

## Camp Fire USA Welcomes Cathy Tisdale as National CEO

Glenn Cravez, chair of the Camp Fire USA Board of Trustees, recently announced that Cathy Tisdale had been selected as the new CEO of Camp Fire USA. Cathy officially joined Camp Fire at the national board of trustees meeting on June 17, 2010.

“Cathy brings the experience and expertise to continue our mission as an innovative twenty-first century youth development organization,” stated Glenn. He went on to say, “Camp Fire USA has made great strides under the interim leadership of Pamela Wilcox, and we want to thank her and the entire national staff for their outstanding work and for helping to chart our course.”

Ms. Tisdale developed a broad range of nonprofit management expertise during a 28-year career at American Red Cross, serving at both the local and the national levels. For the last three years, she served as a vice president at Girl Scouts of the USA corporate headquarters in New York City.



Cathy stated, “I’m really honored to join Camp Fire. I care about our mission of serving youth and developing their skills as leaders. I look forward to meeting the councils’ staff, their boards, and volunteers soon. Together we will continue the legacy of Camp Fire USA.”

Cathy can be reached by e-mail at [cathy.tisdale@campfireusa.org](mailto:cathy.tisdale@campfireusa.org) or by phone at 800 669 6884 ext. 2017. Welcome Cathy!



## Camp Fire USA Centennial Campfire Locations

Across America, Camp Fire USA will mark its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 31 of this year by lighting official Centennial Campfires in 43 locations. Camp Fire council staff, participants, alumni, friends, and family members are proud to be sharing this special time with the many community members who have supported the organization through the years. This is an opportunity for Camp Fire to celebrate the promise of continuing a legacy that has left an indelible mark on millions of alumni and hundreds of communities. Camp Fire participants, their families, and alumni are invited to attend the Centennial Campfires closest to them. Many councils are having family and alumni picnics as part of the day’s celebration. The list of locations is on Camp Fire’s website, [www.campfireusa.org/Centennial\\_Celebrations.aspx](http://www.campfireusa.org/Centennial_Celebrations.aspx). See the article on Page 4 for more information.

### Camp Fire USA offers quality programs reflective of best practices in four Core Program Areas because Camp Fire USA...

#### Cares



Midlands Council  
after-school program

#### Camps



Iowana Council  
Camp Hitaga archery

#### Contributes



Portland Metro Council  
Xploreregon service project

#### Connects



Coastal Bend  
family club

## Plan to Attend the National Leadership Summit

Camp Fire USA is convening a National Leadership Summit November 4-5, 2010 to focus on Camp Fire's organizational goals and strategies as it prepares its next century of leaders. Council executives, board chairs, board members, council leadership staff, and council youth board members are invited to participate along with the national board of trustees and national staff leadership. This event will:

- ◆ Build on Camp Fire USA's strengths and role as a national leader in youth development.
- ◆ Promote communication within the organization and tie local strategic goals with the national strategic goals.
- ◆ Provide quality time at minimal cost, both to councils and to the national organization, for reconnecting, networking, and actively planning for Camp Fire USA's future.



The cost to attend the National Leadership Summit is \$150 for adults and \$125 for youth. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites Kansas City-International Airport. Lodging is \$99 per night for a two-room suite and includes a buffet breakfast, free parking, and free airport shuttles. See the flier in the Camp Fire USA Compass News Section for more information.

Please budget now, and plan to be in Kansas City, Mo., on Thursday, November 4, before 5 p.m. The event will end at 4 p.m. on Friday, November 5. The National Leadership Summit will replace the 2010 NLC. More information will be sent as it becomes available. Plan to attend to help promote system-wide leadership of the Camp Fire USA mission.

## Next Steps for the Program Quality Assessment Process

Each Camp Fire USA council is expected to participate in the Camp Fire USA Program Quality Assessment process (CFPQA) and assess up to five program sites between March and August 2010. Councils throughout the country have ordered the box sets and are well on their way to conducting self-assessments.

Following is a reminder of next steps:

1. **Select Your Team.** The self-assessment team should consist of the program administrator and at least two direct-delivery staff members, volunteers, council members, or parents.
2. **Attend Training.** Go to [www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA](http://www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA) for instructions on how to participate in training. Courses include the YPQA Basics course, Welcome Webinar, Youth PQA Intro, and the CFPQA Crash Course. The self-assessment team needs to be trained in the process.
3. **Collect Data.** The self-assessment team members collect data by observing programs. Plan enough time to observe a program in its entirety plus transition to and from the activity. Team members collect objective, anecdotal records of the programs.
4. **Have Scoring Meetings.** These meetings are intended to be meaningful dialogues between the program administrator, direct-delivery staff, and others who have been part of the observation team. The meetings are the beginning of the improvement process, in which suggestions for staff development or program changes are discussed. Plan enough time to have complete conversations. At a scoring meeting, the group completes one CFPQA Form A for each of the program sites observed and one CFPQA Form B for each type of program (such as after-school, club, or camp) in which the group completed a CFPQA Form A.
5. **Report Scores.** The program administrator enters the agreed-upon scores into the Excel-based Scores Reporter (located at [www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA](http://www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA)) and then sends the completed Scores Report to [leah@cypq.org](mailto:leah@cypq.org).
6. **Make an Improvement Plan.** After council staff have submitted the CFPQA data, the next step is to make a program improvement plan. Join one of the Planning With Data webinars to review and interpret site and national data and create a program improvement plan. Use the information in your CFPQA Training Guide to create your plan.
  - Register at [www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA](http://www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA).
  - Choose a webinar date:
    - Wednesday, August 4, 1 p.m. (CST)
    - Wednesday, September 8, 11 a.m. (CST)
    - Tuesday, September 14, 1 p.m. (CST)



For assistance with the CFPQA process or in understanding the next steps, please contact DD Gass, [dd.gass@campfireusa.org](mailto:dd.gass@campfireusa.org) or Connie Coutellier, [connie.coutellier@campfireusa.org](mailto:connie.coutellier@campfireusa.org).

## Camp Fire USA News and Reminders

### Outcome Measurement Surveys Due

For the 2009–2010 program year, Camp Fire USA is using the 2008 Outcome Measurement tools. These are the same surveys and Excel spreadsheets that have been used for the past two years. All of the tools can be found on the Camp Fire Compass. The Outcome Measurement reports were due June 15, for programs offered during the school year and are due September 15, 2010, for summer programs. Send completed Excel Spreadsheets to: [outcomes@campfireusa.org](mailto:outcomes@campfireusa.org). If you have questions, contact DD Gass at [dd.gass@campfireusa.org](mailto:dd.gass@campfireusa.org).

### Financial Reports Due

Council Financial Reports are due 6/30/10 for councils with a 12/31/09 fiscal year end and should be submitted electronically. Log on to the Camp Fire USA Compass and click Reports in the left side menu, then click on Financial Report. If you are unable to submit your financial report by 6/30, please e-mail Pam Cermak, Vice President of Finance and Administration, at [pam.cermak@campfireusa.org](mailto:pam.cermak@campfireusa.org).

### Warehouse Closed for Inventory

Due to inventory, Camp Fire USA's warehouse will be closed to new orders June 25–30, 2010. Orders received by 5 p.m. CDT on June 24 will be shipped June 25. Normal shipping will resume on July 1. Customer service staff person Becky Gist will also be unavailable June 29 and 30.



Ernie Tilford, warehouse director, has worked for Camp Fire since 1979. Ernie has been working underground for 31 years. Camp Fire's warehouse is located in a cave—an underground, mined-out limestone quarry. Kansas City has approximately 22 million square feet of mined-out space that has been developed and leased to businesses. An estimated 2,500 people work in more than 200 businesses that operate beneath Kansas City's surface. Energy savings are significant, because

the temperature stays at approximately 75 degrees year-round. Ernie likes the cave. In fact, some people call him "The Caveman!"

### Procedures for Updating Council Bylaws

Camp Fire USA national staff is in the process of contacting councils to request copies of their current council articles of incorporation and bylaws. In some cases, the bylaws updates have not been approved by the national office, as is required. In other cases, the bylaws were approved but the final copy that includes board members' signatures is missing. National staff will be reviewing the submitted bylaws and updates over the next year. As councils consider updating their bylaws, keep in mind that notifying the national office is required of all chartered councils. Councils must contact Geri Anne Elsen, national vice president of council and program services, [gerianne.elsen@campfireusa.org](mailto:gerianne.elsen@campfireusa.org), about their plans to revise or amend bylaws.

### CDC Releases Alert About Mumps

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released information for summer camps regarding mumps for the 2010 camp season. Since August 2009, a mumps outbreak that originated in a summer camp has been ongoing in several states. It is possible that mumps cases may occur in camps again this summer. Crowded living conditions (as in a dormitory or camp) can promote the spread of the mumps virus even among vaccinated persons. Camp administrators should educate staff who are providing health care on signs and symptoms and encourage hand washing and health safety practices. More information about can be found at [www.acacamps.org/news/mumps](http://www.acacamps.org/news/mumps).

### Key Dates, Trainings, and Conferences

#### June

June 15

Outcome Measurement Reports due for programs conducted 9/1/09–5/31/10.

June 25–30

Camp Fire warehouse and customer service closed for inventory.

June 30

Financial Reports/Audits due to national finance department for councils with 12/31/09 fiscal year end.

#### July

July 5

Camp Fire USA national office closed for July 4 holiday.

July 31

Centennial Campfire events across the country! See more information at [www.campfireusa.org](http://www.campfireusa.org)

#### August

August 31

Camp Fire Program Quality Assessment Excel-based Scores Reporter due to Leah at the Weikart Center, [leah@cypq.org](mailto:leah@cypq.org).

#### September

September 15

Outcome Measurement Reports due for summer programs.

#### November

November 4–5

Camp Fire USA Leadership Summit, Kansas City, Mo.

#### February 2011

February 4–7 (tentative date)  
GROW Conference  
Probably in Southern California.

## Celebrating the Camp Fire USA Centennial

### July Centennial Campfires Described

Plans are well underway for the July 31, 2010, Centennial Campfires. These are meant to be not only Camp Fire USA events but also community-wide events, open to everyone currently involved in Camp Fire as well as alumni and the interested public. The official national event will feature the special lighting of commemorative campfires at precisely 7:30 p.m. in each time zone. In some areas, Centennial Campfires will be accompanied by other Camp Fire events, such as a family camp weekend, a family picnic and entertainment, a reunion, or a memory boat launch.



The official Centennial Campfire program is designed to be reminiscent of Camp Fire USA council fires held throughout the years and will include both historical pieces and information about Camp Fire today. The campfire will highlight each decade of Camp Fire's history and conclude with representatives from the many quality programs being offered today.

As part of the Centennial Campfire program, councils will be sharing background information to help those attending understand the history of the organization. The watchword *Wohelo* and parts of the ceremony were developed by Mrs. Charlotte Gulick in the summer of 1910. The Call of Wohelo will be the opening invitation and participants will receive a replica of the first membership pin as a memento of this special event.



The Native American culture—its stimulating creative expression, respect for nature, and sensitivity to the world around us—has long been a source of inspiration for Camp Fire USA. Some of the participants may be wearing ceremonial jackets, tunics, or gowns of their own designs or heritage, decorated with symbols and awards that display their accomplishments. Native American symbolism as a natural outgrowth of an appreciation for differences and cultural inclusiveness was the starting point for Camp Fire symbolism. The founders believed that the use of symbols and designs should have real meaning, express the ideals and personalities of their makers, and encourage self-reflection and personal growth.

Although we appreciate and honor our past, as culture has evolved, so has Camp Fire USA. In this Centennial year, Camp Fire continues to provide a variety of quality programs that bring boys, girls, and families together through one inclusive organization. Join in the celebration.

### Centennial Marketing Tools Now Available

Across America, Camp Fire USA councils are celebrating the Centennial with a host of activities. To help councils promote events, there are lots of marketing materials on the Camp Fire USA Compass. These include radio scripts, press release templates, sample print ads, posters, postcards, and even a slide that can be used in a movie theatre or as a billboard or bus sideboard. *All these materials are free* and are easy-to-use. Look for the newest marketing tool: Based on council requests, the national office has just produced a new 15-second TV PSA. It is available at a nominal fee. Please contact Valerie at [valerie.holton@campfireusa.org](mailto:valerie.holton@campfireusa.org).

### Centennial Sale

Councils can now purchase select Centennial merchandise at 20 percent off the regular price. Items include the ever-popular ball caps, the Centennial flame award (which make perfect recognition gifts for hard-working Centennial volunteers), and many jewelry items—ideal gifts for Centennial chairs or retiring board members. The Centennial Sale merchandise flyer and all the other marketing materials are available on the Camp Fire Compass.



## Council Assessment Tool Update

Camp Fire USA wants to thank the many staff, volunteers, and youth who assisted their councils in completing the annual Council Assessment Tool (CAT). The national office has heard from **94 percent of the councils, and 79 percent of the CAT surveys were completed with board approval**. Some councils are waiting for their upcoming board meetings to get final approval. The CAT is used to evaluate the council's status in the five core competencies: Governance/Board of Directors, Executive Leadership, Program Management, Strategic Planning, and overall Business Operations.

### What councils are saying about CAT:

"CAT is a great tool. We learn something from the results every year."

"Each year the CAT gets easier to complete."

"We are working with an outside consultant who thought the CAT was a good tool and looks at the health of our council and board."

"We review the CAT results with our board and staff but need to be more efficient in implementing plans to make changes in our programs and ways of work."

"Our CAT scores went down this year because we had new board members on our task force. We need to do a better job of educating our board members about the work we do in our council."



## Data Collection Survey to be Released in August

The Camp Fire USA Data Collection Survey is one of the reports that are required of every council. This survey is vital to the Camp Fire system in order for the national office to strategically study council structure as well as financial, program, participation, and demographic statistics and trends. The information gathered from this survey will build on the knowledge gained from the 2008 and 2009 surveys. It is critical that we demonstrate to our funders, our communities, and ourselves the significant amount of service Camp Fire provides to children and families.

The 2010 Data Collection Survey will be revised slightly, but the most of it will not change. Some of survey questions will be altered to more accurately collect demographic and participant income data. Parts of the survey will be combined to shorten it; however, a few additional questions will be added as requested by the national development department to assist with funding appeals. The Data Collection Survey will be sent to each council by e-mail in August, and they are due back at the national office by October 15, 2010. Conference calls will be scheduled to explain the process.

## Gamma Phi Beta Camperships Awarded



Camp Fire USA would like to thank Gamma Phi Beta Collegiate and Alumnae Chapters, and the Foundation, for their support as local councils instill in youth greater awareness and appreciation of the environment. Through this national partnership, chapters raise money for scholarships to girls whose families are financially unable to support their participation at camp. This year, local chapters raised over \$61,000 for the Camp Fire national campership fund! This historic amount was distributed to 47 councils for a total of 159 camperships! These camperships amount to 1,898 days of Camp Fire programming. In 2009, just over \$38,000 was awarded to councils for a total of 117 camperships. We are extremely grateful for Gamma Phi Beta's tireless efforts to



significantly increase the amount of money raised, which increases the number of youth who can attend Camp Fire outdoor educational programs and camps. To send a note of appreciation to Gamma Phi Beta, feel free to become a fan of its Facebook Page and leave a comment: <http://bit.ly/cgTPH7>. If you have questions about the camperships or this partnership, contact [lauren.wiedt@campfireusa.org](mailto:lauren.wiedt@campfireusa.org).

## Connie's Risk Management Corner—Staff Who Directly Supervise Children

By Connie Coutellier

In any activity sponsored by an organization serving youth, there is an inherent duty to supervise the participants. In addition to providing a quality program, this duty includes:

1. Managing individual and group behavior.
2. Enforcing rules and procedures.
3. Providing emergency care.
4. Being aware of and responding to dangerous conditions.
5. Responding to interference from people outside the program.



The question of duty—who is responsible before and after a program—depends on the agreed-upon responsibility for care between the parent and the program administrator. For example—when children are on their way to a program after school, are dropped off at a bus stop after day camp, or ride public transportation to a baseball game—who is responsible for their supervision? During a program, while participants are waiting for a snack, moving from one activity to another, or changing clothes after a swim, which staff member is responsible for their supervision? The answer may depend on how clear the responsibility for supervision is during that time and whether the supervision of participants is adequate.

Consider two types of supervision—activity supervision and general supervision. One staff member may be responsible for both types, or the responsibility may be shared between a staff member with a specific skill and one that is familiar with the group.

- **Activity supervision** is required when children need instruction by a person skilled and knowledgeable in that activity. The supervisor must be able to judge participants' knowledge and skill levels, their appreciation for the potential risks or injuries, and their behavior or mental condition and ability to participate in the activity. Success or safety of the activity may also be affected if the behavior of one or more participants could cause injury to themselves or others.
- **General supervision** is a constant requirement for staff "on duty." The supervisor needs to be aware of the behavior of individuals and groups of people, the general area, and any dangerous conditions. Supervisors should always be within sight or sound of the children in their care and know who will assume responsibility if and when they are not on duty. The participant should take on some of the responsibility by performing as instructed and abiding by safety rules.

A plan for direct supervision of children should include a schedule of who is on duty and the performance expectations during that time. Other considerations that should be included in the plan are:

- The competency of the person or persons selected to supervise the situation.
- The locations of the supervisors.
- The number of supervisors needed.
- The ratio of supervisors to participants.
- The ages and/or the experience of the participants.
- The type of activity.
- The physical conditions of the participants.

Each of these elements should be considered individually and in combination. An organization can have enough staff to supervise, but they might not be in the right locations, know what is expected of them, or how to look for dangerous situations. The program administrator should also take into account how the supervision plan will be administered and if the plan is appropriate. Are the rules and procedures appropriate for the situation? Are the deployment of staff and the supervision of that staff adequate and consistent with the plan? Have the rules been made known to the staff performing the duties and to the participants? Have the supervisors of direct delivery staff been trained to supervise their staff?

Most incidents and accidents occur when children have free time or are "horsing around." Do the supervisors observe their staff and the relationships between children and staff during both the planned activity times and the more informal free times. Staff conferences should be held frequently and include both the performance of the job and feedback on the observed relationships. Are the staff following the stated policies and disciplinary guidelines in the plan? Any identified problems should be discussed and documented and follow-up completed.

Appropriate participant supervision is critical to the success of any program. Besides having a great time and a fun, positive role model, children need to be cared for and feel safe in the program. For more information see Managing Children's Behavior information in Chapter 4 in the *Risk and Crisis Management Planning* book.

## National YAC Highlights

By Emily Cotter, National YAC Chair

The National Youth Advisory Cabinet (YAC) has been hard at work for the past couple of months coordinating with the Executive Leadership Strategic Alliance (ELSA) to develop tiers of the 4cs of Camp Fire USA. We are making decisions to enable YAC to work with ELSA's regional plan and help councils share teen program ideas and regional activities. Everyone is very excited about going to the National Leadership Summit in November. And, we are all a little relieved to not have to plan an entire youth track. This gives us more time to talk with council staff and teens. We would love to see councils bring their youth to participate in the National Leadership Summit discussions and help guide Camp Fire into the next 100 years!



Emily Cotter with Cathy Tisdale, the new Camp Fire USA National CEO.

## Spotlight on ELSA

By Gayle Orange, ELSA Chair



We had great participation on our May conference call. A special thank you to all of the CEO/EDs who joined the ELSA call. The ELSA survey responses regarding meeting times resulted in changing the time for the ELSA steering committee meetings. The meetings will still be held on the second Tuesday of each month. **The new times are: 11:30 (EDT), 10:30 (CDT), 9:30 (MDT), and 8:30 (PDT). Conference call information: 866-502-8312 Pass code: 256401.**

### Future Conference Calls:

June 29, 2010 (This is the rescheduled June 8 Meeting.)  
 July 13, 2010  
 August 10, 2010  
 September 14, 2010  
 October 12, 2010  
 November 9, 2010 – Tentative meeting  
 December 14, 2010

**ELSA Meeting:** November 6, 2010 (This is the Saturday following the Camp Fire USA National Leadership Summit in Kansas City.) More details will be announced when available.

The following council executives will lead in facilitating regional conversations to determine duties/responsibilities, assignments, and topics of interest under the pillar of Connecting. Each council executive should expect a call. If you have not yet received your call, please contact the name listed for your region.

- Region I (West Coast – to be determined)
- Region II Bob Reid, Heart of the Hawkeye Council
- Region III Keith Harrison, Greater Dayton Area Council
- Region IV Joey Hughes, Central Coast Council
- Region V Wayne Bebee, Southwest Louisiana Council
- Region VI Elaine Brinkley, Georgia Council

Working together, ELSA is stronger and more effective than ever! Thank you.

## Changes in Council Executive and Board Leadership

### Resignation of Executive Director/CEO:

Kathy Unruh, Orca Council, Tacoma, Wash.

### New Executive Director/CEO:

Daiquiri Lara, Heart of California Council, Madera, Calif.  
 Terra Campbell, Panhandle Plains Council, Amarillo, Tex.  
 Bill Shuey, West Texas Council, Midland, Tex.

### Incoming Board Presidents/Chairs:

Ben Pitts, Central Alabama Council, Birmingham, Ala.  
 Susan Gunnell, Greater Dayton Area Council, Dayton, Ohio  
 Anne Daubney, Green Country Council, Tulsa, Okla.  
 Leif Swedlow, Heart of Oklahoma Council, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
 Sharon Switzer, Tesuya Council, Cleburne, Tex.



## 2010 Wohelo Award Recipients Announced

The Wohelo Award is the highest achievement for youth in Camp Fire USA. This prestigious award, specifically for teens in grades 9 through 12, offers opportunities for personal development, leadership, and advocacy on important issues. Youth are eligible to earn the Wohelo Award when they participate in Teens in Action, Horizon, and other council-approved Camp Fire programs. The following individuals have earned Wohelo Awards thus far in 2010. Names of additional recipients will be published in the next issue of *The Camp Fire USA CONNECTION* newsletter.



**Central Coast Council, Arroyo Grande, Calif.**—Daarian Thomas Bringle, Joanna Costa, Kayla Hensley, Victoria Lissabeth Jess, Kelsey Lindquist, Brooke Lauren Schultz, Anne Elizabeth Wald.

**Heart of California Council, Madera, Calif.**—Sarah Elizabeth Dunn, Alexandra Gurrola, Mareike Lamaack, Angelica Maciel, Claire Staggs.

**Long Beach Area Council, Long Beach, Calif.**—Amanda Cully

**Monticello Council, Monticello, Iowa**—Ivee Adams, Jordan Aitchison, Taylor Aitchison, Maggie Brehm, Mariah Mae Chapman, Abigail Eiben, Michaela Mae Fortman, Courtney Iben, Kelsey Iben, Taryn Kromminga.

**River Bend Council, Mishawaka, Ind.**—Jamie Blatz, Ani Johnson.

**Green Country Council, Tulsa, Okla.**—Natalie R. Crosslin, Mollie Erin Field, Lillie Marie Haddican, Lindsey N. Hearon, Ashley Elizabeth Johnson, Desiree D. Lindsey, Jazmine Sharé Logan, Clara Dawn Miller, Laura Rosa Rouser, Teresa Gail Ruedy, Shae' Necole Russell, Hope Olivia Tenney.

**Heart of Oklahoma Council, Oklahoma City, Okla.**—Megan Crook, Steven Dyer, Taylor Hall, Madison Howard, Gina Ann Mengwasser, Kathryn Miracle.

**Central Oregon Council, Bend, Oreg.**—Chloe Shields.

**Wilani Council, Springfield, Oreg.**—Jaymie Deutsch.

**Central Puget Sound Council, Seattle, Wash.**—Kelsey Brown, Isabel Corrado, Katherine Marie Doesburg, Brooke Luchau, Madeleine Tangney, Kelsey Zaches.

**Inland Northwest Council, Spokane Valley, Wash.**—Ashley Bueckers, Jamie Harper, Katelyn Loveall.

**Snohomish County Council, Everett, Wash.**—Shamae Campbell, Trina Huschka.

To learn more about the Wohelo Award, consult the *Wohelo Guide*, Item no. D00013, or *New Horizons*, Item no. D14100. Council staff should submit the Wohelo Award National Letters and Certificate Request Forms so as to allow for at least two full weeks between their receipt by the national office and the presentation date. Each recipient listed on the form will receive a national letter and certificate of recognition. Wohelo emblems, pins, and/or medallions may be ordered through the Camp Fire USA Online Store. If you have questions, contact Council Services Coordinator Connie Dresie, at [connie.dresie@campfireusa.org](mailto:connie.dresie@campfireusa.org) or 800-669-6884, ext. 2025.



Wohelo Award recipients from Central Coast Council.



Green Country Council Wohelo Award recipients.

**Congratulations to all of these fine young people for all of their hard work and dedication to Camp Fire USA!**

## News From Camp Fire USA Councils

### Urban Hike Supports Families

Approximately one hundred fifty youth and family members participate in Baltimore Council's Urban Hike. Participants hiked one of the largest urban woodlands on the East Coast and celebrated the impact Camp Fire USA has had on Baltimore. Each hiker received a goodie bag that contained snacks and information about engaging young people in their environment. A post-hike celebration was sponsored by local restaurants, and entertainment was provided by talented musicians. A local photographer, Robin Lerner Photography, captured the day in pictures. Not only was this a great family event; it was a successful fundraiser as well. Through participant fees and sponsors, approximately \$1,500 was raised for council operations.



### Disney Grant Helps Kids Shine

For the second year in a row, Sunshine Council received a Disney Healing Kids Shine grant, which financially supports nonprofits that demonstrate Disney's goal of improving children's lives. "Camp Fire Connects—Bridging the Gap" combines the effectiveness of mentoring with Camp Fire USA outcome-based youth development programs. This has decreased school discipline and attendance issues by up to 20 percent. Camp Fire mentors will help youth bring the values learned and demonstrated in their Camp Fire activities into their interactions with peers, classmates, and family members—connecting their Camp Fire lives with their "real" lives. During the month of May, more than \$1.2 million dollars was awarded to a total of 57 central Florida charities.

### Good News From United Way

Colene Rubertt, Inland Northwest Council executive director, shared some good news from the local United Way. The Camp Fire USA day camp was one of eight programs that received increased funding from United Way of Spokane County. And their Club program was one of eight programs that received 100% of funding requested. In addition the council received \$15,000 from a local foundation for resident camp scholarships.



### Gulf Wind Council Teachers Honored

Two teachers in the Gulf Wind Council preschool program were honored at a local event recently, because youth in their program received top reading scores. The Camp Fire USA preschool program, a free three-hour instructional class for youth who are four years old, is funded by the state of Florida. The Gulf Wind Council site was also listed as one of the top preschool sites, as graded by the state.

### Floods in Oklahoma

In mid-June, the Heart of Oklahoma Council day camp was hit with ten inches of rain in less than five hours. The creek that bisects the camp washed out two suspension bridges and flooded the council fire area; the fishing gear storage shed floated into the trees; and the camp's eight canoes were swept away (but at least five of them have been recovered). The day camp session was rescheduled, and the volunteers are already mobilized to begin the cleanup process.

### Gulf Wind Council to Help in Gulf Oil Cleanup Efforts

The tar balls and oil have reached the beaches of Pensacola, Florida. Gulf Wind Council staff are prepared to organize Camp Fire USA service projects to help with cleanup efforts. So far, this is the only Camp Fire council to report area damage from the oil spill. Southwest Louisiana Council has reported they do not have oil damage yet.

### Just Plane Fun!

Green Country Council held its 11<sup>th</sup> annual plane pull—a fundraising event called "Just Plane Fun." Twenty teams of 20 people each took turns pulling a 150,000 pound Boeing 727 jet. Each team had a chance to pull the plane twice over a distance of about five feet. The group with the fastest time won the competition. Youth and their family members had a great time watching the pull and participating in a small carnival that took place inside an airplane hangar.



## More News From Camp Fire USA Councils

### Centennial Event Features Senator

Minnesota Council friends, supporters, and alumni gathered in early June at Camp Tanadoona to celebrate 100 years of Camp Fire USA. The event celebrated the many successes of Camp Fire's first 100 years and unveiled Minnesota Council's vision for the future.

United States Senator Amy Klobuchar, a news anchor, a mayor and a Camp Fire USA club member each spoke about the impact of Camp Fire USA. Senator Klobuchar had the crowd in stitches as she recounted stories of her years in Camp Fire and at Camp Tanadoona. She spoke on the lasting impact Camp Fire had had on her, from the skills and confidence she developed to still remembering all the words and motions to a camp song.



Minnesota Council CEO Marnie Wells announced the launch of a \$1.5 million, three-year capital campaign to reinvest in Camp Tanadoona. Funds raised will help modernize and expand the facilities at camp. Through the generous support of a silent donor, the council is already halfway to its goal. A donor pledged a grant of \$750,000 that will be matched, dollar for dollar.

### Central Puget Sound Council Buddhist Club Celebrates 60 Years



The Seattle Betsuin Camp Fire club celebrated the Camp Fire USA Centennial with an anniversary of its own—60 years of providing Camp Fire programs through the Buddhist church. The club began in 1934 with 10 members. During World War II the Betsuin club was suspended due to the Internment. The club became active again in 1950 and today has 66 youth members and many generations of volunteers and alumni. Favorite activities include camping trips, cook-outs and service projects. This year, the group sold 6200 boxes of Camp Fire Candy—a record for the club. Over the years, 18 members of the club have achieved the Wohelo Award. The Seattle Betsuin club could be the longest operating Camp Fire club in the country.

### Adahi Council Celebrates 100 Days of Camp Fire USA

Adahi Council will be celebrating the Camp Fire USA Centennial with 100 days of Camp Fire beginning on June 28. There will be a ceremony for all of the kids who attend the council programs and their families. The council will light a torch that will burn for 100 days. Then, on September 25 (the 100th day), the council will hold a huge celebration dinner that will include a band and a lot of family fun.

### Council Youth Participate in Ceremony

Two teens from the Patuxent Area Council, Brianna Walker and Isabel Hammond, participated in the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety's 20th Anniversary with a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. This event honored congressional and departmental staff who had worked hard to keep roads and highways safe. These young people represented Camp Fire USA and assisted with the awards ceremony. They had the opportunity to meet many congressional and department leaders, partner agencies, and others interested in driving safety. The Patuxent Area Council youth were invited through a partnership with the National Organizations for Youth Safety.



### Heartland Operations Division Begins Summer Programming

Camp Fire USA National Headquarters has transitioned Kansas City area programming from the former council to the national office. This summer, Camp Fire staff are providing Starflight and Adventure activities in the Kansas City, Kansas, Kidzone summer school program. Kidzone is a unique collaboration of agencies—Camp Fire, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and 4-H—that provide year-round programming in a school-based setting. In addition to Kidzone, Camp Fire staff will be providing outdoor education, *Hold on to Health*, *Money Smart for Young Adults*, and other programming within existing Kansas City youth-serving agencies. "Exciting, dynamic opportunities will be offered by the Heartland Division throughout the metro area this summer. We are thrilled with the supportive nature of our community and anticipate a very busy season," exclaimed National Manager of Heartland Operations Lori Smith.

## Program Opportunities and News

### United We Serve: Let's Read. Let's Move.

First Lady Michelle Obama and four United States Cabinet Secretaries joined Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, to launch United We Serve: Let's Read. Let's Move. The goal of this new initiative is to get more Americans volunteering to combat childhood obesity and youth summer learning loss. "The United We Serve Summer Service initiative is a nationwide effort calling on all Americans to make service a part of their daily lives," said Mrs. Obama. "We are asking individuals and community organizations, corporations, foundations, and government to come together and devote their time and energy to help our kids stay active and healthy—and to keep them learning—all summer long." To learn more about Let's Read. Let's Move., and how everyday Americans can make a difference, visit [www.Serve.gov](http://www.Serve.gov).



### Great Kindness Challenge in August

Kids for Peace, a global nonprofit organization, has established Saturday, August 14, 2010, as The Great Kindness Challenge—a day devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible. All day, children around the world will be encouraged to accomplish simple, kind deeds. A checklist of activities and more information is available on the website, [www.greatkindnesschallenge.org](http://www.greatkindnesschallenge.org).

### Using F.I.L.M. in Summer Programs



Rainy days and really hot days can put a damper on planned summer programs. F.I.L.M. (Finding Inspiration in Literature & Movies) is a movie curricula program for youth that promotes literacy, activity-based learning and service. The program was created in 2004 by Heartland Truly Moving Pictures and the National Collaboration for Youth. Its focus is the development and distribution of free curricula based on Truly Moving Picture Award-winning films to channel positive messages and life-affirming themes into the minds and lives of youth. The curricula is designed in conjunction with movie studios and youth educators to get youth reading and watching quality content, provoke thought and exploration of pertinent themes and issues, and inspire participation in theme-based activities and service projects. New summer movie curriculum from F.I.L.M. includes "Journey to the Center of the Earth" and "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl." See the website at [www.trulymovingpictures.org](http://www.trulymovingpictures.org).

### Camp Fire USA Leaves MySpace

The Camp Fire USA MySpace profile will soon be taken offline. We invite everyone to join us on Facebook! Please continue to ask your local supporters, alumni, and partners to join the national movement online! Go to <http://www.facebook.com/CampFireUSA>.



### Help the Camp Fire USA Centennial Announcement Go Viral!

Help Camp Fire USA broadcast its Centennial through Facebook! Visit [www.facebook.com/CampFireUSA](http://www.facebook.com/CampFireUSA) and "Like" the page. Then, stay tuned in July for an announcement requesting your help to make the Centennial announcement go viral! Questions about connecting to us on Facebook? E-mail [lauren.wiedt@campfireusa.org](mailto:lauren.wiedt@campfireusa.org).

### New National Staff

The Camp Fire USA national office has welcomed two new staff members in addition to the new CEO. Pam Cermak has joined the staff as Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Chris Wagoner is the new Manager of Office Technology.

Pam is the former Chief Financial Officer for TLC for Children and Families in Olathe, Kansas, and has extensive experience as a senior financial executive in both the nonprofit and for-profit sectors. In addition to finance knowledge, Pam has real estate expertise gained while working at Omaha Property and Casualty Insurance Company. She is a CPA and has an MBA from University of Nebraska.



Chris is the former Information Systems Manager for the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce and Past President of the Atchison Community Information network where he supported the IT and infrastructure needs for its 30-agency community network. Welcome to both Pam and Chris!



## Family Strengthening—Full-time Program Manager Supports Alaska's Families

*"The Alaska Council works diligently every day to ensure the youth and families we serve receive high quality programs with caring adults in healthy and safe environments. Whether you are a new volunteer, new staff member or new family to one of our programs, you understand right away that strengthening working families is at the core of everything we do...It's not just a philosophy or a program, it's our culture. On behalf of the Alaska Council, I am honored for our work to be recognized with the Annie E. Casey Families Count: Family Strengthening award."* Barbara Dubovich, CEO, Alaska Council

The Alaska Council helps families build networks of both formal and informal supports to sustain them through both positive and negative situations. Key to the council's ability to provide this support is having a family services program manager (FSPM). This full-time position supports and develops systems for families and staff to ensure all children's needs are met in programs. The FSPM is responsible for:

- Providing support to families through assistance with "plans of care" for youth with special needs and/or families in crisis.
- Monitoring youth with special needs and acting as a liaison, coordinating with social service agencies to assist with meeting their needs.
- Providing technical assistance and training to all levels of staff working with youth who have special needs.
- Providing support and assistance to parents, when needed, to navigate Camp Fire USA's business systems for registration and billing.
- Coordinating partnerships with other agencies to enhance opportunities of support for the council's families.



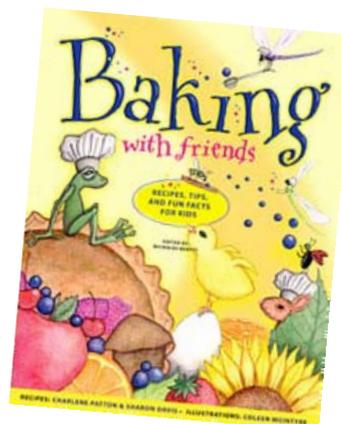
The FSPM position is funded through the council's annual operating budget, which is supported by program fees, contracts, and donations from individuals as well as corporations. Dedicated operational dollars are critical to the success of this position. However, Alaska Council knows it is not feasible for all councils to dedicate limited resources to full-time positions, so it developed ideas other councils may wish to consider to support this important work:

- Increase training and awareness of staff, volunteers, and board members about the needs of families.
- Develop collaborative relationships with other agencies to offer resources and support to families.
- Regularly survey families about their needs and ask for input on ways the council can better support them

The FSPM at the Alaska Council spends 60 percent of his time meeting directly with families, approximately 30 percent supervising programs, and 10 percent meeting with community partners. To find out more about the Alaska Council's family strengthening efforts and the role of the FSPM, contact Larry Johns, at [ljohns@campfireak.org](mailto:ljohns@campfireak.org) or 907-257-8839.

## New Youth Group and Family Baking Book

The Home Baking Association is excited to introduce a new baking resource! *Baking with Friends* will inspire children to learn new baking skills while spending time in the kitchen. Parents, educators, and teen youth leaders will find this colorful, whimsical book filled with recipes and ideas for teaching baking to children of all ages. The recipes in this 74-page hardback book include family baking activities, fun facts, vocabulary words and suggested children's literature. The book also includes a 60-minute audio CD. The cost of the book is \$20.00, and more information can be found at [www.homebaking.org/bakingbook.php](http://www.homebaking.org/bakingbook.php). Camp Fire USA and the Home Baking Association have been partners for several years. Sharon Davis has presented at many Camp Fire USA GROW conferences, and wrote baking activities for the Starflight and Adventure curricula.



## Program and Grant Opportunities

### Change for the Children Grant

DoSomething.org has teamed up with The Jonas Brothers' Change for the Children Foundation to award project grants to individuals who are taking action in their communities. Youth who have sustainable community action projects, programs or ideas that focus on the Special Olympics, Diabetes Awareness, or Volunteerism are encouraged to apply. Although a project that covers any cause is eligible, special focus will be given to these three causes (the Jonas Brothers' causes!). Ten projects will each receive a \$1,500 grant for the project or organization. All of the winners will be featured on DoSomething.org and applications are due by July 15, 2010. Go to [www.dosomething.org/grants/changeforthechildren](http://www.dosomething.org/grants/changeforthechildren) for more information.



### Disney's Friends for Change Grants

Disney, together with Youth Service America (YSA), has released applications for the Disney Friends for Change Grants. Friends for Change funds youth-led fall service projects that focus on making environmentally friendly changes and engaging youth, aged 5–18, as leaders in their communities. YSA will award 75 \$500 grants to youth-led service initiatives around the world that demonstrate youth leadership and the commitment to making a positive impact on the environment. Eligible applicants will be asked to implement their projects between September and November and to connect their projects to International Coastal Cleanup Day, National Public Lands Day (both September 25), or other environmentally focused days of service. Disney Friends for Change Grants are open to schools, organizations, and individuals planning service projects. Grant applications are due July 15, 2010. For more information, visit [www.ysa.org/grants/announcements/disneys-friends-change-grants-deadline-july-15](http://www.ysa.org/grants/announcements/disneys-friends-change-grants-deadline-july-15).

### “Smiles Change Lives” Program Provides Access

Smiles Change Lives (SCL), a national nonprofit organization that helps low-income children obtain orthodontic treatment, is now serving all 50 states. Since 1997, this organization has changed the lives and smiles of more than 1,200 children due to the dedication of hundreds of orthodontists nationwide. Talented and caring orthodontists have teamed up with SCL to provide pro bono, comprehensive treatment for approved SCL patients. Families interested in applying can review program guidelines and download applications at [www.smileschangelives.org/apply](http://www.smileschangelives.org/apply) or call 888-900-3553. Applications are available in both English and Spanish. If your council is interested in outreach materials to distribute to potential applicants, or if you have questions about the program, please contact Ms. Umbreit at [andrea@smileschangelives.org](mailto:andrea@smileschangelives.org).

### Youth Can Help Make a Difference Across the Globe Through GirlUp

GirlUp, a campaign of the United Nations Foundation, gives American girls opportunities to channel their energy and compassion to raise awareness and funds for programs of the United Nations that help some of the world's hardest-to-reach adolescent girls. Through GirlUp's support, girls have opportunities to become educated, healthy, safe, counted, and positioned to be the next generation of leaders. On the website, [www.GirlUp.org](http://www.GirlUp.org), youth can learn more about the campaign and give “High Five” donations to fund United Nations programs that support adolescent girls. A donation of \$5 or more will help provide girls with such basic needs as access to school supplies, clean water, life-saving health services, safety from violence, and more. There are 600 million adolescent girls living in developing countries. Find out more at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NknKI96I84>.

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