social services. As encouragement to other youth, Sarah notes, "Although the Wohelo Award is perhaps one of the most difficult activities I have completed in my eighteen years; it is absolutely the most fulfilling."

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Camp Fire USA is one of the nation's leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, serving nearly three quarters of a million participants annually. Camp Fire USA, with national headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri since 1977 and local offices in Seattle since 1911, provides all-inclusive, co-educational programs in hundreds of communities across the United States. 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. For more information, visit www.campfire-usa.org.

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