

## National Leadership Conference Date Announced

The 2011 Camp Fire USA National Leadership Conference (NLC) will be held October 20–22, 2011 at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. All Camp Fire executives, board chairs, council staff, and older youth are encouraged to attend. Keynote speakers and conference details are being confirmed and will be shared with councils over the next few months.

According to the planning committee, this year's conference will provide a forum for transforming, shifting perceptions, and establishing new expectations and possibilities for the Camp Fire USA Movement.

The three-day agenda will include:

- Keynote presentations by nationally renowned experts.
- Networking opportunities with staff and board leadership.
- Time to share best practices and challenges with supporters and business partners.
- Presentations by Camp Fire USA youth.
- Opportunities for developing and deepening partnerships and collaborations.

For more information, contact Catherine Lufkin, at [catherine.lufkin@campfireusa.org](mailto:catherine.lufkin@campfireusa.org), or Geri Anne Elsen, at [gerianne.elsen@campfireusa.org](mailto:gerianne.elsen@campfireusa.org).

## Camp Fire USA to Host National Youth Summit

In February 2011, five Camp Fire USA youth attended the U.S. Department of Education *Voices in Action: National Youth Summit*. To continue the work of the National Youth Summit, Camp Fire, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education, will host a Kansas City regional *Voices in Action: Kansas City Youth Summit* on Saturday, October 22, 2011. This will happen during Camp Fire's annual National Leadership Conference. The purpose of the summit will be to empower a diverse set of high school youth who participate in out-of-school organizations to create youth-led strategies that address President Obama's 2020 college completion goals. To learn more about the National Youth Summit and how you can make a difference in your community, go to [www.ed.gov/college-completion/youth-summit](http://www.ed.gov/college-completion/youth-summit).



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

#### Cares



West Michigan Council  
Absolutely Incredible Kids

#### Camps



Baltimore Council  
Family Hike

#### Contributes



New Jersey Council  
I'm Peer Proof Course

#### Connects



Heartland Programs  
National Art Competition

## Camp Fire USA Youth Speaks at Service-Learning Conference

In early April, Justice Walker, from the Patuxent Council, spoke in front of thousands of people at the opening session of the National Service-Learning Conference in Atlanta. Justice reflected on the impact of service-learning and the difference that it made in his life. For the past three years, Justice has participated in Teens in Action and is an example of how service-learning can change the lives of our young people. Go to <http://youtu.be/Su9H3DJwM0> to view Justice speaking at the Conference. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is the only federal entity to specifically support service-learning. With current federal funding of CNCS in limbo, please think about contacting your congressperson to tell him or her to save the CNCS.



## Camp Fire USA Executive Team—Leaders in Youth Development

The Camp Fire USA Executive Team has been making its presence known—both in Washington, D.C., and nationally—in the youth development field. Since Cathy Tisdale's tenure as national president and CEO began, she has been working on the steering committee for the National Collaboration for Youth and is also serving on the planning committee for the Independent Sector's conference, to be held in October 2011 in Chicago. Geri Ann Elsen, national chief operating officer, is working on the national advisory committee for the Search Institute's Big Tent Conference, to be held in November 2011 in Omaha, Nebr. Catherine Lufkin, national chief of external relations, has recently been recruited to serve on an advisory committee for the Independent Sector's critical brand work on behalf of all nonprofits.



## Camp Fire USA Represented on United Way Education Town Hall

In late March, United Way brought students, educators, and partners face-to-face with such national leaders as U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Director of the White House Policy Council Melody Barnes. Jeff Peneston, New York State Teacher of the Year and Camp Fire USA Central New York Council summer staff and volunteer, was interviewed by Soledad O'Brian on the live broadcast of the United Way Education Town Hall. Jeff talked about organizations such as Camp Fire USA as important partners in education. See more at <http://townhall.liveunited.org/>.



## Teens Represented Camp Fire USA at National Youth Summit

Five Camp Fire USA teens represented Camp Fire USA at the *Voices in Action: National Youth Summit* in Washington, D.C., hosted by the U.S. Department of Education. The Summit was in support of President Obama's goal of leading the world in college completion by 2020. Four Youth Advisory Cabinet members—



Lauren Lampe (Adahi Council), Kayla Hensley (Central Coast Council), Owen Ballard (Heart of the Hawkeye Council), and Justin Berl (Portland Metro Council)—were in attendance. In addition, Antonio Harrison (Patuxent Council) served as a local representative. The five youth are shown in the photo with Alberto Retana from the Department of Education. The national summit was held in February at Howard University. It included workshops and dialogues on key education issues that were raised during this year's national youth listening tour. The youth discussed today's most critical topics in education, such as high-quality teaching, mentors, school climate, family and parent engagement, and the college access and information gap. Find out more at [www.ed.gov/college-completion/youth-summit](http://www.ed.gov/college-completion/youth-summit).

## Program Quality Assessment And Improvement Process 2011

Camp Fire USA is leading the way in improving the quality of youth programs and youth program staff through a customized, research-based process: the Camp Fire USA Program Quality Intervention (CFPQI). Through this process, Camp Fire is creating a continuous improvement system for its programs throughout the nation.

Camp Fire USA is the first youth-serving organization to take this intervention to a national scale. Starting in 2011, every Camp Fire council will complete a program self-assessment on at least one and no more than five Camp Fire sites each year; develop an improvement plan for each site; and submit data to the Weikart Center, a division of the Washington-based Forum for Youth Investment. The Weikart Center will produce a nationwide report on the findings, which Camp Fire will use to further boost its staff training, revise its programs, and deliver the best possible Camp Fire experience to the nation's youth.



### 2011 Expectations

**For 2011, every Camp Fire USA council is expected to:**

- Participate in this process. A program administrator from each council will participate in Camp Fire Program Quality Assessment (CFPQA) training and manage the process for the council. Appropriate council staff/volunteers will be trained.
- Annually complete a self-assessment on at least one and up to five program sites. Councils may choose the program sites to be assessed. Self-assessments for 2011 will be done in the spring and summer.
- Annually complete and submit an improvement plan for each site assessed.
- Submit program self-assessment data to the Weikart Center, using the online scores reporter for a national Camp Fire USA summary.

### Team of Trainers and External Assessors to Be Trained

Through an application process, a team of council and national staff has been chosen to participate in the 2011 training in May to become Camp Fire USA Youth Work Methods Trainers and External Assessors. These trainers will deepen our national initiative to improve program quality in Camp Fire USA councils!

Those participating include Pam Bland, West Michigan Council; Elaine Brinkley, Georgia Council; Ngoc Do, Central Puget Sound Council; Carolyn Guyton, West Michigan Council; Sheri Hemby, Lone Star Council; Holly Huschka, Snohomish County Council; Lyn Lucas, First Texas Council; Tara Markley, Heartland Program and Innovation Center; Renee Martinez, Orange County Council; Marjean McCraw, Central Puget Sound Council; Jan Peneston, Central New York Council; Rosemary Pezzuto, Patuxent Area Council; Maria Reyna, Central Puget Sound Council; Larissa Ruud, Minnesota Council; Marybeth Soderstrom, Sunshine Council; Jennifer Treece, Northwest Ohio Council; Connie Coutellier, national headquarters; and DD Gass, national headquarters. For more information, contact DD Gass, at [dd.gass@campfireusa.org](mailto:dd.gass@campfireusa.org).

## How Program Quality Is Related To Adolescent Outcomes

Child Trends has published a research brief outlining the connection between program quality and adolescent outcomes. The full brief may be found at [http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-2010\\_08\\_02\\_RB\\_OSTProgramQuality.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2010_08_02_RB_OSTProgramQuality.pdf). Following is a short description.

This brief contains research on the association between out-of-school -time (OST) program quality and adolescent outcomes. Research is sparse on what constitutes a quality program however, several elements of program quality were frequently identified. Three of these elements were in programs that supported youth in forming positive relationships, making decisions, and encouraging learning. In addition, safety—or fostering a safe physical and emotional environment—was often identified as a key element in program quality. This research brief examined the hypothesis that adolescents in high-quality and safe programs tend to engage in fewer risky behaviors, have greater social competency, and have better school performance than adolescents who are not in programs.

The research showed that being in a high-quality program was positively, consistently, and significantly correlated with all three adolescent outcomes. Specifically, adolescents in high-quality programs were more likely to avoid risky behaviors, have better performance in schools and have greater social competence—over and above the control variables—than those not in programs. It consistently was found that adolescents in low-quality programs had similar outcomes to adolescents not in programs at all. Adolescents in medium-quality programs tended to have better school performance than adolescents who were not in programs. However, adolescents in medium-quality programs did not experience significantly fewer risky behaviors and did not experience significantly greater social competence when compared with adolescents who were not in programs.

## National Get Outdoors Day in June

Participants from federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and the recreation industry are again teaming up to host the fourth annual National Get Outdoors Day (GO Day) to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun at sites across the nation. On Saturday, June 11, 2011, these diverse partners will offer opportunities for American families to experience traditional and non-traditional types of outdoor activities. Prime goals of the day are reaching currently underserved populations and first-time visitors to public lands, and reconnecting our youth to the great outdoors. Last year, several Camp Fire USA councils participated with local community partners to host family events. Find out more at <http://www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org/about/>.

## Spotlight Summer Learning Day

Summer Learning Day is a nationwide advocacy celebration spearheaded by the National Summer Learning Association. It is a day to mark the importance of summer learning as well as a chance for summer programs to share—with funders, families, community partners, and others—the contributions they make to the lives of children and families. This is a great opportunity for Camp Fire USA councils to spotlight the learning that happens in summer programs. Host an event during the week of June 21 or any time during summer! Get a planning toolkit, a logo for your event, and more details about Summer Learning Day at [summerlearning.org/SLD](http://summerlearning.org/SLD). Don't forget to register your event!



## Learn and Serve America and AmeriCorps Funding Cut

Congress has cut the budget for Learn and Serve America for 2011 and has reduced the budget for AmeriCorps by approximately \$23 million. The cuts are particularly painful because they come at a time of surging interest in service-learning and in AmeriCorps. This is a significant cut for AmeriCorps, representing roughly a 6-percent reduction in the amount of grant funds that were available under the FY 2010 budget. According to the December 2010 progress reports, AmeriCorps programs received more than 535,000 applications for member positions. In the previous year, there were just over 360,000 applications. So, in one year there was almost a 50-percent increase in applications to serve as AmeriCorps members. For more information, go to [www.cncs.gov](http://www.cncs.gov) or [http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/newsroom/statements\\_detail.asp?tbl\\_pr\\_id=1960](http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/newsroom/statements_detail.asp?tbl_pr_id=1960).

## Grant Resources for Councils

### 52 Free Development Opportunities for Nonprofit Staff

The Bridgespan Group provides ways in which nonprofit leaders can engage promising staff members in critical skill-development areas without sending them to formal external trainings. Use these suggestions as a checklist, identify which opportunities best fit with your staff members' development needs, and put them into action! Read more at <http://bit.ly/fVwEUK> (Bridgespan).

### Best Communities for Young People Competition

America's Promise Alliance and the ING Foundation have announced the call for submissions for this year's 100 Best Communities for Young People. The program recognizes communities that are doing exceptional and innovative work in helping reduce high school dropout rates and providing their youth with outstanding places to live, learn, and grow. <http://bit.ly/hQZoj2>. Deadline: May 27, 2011.

### KaBOOM! Playful City USA Grants

A total of 103 grants, worth a combined amount of \$2.1 million, are available to Playful City USA-recognized cities and towns in 2011 through 2013. The grants, with values of \$30,000, \$20,000 and \$15,000, will be awarded to existing Playful City USA communities as well as communities receiving Playful City USA recognition for the first time. To apply, complete the online application at <http://bit.ly/eM5MCz>. Deadline June 1, 2011.

### Net Literacy Financial Connects Contest

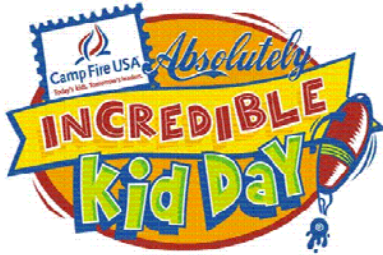
Net Literacy is a student-founded nonprofit in which students compose 50 percent of the board of directors. Thanks to support from State Farm, students throughout the country submit short videos that teach lessons about the importance of financial literacy. Video entries win \$100 to \$500 and web-based games win \$500 to \$1,000. <http://bit.ly/eDkDIX>. Deadline rolling through June 30, 2011.

### Build-A-Bear Workshop Announces 2011 Grantmaking Schedule

Grants of up to \$10,000 each will be awarded to nonprofits working to support such causes as children's health and wellness, animals, and literacy and education. <http://www.buildabear.com/shopping/contents/content.jsp?catId=400002&id=700010> Deadline: Accepting grants through October 28, 2011.

## Special Events and Conferences

### Absolutely Incredible Kid Day® 2011



This year, Absolutely Incredible Kid Day® (AIKD) happened to fall on Camp Fire USA's birthday! Each year, on the third Thursday in March, Camp Fire conducts a national letter-writing campaign and events that support youth. More information can be found at [www.campfireusa.org/aikd\\_index.aspx](http://www.campfireusa.org/aikd_index.aspx).

New this year, and thanks to TLC Greetings, based in Kansas City, Mo., people were able to send AIKD E-cards located at the following link: <http://bit.ly/AIKDecard>. The Camp Fire USA national AIKD Facebook page documented special events held throughout the country. Posts are available at [www.facebook.com/AbsolutelyIncredibleKidDay](http://www.facebook.com/AbsolutelyIncredibleKidDay). Some of the stories are listed below.

**Tejas Council** honored ten area students with the AIKD Award at a luncheon. Each winner received a \$100 savings bond, a gift basket, a certificate from U.S. Representative John Carter, a letter from the mayor of his or her town, and a certificate. Also honored were three adults for their work with children. A head football coach from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, a former superintendent of the Temple Independent School District, and a teacher from Killeen ISD each received the On Behalf of Youth award. Scott & White Children's Hospital received the Outstanding Achievement for Youth award.

**West Texas Council** celebrated AIKD with a letter-writing campaign. In addition, the council worked with the school district to choose several youth in each school to receive a special letter from a local celebrity. Chuck E. Cheese helped to distribute some of the letters.



**Green Country Council** held its AIKD event at a local park. Activities at the free event included nature exploring, campfires, junior crossbows, crafts, creative construction, parachute games, and interactive storytelling. Those who attended received discounts to the Tulsa Zoo and the Tulsa Air and Space Museum.

**Midland County Council** had volunteers join the council in reading to children in classrooms, reminding students of how incredible they are.

**Golden Empire Council** partnered with the Solano Metro Mentoring Collaborative in recognizing students of honor and excellence. AIKD provided awareness and recognition for the council.



**Wilani Council** partnered with Head Start, athletic departments, and universities, on AIKD. The council provided a TV interview on a local morning show, had speakers at events, and had plenty of stationery to hand out.

**Heartland Program and Innovation Center** celebrated AIKD by participating in local St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Camp Fire youth were in the parade and handed out stationery. A booth in the children's area was a great opportunity for doing crafts, getting temporary tattoos, and handing out stickers and more AIKD stationery.

### Key Dates, Trainings, and Conferences

#### May 2011

May 16–20  
Camp Fire USA Training of Trainers and External Assessors  
Kansas City, Mo.

#### June 2011

June 6–8  
National Council on Volunteering and Service  
New Orleans, La.  
[www.volunteeringandservice.org](http://www.volunteeringandservice.org)

June 11

National Get Outdoors Day.  
[www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org](http://www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org).

June 21

Summer Learning Day  
[www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org)

#### October 2011

October 17–20  
Camp Fire USA CORE Executive Training  
Kansas City, Mo.

October 20–22  
Camp Fire USA National Leadership Conference  
Kansas City, Mo.

October 22

*Voices in Action Kansas City Youth Summit*  
Kansas City, Mo.

#### November 2011

November 3–5  
Big Tent Conference  
Omaha, Nebr.  
[www.bigtentconference.org](http://www.bigtentconference.org)

#### February 2012

February 25–28  
Camp Fire USA Professional Development Event  
Atlanta, Ga.

## New 2011 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 so far in 2011. Note that all of this year's recipients are listed in the News and Events section of national headquarters' website, at [http://www.campfireusa.org/Wohelo\\_Award\\_Recipients.aspx](http://www.campfireusa.org/Wohelo_Award_Recipients.aspx).



### Heart of California Council, Madera, Calif.

Katey Stewart, Bianca Chavez, Kayla Jones, Katelyn Diebert, Nicole Greene, Paige Janzen, Audrey Cavazos, Andrea Cavazos, Taylor Lynn Hale

### Long Beach Area Council, Long Beach, Calif.

Christina Davis, Kaitlyn Dobbins, Rebecca Ellis, Lindsay Goldman, Sofia Hodjat, Christina Kirchhoff, Joseph Koppenheffer, Kelsey Mamaradlo, Garrett-Lin Marsh, Sonya Schafer, Madelyn Skinner, Mia Wraight

### Monticello Council, Monticello Iowa

Faith Danielle Brehm, Marjorie Feldmann, Ellyn Rose Felton, Betsy S. Guthrie, Brandie Lynda Heims, Chrissy Hines, Kaylee Rae Jones, Courtney Kay Ketelsen, Kelsey Lange, Marissa Manternach, Nicole Renee Stevens, Molly Marie Tabor, Hannah Jo Anne Thompson, Tasia Welter

### Green Country Council, Inc., Tulsa, Okla.

Kaitlyne Stephens, Sarah Giroux

### Balcones Council, Austin, Tex.

Marisa Arceneaux

### Central Puget Sound Council, Seattle Wash.

Jill Catherine Mayer, Lacey Rose Ballard, Lauren Celmer, Kathleen Elisabeth Scott, Jaime Leitzke, Victoria Steward.

### Snohomish County Council, Everett, Wash.

Dalanie Church, Stephanie Church, Laurel Clayton



Snohomish County Council  
Wohelo Recipients 2011

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 at least 30 days between their receipt by national headquarters and the presentation date. Each recipient listed on a 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 Audrey Gralton, office assistant, at [audrey.gralton@campfireusa.org](mailto:audrey.gralton@campfireusa.org) or 800-669-6884, ext. 2032.

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

## 2011 Gamma Phi Beta Campership Applications Available



Information was sent to council staff in mid-April announcing the 2011 campership application process. This announcement contained important information about the 2011 round of camperships and the national collaboration between Camp Fire USA and Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority. Scholarships will be given to applicants for resident camp, day camp, and outdoor programs. Up to three camperships will be awarded per council. Applications are due May 27. For more information, contact Audrey Gralton, at [audrey.gralton@campfireusa.org](mailto:audrey.gralton@campfireusa.org). Gamma Phi Beta, an international women's sorority, continues to support Camp Fire USA as the membership group fulfills its philanthropic goals by supporting camping for girls. More information about the national collaboration with Gamma Phi Beta can be found on the Camp Fire USA Compass by searching for "Gamma Phi Beta."

## Connie's Risk Management Corner—Who Is in Charge?

By Connie Coutellier

Whenever a crisis occurs, there is always confusion, fear, and stress, and sometimes there is conflict. Having competent leadership and a well-rehearsed plan are the essential ingredients needed to alleviate confusion and conflict and take the necessary action in a timely manner. The director or person in charge must be willing to make things happen quickly and accept responsibility for the results.

Meaningful communication and trust is crucial. The director or person in charge should already have established a level of trust and competency; he or she should know how to bring order to a situation.

The overall responsibilities of the person in charge are to:

1. Assume command.
2. Assess the situation, the seriousness of injuries, the level of emergency, and any alerts needed.
3. Deploy his or her team and make additional assignments as required.
4. Account for all staff and participants.
5. Notify and interface with outside emergency personnel.
6. Determine response strategies.
7. Ensure that procedures are followed.
8. Order an evacuation, if needed.
9. Oversee all incident response activities.
10. Notify the supervisor. The council's executive director should notify the board president.
11. When appropriate, declare that the situation has been stabilized and the emergency is "over."
12. Participate in follow-up strategies and prepare required documentation.



Everyone else involved, including the participants, should have discussed the plan and practiced the emergency procedures; they should know what to do and understand their responsibilities for both themselves and others.

Once an emergency is over, the situation may still require crisis response. The director and/or crisis team are charged with controlling the damage, including dealing with parents and the press. Allow time and secure any expertise needed to help reestablish the feelings of a positive, emotionally and physically safe environment. Work with participants, families, and staff to return the operation to normal as soon as possible. See the Camp Fire USA Compass Resource Library for the Crisis Communication Card Template for your crisis team and spokesperson.

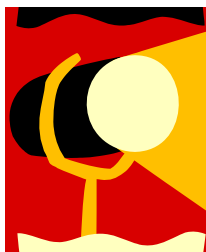
## A Nonprofit Dashboard and Signal Light for Boards

The dashboard in a car gives an instant update on many important factors. If your dashboard is not working, it can be unnerving and upsetting. But at the same time, when it *is* working, you glance at it from time to time but do not look at it constantly. A nonprofit dashboard is similar—it gives important information to decision makers, such as executives and boards, in a quick-read way. But a dashboard has limitations. It does not tell you if you are taking the right road to Chicago, or more important, whether you should be going to Chicago at all! The idea of making data—especially financial data—easily readable for board members is not a new one. Read more: <http://bit.ly/emxJ5z> (Blue Avocado).

## The Role of the Board of Directors in Grant Seeking

In the grant-seeking process, developing a partnership with your board is a somewhat new concept. Boards are often less involved in grant seeking than they are in any other types of fundraising efforts. However, there is a misconception that the board really has no role in the grant-seeking process, in fact, the board can be extremely helpful in building the credibility of your organization in the eyes of the grant maker. Over the past three to five years, there has been a trend within the grant-making community to take note of the role of the board within the organization—not just asking the typical question, "Do they donate money?" but, rather, observing the board's involvement in the guidance of the organization. If the board is actively involved in oversight, it will be a more credible board.

*Tracks to Success* is a series available to councils. It is a dialogue between Cynthia M. Adams, who has 40 years of grant-seeking experience, and Alexandra Peters, one of the most accomplished and experienced board leaders. This conversation sheds light on the role of the board of directors in identifying and securing grant funding. Read more: <http://bit.ly/fvkTqs> (Grant Station).



## Spotlight on ELSA

By Elaine Brinkley, ELSA Co-Chair

The purpose of Camp Fire USA's Executive Leadership Strategic Alliance (ELSA) is "to advocate and act for the strength, effectiveness, and integrity of the Camp Fire movement."

Officially, the ELSA steering committee is made up of the committee co-chairs, the national president and chief executive officer, the committee recorder/treasurer, and leaders from the six regions. However, any other executive directors/CEOs may participate in the meeting calls. Discussion in steering committee calls will intentionally be focused on developing region

activities and priorities and planning general ELSA meetings. The ELSA meeting schedule is as follows.

ELSA General Membership Meetings

8:30 a.m. (PDT), 9:30 a.m. (MDT), 10:30 a.m. (CDT), and 11:30 a.m. (EDT)

**May 10, July 12, September 13**

ELSA Steering Committee Meetings

8:30 a.m. (PDT), 9:30 a.m. (MDT), 10:30 a.m. (CDT), and 11:30 a.m. (EDT)

**June 14, August 9**

Currently, ELSA's work is focused on the following goals:

- Goal 1: Camp Fire USA will ensure organizational growth, sustainability, and fiscal stability through a diversified revenue portfolio.
- Goal 2: Camp Fire USA will advance its mission and ensure organizational growth through effective leadership, systems, and structure.
- Goal 3: Camp Fire USA's programs will utilize an asset-based methodology that builds on the strengths of participating children, youth, and families. We will ensure consistent quality programs based on our program philosophy and methodology.

We encourage ALL executive directors/CEOs to participate in ELSA events and meetings. Your participation is vital to our efforts to strengthen ourselves as individuals and as a national movement. Please contact your regional leadership representative if you have questions, or contact ELSA Co-Chair Gayle Orange, at [gayle.orange@campfireusawmc.org](mailto:gayle.orange@campfireusawmc.org).

## Changes in Council Executive and Board Leadership

### New Executive Director/CEO:

Debra Holbert, Compton Council, Compton, Calif.

### Resignation of Executive Directors/CEOs:

Gary Harris, Oakland East Bay Council, Oakland, Calif.

Jeremy Fadoul, Oneida Council, Rhinelander, Wis.

### Retirement of Executive Director/CEO:

Florence Adams, Compton Council, Compton, Calif.

### Incoming Board Presidents/Chairs:

Mark Stringer, El Dorado Council, El Dorado, Ark.

Nora O'Donnell, Central Coast Council, Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Gail Petty, San Diego & Imperial Counties Council, San Diego, Calif.

Amanda Styles, Georgia Council, Toccoa, Ga.

Bret Robertson, River Bend Council, Mishawaka, Ind.

Clifford Washington, West Michigan Council, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Harley Caudle, Panhandle Plains Council, Amarillo, Tex.



## Voting for Camp Fire USA on Facebook

Chase Community Giving is donating to local charities with the most votes on Facebook. Several Camp Fire USA Councils are listed. Chase is donating a total of \$5 million, a portion of which will be shared among the Top 100 eligible charities receiving the most votes. There will be two rounds of voting: Round 1 voting will end on May 4, 2011. Round 2 voting will last one week, beginning on May 19, 2011 and ending on May 25, 2011. Please follow this link to view the voting: <http://apps.facebook.com/chasecommunitygiving/>.

## National YAC Highlights

By Heather Crain, YAC Member

All of us on the National Youth Advisory Cabinet (YAC) are excited to hear about all of the wonderful things taking place in Camp Fire USA councils. It is so great for us to hear stories and ideas from our fellow members. As a YAC, we are striving towards a new goal to help connect councils and youth throughout the country. Our goal is for councils (and youth!) to be able to share their own Camp Fire USA stories and successful teen programming with others. Each council is unique and has something new to offer. We feel that it is important to open this door of communication. Not only will it help councils share and receive ideas; it will also help bring everyone together. It is encouraging to hear stories of Camp Fire's impact miles away from our own homes. We hope to help youth connect with their Camp Fire friends, near and far!!



And, speaking of connecting with Camp Fire USA friends, all of us on YAC would like to encourage Camp Fire youth in 8th through 12th grades to attend the 2011 National Leadership Conference on October 20–22 and participate in the youth track! This would be a great time to begin planning and saving money to attend this awesome event. Be sure to save the date!! More information will be coming soon. It's a great way to meet Camp Fire youth from all over the country, strengthen leadership skills, and learn new ideas to take back to your council! Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

## Southern Region Teen Summit

Balcones Council and Green Country Council held a youth event at the Lone Star Council camp. The event was planned by the teens, and skills from each council were represented. Green Country Council teens brought camping skills and lots of energy! And the Balcones Council teens worked hard at planning and executing a great weekend event—including three service projects. The Lone Star Council camp had amazing facilities and the council staff were very helpful. According to Lavert Rodgers, Balcones Council, "Overall it was a great event! There was a true spirit of *One Team, One Priority*. There were kids from all walks of life and backgrounds working and playing together with no issues. Everyone was willing to try new things, which was what this was all about. Upon returning to Austin, at least ten of our teens have stepped up in their home groups and wish to be on the council Youth Advisory Cabinet. That inspiration and motivation alone makes every moment that went into this more worth it than can be expressed in words!"



## Sunshine Council Alternative Spring Break

In March, the Sunshine Council and the Georgia Council came together to offer an Alternative Spring Break for ten Sunshine Council youth. The youth spent the week at Georgia Council's Camp Toccoa, performing a service-learning project to benefit the camp. The youth and staff were able to make large-scale improvements to one of Camp Toccoa's living units and the surrounding outdoor area. This project taught the participants the value of hard work, teamwork, and commitment to service. Demolition, rebuilding, landscaping, painting, and design projects were done with enthusiasm and positive attitudes. The end result was a dramatic improvement that will enhance the camping experiences offered through the Georgia Council. Since spring break was in mid-March, the youth also reached out to the local community by writing and delivering Absolutely Incredible Kid Day® letters to children at a local preschool. Overall, the Alternative Spring Break was a great success for everyone involved and a wonderful opportunity for council partnership.



## Service-Learning Adventures With North Texas Super Bowl XLV

More than one hundred Lone Star Council youth attended the Service Learning Adventures in North Texas, (SLANT) 45 Kids Bowl Bash at the American Airlines Center in Dallas on January 12, 2011. As a partner agency with North Texas Super Bowl XLV, Camp Fire USA kids and staff completed hundreds of service-learning hours, on such projects as food drives, clothing and coat drives, toy drives, and neighborhood cleanups.

The highlights of the week's event were personal acknowledgements from former President George W. Bush, Roger Staubach, and Daryl Johnston; and musical performances by Jordin Sparks (*American Idol*) and Mitchel Musso (*Disney Channel*).

SLANT 45 is an education initiative designed by the North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee and Big Thought around this region's first Super Bowl. The intent is for children to explore the idea that heroism and leadership are characteristic of not only all-star athletes but also creative, civic-minded citizens of all ages.

SLANT 45 participants were all asked to:

- Identify a problem and use their imaginations to conceptualize ways to help.
- Design creative, innovative solutions to address the problem.
- Recruit an adult "coach" to supervise the project.
- Take action by converting those ideas into meaningful service-learning projects.
- Reflect on the experience.



Through service-learning, children see that they can make impacts in their communities and make differences in the lives of those around them. Service-learning has long been a hallmark of Camp Fire USA programming. Now it seems that many others recognize the value of developing leadership skills while giving back to the community.

### “Camp Fire Changed My Life” By Brian Burckley, Orange County Council Participant



Camp Fire USA is huge. It is an organization of so many programs, three of which I have had the great opportunity to be a part of their cause, "Today's kids, tomorrows leaders." Ms. Nikki, one of the first ASSETs (After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens) coordinators at Orange High School approached me and I was shocked to see her because I have not seen her since she first started up ASC (After School Connection) back at my middle school, Portola. She asked me if I was interested in joining her band of teen leaders. Once this happened, I was a part of their officer team. Later on Ms. Nikki and Mr. James presented me with another great opportunity of another Camp Fire program called Special Sitters. After I received my training as a Special Sitter, I worked my first Saturday Club, which changed my life forever. I still remember the name of the first child I took care of for a day. "Charlie" was so sweet that I knew this program would be something that I would take part in for a long time. He showed me what it meant to be a parent and I was tired after just a day. Every time I sign up for another Saturday Club I always remember how Ms. Nikki, Ms. Marilyn, and the child I took care of in Saturday Club changed my life.

## Camp Fire USA Washington State Senate Resolution

A Camp Fire USA resolution was read on the floor of the Washington State Senate, during full session in early April. Camp Fire youth, staff, and volunteers from Washington state Camp Fire councils were in attendance to hear the reading. The resolution, brought forth by Senator Mary Margaret Haugen, commends Camp Fire USA councils for their dedication and commitment to the development of Washington youth and the strengthening of their families for more than 100 years.



## News From Camp Fire USA Councils

### 100 Acres of Camp Sealth Preserved

Central Puget Sound Council has signed a land preservation agreement that will permanently protect one mile of pristine Puget Sound shoreline, on southwest Vashon Island, from development and allow Camp Sealth, a recreational and environmental education camp, to continue its legacy of providing the region's youth with fun and educational outdoor activities. This agreement will ensure that this valuable land is protected forever and provide Camp Fire USA with nearly \$1 million to ensure the continued operations of Camp Sealth and other programs that benefit youth throughout the Puget Sound region!

### Mayor's Breakfast Featured Michael Oher

Camp Fire USA Heartland Program and Innovation Center youth and adults attended the Kansas City Mayor's Breakfast. The speaker was Michael Oher, from the Baltimore Ravens, who is the subject of the movie *The Blind Side*. Cathy Tisdale and other members of the national staff joined the Kansas City area youth at the breakfast and heard Michael describe "how he had a burning desire to break out of the Memphis inner-city ghetto and into a world of opportunity." He shared how he had worked hard to make his dreams a reality—including graduating from college. One highlight of the morning was that each person attending the breakfast received a signed copy of Michael's book, *I Beat The Odds*.

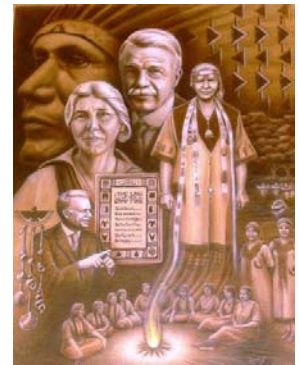


### Let's ALL Play in Texas

The National Inclusion Project has partnered with First Texas Council to implement Let's ALL Play—Inclusion in Recreational Programs. The partnership will allow children with developmental disabilities to enjoy successful summer camp experiences in inclusive settings. As part of this initiative, the National Inclusion Project will provide a program model, training, expertise, and an award of \$12,500. The activities will take place at the council's Camp El Tesoro, a summer resident camp for girls and boys that features canoeing, horseback riding, swimming, and other traditional activities. During each camp week, a limited number of campers with mild physical and cognitive disabilities are mainstreamed into cabin groups and camp activities. The National Inclusion Project has been actively developing its Let's ALL Play Program since the program's inception in 2004. In 2011, the Project is partnering with 55 recreational programs in 27 states. To learn more about the National Inclusion Project or ways to get involved, visit its website, [www.inclusionproject.org](http://www.inclusionproject.org).

### Art Auction

As part of Camp Fire USA's Centennial Celebration, Central Alabama Council solicited 12 works of art to publicize and commemorate the first 100 years of Camp Fire programming. The art produced was amazing! In late March, the council hosted "Decades of Childhood, a 100 Year Celebration Art Benefit." One of the pieces from the art collection is shown here as a tribute to Luther and Charlotte Gulick.



### Youth and Adults Work Together to Rebuild Camp

Southwest Louisiana Council's Camp Wi-Ta-Wentin was battered by Hurricane Rita and was rebuilt by volunteers from a local company, Lyondell Bassell. The camp's name—which means nature, wildlife, and integration of children into nature—is what made Lyondell Bassell choose this camp to be the recipient of this year's Global Care Day. The company sets aside one day a year on which their employees and respective families spend time together volunteering. This year, the company brought 80 volunteers, tools, and supplies. Among the items on the list were fixing the plumbing, repairing floor boards, fixing the basketball court, and creating a much-anticipated fire pit. Lyondell's event coordinator, Lauren Martinez, said that some volunteers had firsthand experience with the camp as previous camp-goers, so they were extremely grateful and happy to be able to give back. It is important to note that not all volunteers were adults; for example, brothers Garrett and Grant Erbelding were more than happy to do their part in the cleanup. The youngsters even pointed out that this event was more fun than staying inside, watching TV, and playing video games.



## Council Honored for Family Nature Program

The Balcones family nature program, Camp Fire Kids Unplugged, is honored to be recognized as a finalist for the 2011 Envision Central Texas Community Stewardship Awards. Envision Central Texas, a five-county nonprofit organization, serves as a catalyst for change in the region's growth management strategies to advance Central Texas' vision for the future. Award winners will be announced at the Envision Central Texas 2011 Community Stewardship Awards Luncheon in early May.

## Camp Fire USA Exhibits at National Afterschool Conference

Camp Fire USA National Headquarters staff networked with conference participants in the Exhibit Hall of the National Afterschool Conference in Orlando, Fla., in April. The event was a great opportunity to share information about Camp Fire partnerships and spread the news about Absolutely Incredible Kid Day®. The conference was a wonderful location for making more organizations aware of Camp Fire's quality programming and willingness to work with local agencies. In this photo, Tara Markley, Director, Heartland Program and Innovation Center, talks with staff from the Alaska Council.



## Supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month

Green Country Council supported National Child Abuse Prevention Month throughout April. The council partnered with a downtown organization, Up With Trees, for a display of blue-ribbon trees outside the council office. People who pass by the office can tie on blue ribbons to show their support. The trees will be donated to a school when the celebration is completed. Council staff person Kay Fiedler took the lead on this project and is shown in front of the council office with the trees.

## Programs Teach Resistance Skills

New Jersey Council provides self-reliance courses, such as I'm Safe and Sure and I'm Peer Proof, annually to more than 25,000 youth in communities around Trenton. The council teaches courses to youth in kindergarten through eighth grade, during school hours and also in after-school programs. Instructors help to update the curriculum each summer to keep the content fresh and related to New Jersey teaching standards. Funding is provided through several municipal drug and alcohol prevention alliances. For more information, contact Jessica Nitti at [jnitti@campfirenj.org](mailto:jnitti@campfirenj.org).



### Camp Fire USA National Headquarters

1100 Walnut Street, Suite 1900, Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2197

Telephone: 800-669-6884 E-mail: [info@campfireusa.org](mailto:info@campfireusa.org) [www.campfireusa.org](http://www.campfireusa.org)

A list of national staff contact information can be found at [www.campfireusa.org/National\\_Staff.aspx](http://www.campfireusa.org/National_Staff.aspx)