

# The Camp Fire USA CONNECTION

**May 2011 National Newsletter** 

# **Camp Fire USA Deepens Program Quality Process**

In May the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality trained a team of Camp Fire USA council and national staff as Youth Work Methods Course trainers and Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) External Assessors. Through this team of trainers and assessors, Camp Fire USA will be able to impact the quality of programming at the point of service through external assessments and the professional development of direct delivery staff. Councils that have conducted Camp Fire USA Program Quality (CFPQA) self-assessments are eligible to request Youth Work Methods courses and external assessments.

# **Youth Work Methods Courses**

Youth Work Methods courses are based on the High/Scope participatory learning approach and are all aligned to the Program Quality Assessment tool. Youth Work Methods course instructors play important roles in providing staff development as part of the improvement phase. By providing Youth Work Methods workshops in identified areas of need, councils work towards implementing their improvement plans. Councils that have conducted Camp Fire USA Program Quality (CFPQA) self-assessments are eligible to request Youth Work Methods courses.

#### **External Assessments**

The YPQA is an evidence-based assessment tool. Program self-assessment produces a single rating of a program and is most valuable for program improvement. In addition to the program site's self-assessment, an external assessment produces more scientifically precise scores. The rater observes several program offerings and scores a Form A for each offering. These forms are then combined to provide an overall assessment of the quality of program offerings

Launching The Second Century. Save the Date!

Plan now to transform your commitment to Camp Fire USA at the National



Leadership Conference, October 20–22 in Kansas City, Mo. You will meet with nationally known experts,

network with other Camp Fire leaders, share with business partners, and develop collaborations.

Full adult registration is \$175; youth registration is \$125. For more information, contact Connie Dresie, at connie.dresie@campfireusa.org.

within an organization. Councils that have conducted CFPQA self-assessments are eligible to request external assessments.

For more details, contact DD Gass, dd.gass@campfireusa.org or 800-669-6884, Ext. 2004.

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

#### **Cares**



**Baltimore Council Science Field Trip** 

# **Camps**



Central Ohio
Council Canoists

# Contributes



Southwest Louisiana Council Service-Learning

# Connects



Central Puget Sound Council Club Project

# **Educating Youth About Internet Safety and Cyberbullying**

Summer is coming soon and many youth may have more unscheduled time on their hands. This is a great time for Camp Fire USA staff to remind them of basic Internet safety rules.

There are several resources on the Internet with information for talking with youth. One of the resources is Netsmartz, a website of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, <a href="www.netsmartz.org">www.netsmartz.org</a>. This website has a variety of great information, including age-appropriate Internet safety pledges; information on internet safety and cyberbullying; and resources for parents, educators,

teens, tweens, and kids.

Research has shown that about one-third of online teens (aged 12–17) have been cyberbullied. Girls are more likely to be targeted than boys. It is important to spend some time getting youth to discuss how they can remain safe online. Cyberbullying is just what it sounds like—bullying through Internet applications and technologies, such as instant messaging (IM), social networking sites, and cell phones. It can start easily—with a rumor, a photo, or a forwarded message—and just as easily spiral out of control. An embarrassing video posted to a social networking site by someone in Kansas tonight may be watched by someone in Japan tomorrow. Cyberbullying victims may be targeted anywhere, at any time.



# Tips to Help Protect Youth From Cyberbullying

Bullying is often seen as an unfortunate but natural part of adolescence. However, pediatrician Dr. Sharon Cooper warns, "Cyberbullying can affect the social, emotional, and physical health of a child." For these reasons, it is important that youth organizations, parents, and guardians take steps to help their children deal with and respond to cyberbullying. Following are some basic reminders.

- Do not to respond to rude e-mails, messages, and comments.
- Save the evidence, such as e-mail and text messages, and take screenshots of comments and images. Also, take note of the date and time when the harassment occurs.
- Contact your Internet service provider (ISP) or cell phone provider. Ask the website administrator or ISP to remove any web page created to hurt your youth.
- If the harassment is via e-mail, social networking sites, IM, or chat rooms, block bullies or delete the current e-mail account and open a new one.
- If the harassment is via text or phone messages, change the phone number and only share the new number with trustworthy people. Also, check out phone features that may allow the number to be blocked.
- Make a harassment report to <u>www.cybertipline.com</u>, and if you feel something illegal has occurred, inform law enforcement.
- Do not assume that kids will talk to you about being bullied. Often they feel guilty or ashamed, or that it is too painful to bring up. Or, they may not want to admit that they have been somewhere online that is forbidden. Make sure the youth know that you won't judge them, that you just want them to be safe.

#### **Internet Safety Website Resources**

www.netsmartz.org

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/electronicaggression/index.html

http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/talk/cyberbullying.html

www.pbs.org/parents/childrenandmedia/article-protecting-kids-from-cyberbullying.html

http://www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying

http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/index2.html

# 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 2011. 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:

- 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.
- Attend Training. Go to <a href="www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA">www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA</a> 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.
- 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. 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.
- Report Scores. The program administrator enters the agreed-upon scores into the Excel-based Scores Reporter (located at <a href="www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA">www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA</a>) and then sends the completed Scores Report to 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 2011 CFPQI Training Guide to create your plan. Register at <a href="https://www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA">www.cypq.org/CampFireUSA</a>.

For assistance, please contact Amanda Sutter at the Weikart Center, at amanda@cypq.org, or DD Gass, at dd.gass@campfireusa.org.

# **Key Dates, Trainings, and Conferences**

#### June 2011

June 6-8

National Council on Volunteering and Service New Orleans. La.

www.volunteeringandservice.org

June 11

National Get Outdoors Day

www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org

June 15

Outcome Measurement Reports due for programs conducted 9/1/10–5/31/11

June 21

Summer Learning Day

www.summerlearning.org

June 27-July 1

Camp Fire USA warehouse and customer service closed for inventory

June 30

Financial Reports/Audits due to national finance department for councils with 12/31/11 fiscal year end

#### September 2011

September 15

Outcome Measurement Reports due for summer programs. Send completed Excel spreadsheets to outcomes@campfireusa.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.

#### February 2012

February 25-28

Camp Fire USA Professional Development Event Atlanta, Ga.

# **Gamma Phi Beta Camperships 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 **now due June 3**. For more information, contact Audrey Gralton, at audrey.gralton@campfireusa.org. Gamma Phi Beta, an international women's sorority, continues to support Camp Fire as Gamma Phi Beta fulfills its philanthropic goals by supporting camping for girls. More information about Gamma Phi Beta can be found on the Camp Fire Compass by searching for "Gamma Phi Beta."

# **Camp Fire USA Collaborations and Proud Moments**

# **Outdoor Nation Regional Summits**

This summer, young people from across the country will come together to build on what they started last year—a youth-led Outdoor Nation. During the three-day Regional Summits, young people will connect with each other, identify top outdoor issues, brainstorm solutions, and get resources to bring those ideas to life. Choose the location nearest you so that you can help spread the Outdoor Nation movement in your local community. Summits will be hosted in New York City, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Denver, and San Francisco. Click here to learn more

# **Camp Fire USA Programs Count**

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Data Center, The Health and Education sections in have been updated. See the Website at <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org">http://datacenter.kidscount.org</a>. Data includes estimates from the National Survey of Children's Health and the Program Information Report and supports Camp Fire USA's commitments by providing indicators reflecting healthy kids. Annie E. Casey is committed to helping vulnerable kids and families succeed. If you are not already accessing the Kids Count Data Center to support your messages to families and potential funders, be sure to check it on a regular basis.

# **Camp Fire USA Summer Staff Member Meets President Obama**

Jeff Peneston is the husband of Central New York Council Executive Director Jan Peneston. Jeff is also a Camp Fire USA summer staff member and volunteer. Jeff was recently honored as the New York State Teacher of the Year. Jan and Jeff, along with all the other state teachers of the year, were invited to Washington, D.C., for meetings. During their trip, they had the honor of meeting with President Barack Obama.

# **Camp Fire USA Members Receive Presidential Service Awards**

The Camp Fire USA mission to build caring, confident youth and future leaders was demonstrated recently when 208 young people from the Patuxent Area Council were honored with Presidential Service Awards. These young people helped the homeless, assisted the elderly, built gardens, created driving safety programs, worked with children with disabilities, helped create camps for low-income kids, held food drives, cleaned up the environment, and, through it all, were engaged as responsible citizens of their communities. The youth came from Washington, D.C.; Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties in Maryland; New Jersey; and Pennsylvania.

To honor the young people, Camp Fire USA President and CEO Cathy Tisdale presented the awards and shared



with the young people. She stressed the importance of community engagement, looking to the future, and the role that young people and their families play in making our communities better places to live. Rosemary Pezzuto, CEO of the Patuxent Area Council, reflected that "these young people in Camp Fire USA have set a standard that is hard to match. They have taken service to a new level, advocating at the local, regional, and national levels in the areas of driving safety, service-learning, bridging the achievement gap, and much more." Pezzuto stressed that "these young people are changing lives and are learning to take what they learn in school and make it real through their service-learning projects."

Virginia Troyer, a Camp Fire USA leader from Bowie, Md., was also honored with a *Presidential Service Life Time Achievement Award* for her more than 40 years of service to Camp Fire USA and the community. This award recognizes accomplishments and service provided for more than 4,000 hours.

# **News From Camp Fire USA Councils**

#### **Disney Helping Kids Shine Award Presented to Sunshine Council**

In May Sunshine Council received an \$8,000 award to assist with its Summer Challenge program for teen volunteers. The council was one of three local organizations that received the recognition.

# **Council Receives Grant to Expand Teens Go Green Environmental Program**

Balcones Council received a \$10,000 grant to expand a council environmental program. According to Rebecca Benz, executive director of the Balcones Council, "In these relevant programs, underserved youth are able to explore the natural world and learn firsthand about ecology and conservation. We provide the framework and programming that helps these young people gain skills to explore the outdoors and the confidence to enjoy those activities."

# Long Beach Area Council Holds Annual Camp Rummage Sale

Proceeds from a Long Beach Area Council rummage sale will go to fund a two-year leadership program for Camp Fire USA high school members.



# Orange County Council Helps Youth With Financial "Know-How"

Together with Frugality Nation, a nonprofit that is focused on rebuilding financial strength in the American household, the Orange County Council recently launched a new and unique after-school program for youth that is aimed at increasing financial knowledge and financial fitness and championing smart spending. The 10-week program fuses the FDIC's Money Smart program with an online financial literacy program, The Frugality Game<sup>TM</sup>, to form an entertaining, interactive program that not only teaches the nuts and bolts of money management but also explores one's relationship with money, spending, and saving. For more information go to <a href="https://frugalitynation.org/">https://frugalitynation.org/</a>.

# Camp Fire Youth Take a Spring Break From the City



For more than two days, nearly 120 students from four Title 1 elementary schools that Columbia Council serves headed out of Portland for overnight stays at Camp Fire USA's beautiful and scenic Camp Namanu, along the Sandy River. Students from these schools and their families do not often have an opportunity to get out of town or to benefit from enriching experiences during the unsupervised hours of spring break.

While at Camp Namanu, students were treated to the high level of intentional programming that Camp Fire USA is known for in the Portland area. Students were given leadership responsibilities throughout their trip: raising and lowering the flag, helping with meals, learning to row a boat together, and helping each other up slippery slopes on surrounding hiking trails. Youth were in charge of developing their own skits and performances for an evening Vaudeville-like show and played a central role in planning the activities they wanted to do during their time at camp.

# **New Fundraising Venture Introduced by Illinois Prairie Council**

The Illinois Prairie Council held its annual fundraising auction, "A Night at the Lodge," in April. The event featured both a live and a silent auction along with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. "This year was a new venture for us," said Stephanie Schiszik, CEO of Illinois Prairie Council. "We tried to raise the status of the items and change the venue." Auction items included sports tickets and memorabilia; gift certificates for dining and golf; and unique packages, such as a backstage tour of Brookfield Zoo's hospital facilities, lunch with a member of the recent women's World Cup bobsled team, and a wild game dinner party.

# **More Council News**



# Walla Walla Council Announces Fundraising Goal for Building Renovation

David Leal, council board president, was elated with the news of the campaign totals. "The support this community has shown throughout Camp Fire USA Walla Wall Council's capital campaign not only speaks volumes to the generosity of our beloved Valley, but to people's support of the programs that Camp Fire provides to our children. With the upcoming completion of our building, we will be able to continue our mission of building caring, confident youth who will become the future leaders in this valley. Camp Fire is proud to have served children and families for nearly a

century. We are thankful that we will now be able to serve the Walla Walla community for another 100 years."

Karen Wolf, Walla Wall Council executive director, also remarked on the successful campaign, "We are thrilled with what this means to the children of our community—a beautiful, functional, and sturdy building which will serve as the hub of our organization's youth services for generations to come." The council thanks all individuals, businesses, and trusts in the community that contributed to the campaign. For individuals who may still be interested in supporting this effort, Camp Fire USA will continue accepting donations that will help fund the finishing touches on this project.

While the council's building is under renovation, the administrative offices have temporarily relocated to directly across from the YMCA. Walla Walla Council is grateful to the YMCA for offering this space for its use. Jeff Moeller, contractor for Camp Fire's building project, anticipates the completion of the renovation to be late summer.

# **Southwest Louisiana Council Partners With Citgo**

Recently the Lake Charles community received 1,000 energy-efficient light bulbs, thanks to the partnership between Southwest Louisiana Council and Citgo. Citgo donated the light bulbs, and Lake Charles Housing

Authorities allowed Camp Fire USA members to go door-to-door, distributing and installing up to five light bulbs per home. With help from AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, Citgo representatives, AmeriCorps Impact Lake Charles, and Camp Fire youth, light bulbs were replaced in more than 170 homes. They also handed out "10 Tips to Go Green for Just a Little Green" flyers to help residents recognize a few ways to save money and become better environmental stewards.

The project was geared toward lower-income families and the elderly on fixed incomes living in the Housing Authority Developments. It is hoped that when these residents see reductions in their electric bills and realize the much longer life of the energy-efficient bulbs they will continue to purchase them. These bulbs are



typically more expensive but worth the investment. Southwest Louisiana Council, Citgo, and the many other volunteers are very proud to have helped so many residents in the community.

#### **Council Youth Lead Pledge**

Southwest Louisiana Council recently had two youth representing the council at Senator Willie Mount's campaign fundraiser. Twins Abigail and Nolan Talbott opened the fundraiser with the Pledge of Allegiance in front of Senator Mount's guests. Senator Mount, a former Blue Bird and Camp Fire Girl, contacted the council about having youth represent the Council at the fundraiser. Southwest Louisiana Council was proud to have Camp Fire USA youth lead the Pledge of Allegiance at this event.

# **More Council News**

# **Down Right Spectacular Club Started by Green County Council**

When nine-year-old Taylor came home from school asking to join a Camp Fire USA group, her mother, Erin Paul, started looking for one that might be appropriate for her daughter, who has Down Syndrome. After some research and discussion with other families that had Down Syndrome children, a club called "Down Right Spectacular" was started. It has about 35 members ranging from age three through youth in sixth grade. Half of the children have Down Syndrome and the others are their siblings.

#### Alaska Council Receives Honorable Mention

The award for Service in Distinctive or Rural/Underserved Communities, was presented to the Alaska Council for successfully operating the Camp Fire USA Rural Alaska Water Safety and Recreation Program. This program is conducted within an existing Camp Fire day camp and effectively partners with the Food Bank of Alaska in order to serve youth in rural areas. Camp Fire USA's Rural Alaska Water Safety and Recreation Program also provides swimming and cold-water survival instruction and day camp activities to children and teens living in Alaska's native communities.



The bereavement camp for children aged 8 through 14 who have lost people close to them allows children to share their grief with peers and trained counselors. The camp is built around a regular camping experience and includes daily grief therapy classes.



# **Mission Moments**

# **Building a Community: Reflections by Sheri Hemby, Program Director, Lone Star Council**

When I think of "building community" and how that's done successfully, I think of the Lone Star Council after-school program at Shiloh Village in Dallas. As refugees from various countries around the world, these youth have every reason to feel unsafe in their surroundings. Most have fled their countries due to civil war, famine or political uprising. Youth from Burundi, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Nepal, Kenya, Somalia and many more are represented at our Kids Club.

However, watching these young people work together is a sweet sight to behold. Program staff have worked diligently to create an atmosphere of safety, belonging, and camaraderie. Youth happily share their language with one another and work together like a true team. They include one another in games and activities and sit mingled together during snack time. These kids make it look easy! And I often wonder why, as adults, we can't be as accepting and as inclusive as these young people. I think we all could definitely learn a lesson from them!!

#### The Storms Of Life: Reflections by Nancy Meadows, CEO, Central Alabama Council

There are no pictures more compelling than those we've seen of frightened and confused children standing in the wake of the devastating tornadoes that ripped through our state. Some children were home alone when the tornadoes ripped through our communities. Did they know where to go and what to do to be safe? There were families who lost everything—whose children have been relocated and enrolled in new schools. Did their friends and new classmates know how to show compassion? Did they know how to comfort each other?

There were youth who saw the destruction on television and wanted to help. Did they know how to safely and efficiently volunteer for a project—to provide goods and services that were desperately needed? There are parents and teachers searching for opportunities to educate and empower their children and students in light of this present crisis. Do they know where to look for resources that can help?

That we utilize the very best days to develop and prepare our children and youth is never more evident than on the very worst days. Camp Fire USA programs are always "there to help."

# **Mission Moments**

Why Camp Fire USA Makes a Difference: Reflections by Sarah Rowat, Program Director, Heart of the Hawkeye Council



Camp Fire USA has made a difference in the life of Zachary. He is currently in sixth grade and will be applying for the day camp aide program this year. He has attended our Camp Fire USA Community Center Day Camp since he was in Kindergarten. His older brother Marcus attended day camp, was a day camp aide, and will be volunteering this year as well. This is a "Camp Fire family" and one that is most near and dear to my heart. Zach's father died when Zach was 2. Marcus and Zach's mom works two jobs. Given this schedule, Zach is a camper who comes to camp at 7:00 a.m. and leaves at 5:45 p.m. every day. If we had an attendance award or an award for the amount of hours spent at camp, Zach would win every year.

I met Zachary at Community Center Day Camp when he was going into third grade. The site directors who had worked with him in previous years told me about Zachary's temper and that he had been sent home from camp a couple of times the previous summer due to his anger and outbursts towards counselors and other campers. In my first weeks at camp, I experienced a handful of Zach's outbursts and grew to learn the look on his face when he was getting really upset. After more time, I also learned his facial expression for when he was really about to lose control. At one point, he threw a chair at a friend of his who had refused to give him a turn at Connect Four. There were consequences for these actions, but our staff refused to give up on him. With support and encouragement, we worked with Zach and his mom and came up with ideas and plans for what to do when the anger rose again. We decided that deep breaths, although somewhat cliché, worked really well for Zach. I was able to recognize when Zach was getting angry and either help him find something else to do or talk to him about what was going on. In my opinion, it takes a lot of engagement and working to have a personal one-on-one relationship with a camper to achieve identifying and diffusing a potentially dangerous situation.

Over the next two consecutive summers, it was clear to me that Zach was learning to control his anger and to filter his words and actions. He has learned to remove himself from situations instead of having to be removed. He has learned to recognize his own anger rising instead of having to be told he's getting upset. He has grown to the point where he now takes deep breaths on his own instead of having to be told to take a time out. The child usually doesn't tell you how much you mean to him or that you may have changed his or her life. It's in the small moments that you know a child has grown to trust you. It was the moment when Zach had accidentally been pushed to the ground by another camper and he looked up at me from the ground where he had been pushed with questioning, angry eyes as to what his next move should be. It was then I knew Zach was learning to control his anger and looking to me for guidance. It was when Zach was playing basketball and went to shoot a free throw, paused and looked at me with a big smile, a pointed finger in my direction, and a wink. It was when Zach came to me, holding back tears from walking away from a fight, convincing himself he wasn't a chicken. It was when, the day before the end of the summer of 2010, when another camper was talking back to me, Zach walked up to him, looked him straight in the eye, and said "You don't talk to Sarah like that. She's like... my aunt." It was when, on the last day of summer 2010, when he ran back inside to give me a good-bve hug one last time. It was in these moments that I knew what they meant when they said I could make a difference at Community Center Day Camp.

Last summer, Zachary began to show signs of being ready to become a day camp aide by helping small campers, who also had incidents of outbursts, control their anger as well. I was blown away by Zach's maturity when I saw him pat a younger camper on the back and say "It's ok little man. Chill out. Take a deep breath." Zach is a very intelligent young man of character. Within the Camp Fire USA community, he has grown to not only inwardly control his own anger, but to also positively influence the younger campers around him. He is living proof that Camp Fire builds caring, confident youth and future leaders. At 11 years old, he is leading the way to a camp of kids who care about each other, he is confident in his own abilities to control anger, and he is leading others to do the same.

# Connie's Risk Management Corner— Practice Makes Perfect

# By Connie Coutellier

It is the time of the year when some programs end and others begin. That means reviewing policies and procedures and making sure both staff and participants know what to do in case of emergency. Some things may have changed with the changing of seasons, and although written information is critical for staff to review before the start of any program, practice ensures that everyone is informed.

Drills help everyone understand the importance of keeping the group together with their supervisor and facilitates appropriate action steps in a calm, orderly manner. The lack of a plan or lack of understanding of the expected actions needed by everyone can cause panic and create an even more dangerous situation. Scheduling emergency drills early in the program provides a feeling of security and better equips youth with the skills to handle a problem.

While most people think of drills in case of a fire, there are four basic types of emergency drills. These encompass a number of emergency situations and should be practiced during the program on a regular basis. Procedures for the following alerts should be established.

- Duck-Cover-Hold—This alert is used for situations in which the safest decision is to take cover inside of
  the building or to protect from flying or falling debris in case of a tornado, hurricane, or explosion. During
  a Duck-Cover-Hold drill, staff and youth take cover either underneath stable furniture, or along an interior
  wall, or in a basement and away from windows.
- **Shelter in Place**—Sometimes called a "lockdown," this alert establishes a procedure for what to do in the event of a violent activity or a hostile or threating event on the program site or in the nearby community. During a lockdown, participants are to remain quietly inside their program area and lock the doors.
- Evacuation—This is the most common alert and is used in case of a fire or a bomb threat. During a drill, staff and participants leave the building in an orderly, predetermined manner and assemble at a designated spot outside.
- Reverse Evacuation—In the event of a severe storm or threat while participants are outside the building, a reverse evacuation may be needed. This type of drill prepares participants and staff to practice calmly but hurriedly going inside.
- All Clear should be sounded when the danger is over and participants should be ready for instructions on what to do to return the situation to normal.

Deciding on how the alerts are sounded is an important part of the plan. A public address system may be available or different signals from a whistle or car horn may be appropriate, depending on the site. Encourage participants to share the importance and the types of emergency drills that are used regularly in the program to help the family plan and use drills at home.



# **Camp Fire USA Staff Trained**

In May the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality trained Camp Fire USA council and national staff in Kansas City, Mo. The participants completed both the Youth Worker Method Course and the External Assessor training. These staff members will become part of a team of trainers and assessors to deepen the Camp Fire USA initiative to improve the quality of programs at the point of delivery. For more information, see the article on the first page.

# National YAC Highlights By Hannah Kraar, YAC Member



William Butler Yeats once said, "Education is not filling a pail, but the lighting of a fire." Instead of pouring useless information into children's minds, Camp Fire USA strives to inspire youth and give them the tools they need to reach and unlock their full potentials. The National Youth Advisory Cabinet (YAC) is pleased to be helping this mission by hosting the Camp Fire USA Youth Forum and National Youth Summit this year. In October, youth from all over the United States will congregate in Kansas City, Mo., to discuss the benefits of education. The summit will include guest speakers and workshops the YAC has planned. YAC believes this summit will not only have great results, but it will also allow youth's voices to be heard

The National Youth Advisory
Cabinet (YAC)
Invites Camp Fire USA Youth,
Eighth Grade and Older, to

The Camp Fire USA
National Youth Forum
2011

At the Camp Fire USA National Leadership Conference October 20-22, 2011 Kansas City Missouri

Join the National Youth Advisory
Cabinet (YAC) at the Camp Fire
USA National Youth Forum 2011.
You will have fun exploring leadership, empowerment, and more while
getting to meet awesome youth
from Camp Fire USA councils
across the country! A highlight of
the National Youth Forum will be
the

Voices in Action: Kansas City Youth Summit Saturday, October 22, 2011

Cosponsored by Camp Fire USA and the U.S. Department of Education, the purpose of the summit will be to empower youth who participate in out-of-school organizations to create youth-led strategies that address academic engagement. Mark your calendar and watch for more information!

# **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) 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

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.

# **Board Resources**

Three instant improvements for board agendas and accountability that may not even be noticed consciously . . . but will have a big impact. Read more at <a href="http://bit.ly/jW0luo">http://bit.ly/jW0luo</a> (Blue Avocado).

Board members invest a tremendous amount of time and energy in board meetings. A few simple changes can often make that investment pay off in important ways. Make a resolution to implement at least one of the 10 quick ways to invigorate board meetings. For more information go to <a href="http://bit.ly/8RiQaR">http://bit.ly/8RiQaR</a> (Blue Avocado).

Use this blue ribbon recruitment method to recruit three to five new board members in the next six months. Find out more by going to <a href="http://bit.ly/mC2O24">http://bit.ly/mC2O24</a> (Blue Avocado).

GuideStar has published two excerpts from Thomas Wolf's book *How to Connect with Donors and Double the Money You Raise.* Read more at <a href="http://bit.ly/ljg5Rw">http://bit.ly/ljg5Rw</a> (Guide Star).

April 2011 the IRS published the first list of nonprofits whose tax-exempt status has been revoked for failure to file annual returns. Many nonprofits, funders, and donors are probably wondering "How will the revocations affect me?" GuideStar gives you the answer in a new report available for free download at <a href="http://bit.ly/k6MmG7">http://bit.ly/k6MmG7</a> (Guide Star).

10 Reasons You Are Not Getting Gifts is Network for Good COO <u>Katya Andresen</u>'s mini-manifesto in which she shares how tapping into your own personal gifts can help you get donations for your organization. For more information, go to <a href="http://bit.ly/jvXjLG">http://bit.ly/jvXjLG</a> (Network for Good).

Measurement is a hot topic these days in the social sector as increasing numbers of funders want to know exactly how their money is being used, and as nonprofits undertake rigorous evaluations to prove their programs work and attract funding for growth. However, one of the most important uses of measurement is too often overlooked, and that is measurement for the purpose of learning and improving performance, or *performance measurement*. To learn more, go to <a href="http://www.bridgespan.org/measurement-as-learning.aspx">http://www.bridgespan.org/measurement-as-learning.aspx</a> (Bridgespan).

Bridgespan offers 52 ways nonprofit leaders can engage promising staff members in critical skill development for free. Use these suggestions as a checklist, identify which opportunities best fit with your staffs' development needs, and put a few into action! For more information, go to <a href="http://bit.ly/fVwEUK">http://bit.ly/fVwEUK</a> (Bridgespan).



# According to Nonprofit Organization Management, Old Friends May Be Better Than New Ones

At least that is the claim of new research that says dormant contacts could be "the holy grail of networking strategy." Former colleagues and long-lost peers are even more helpful than those one speaks to regularly, according to the report titled "<a href="Dormant Ties: The Value of Reconnecting">Dormant Ties: The Value of Reconnecting</a>," which will be published in an upcoming issue of the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Organization Science*. The research supports maintaining "old ties" for any ongoing networking for fundraising purposes. According to one line of research, most of us can only maintain between 100 and 250 active

relationships. The authors suggest that people should not try to expand that number. Rather, when people need help they might be better off turning to long-lost contacts. Camp Fire USA is a great organization for maintaining "ties that bind" and should look to old friends when implementing new fundraising and marketing ideas.

# **Grant Opportunities and Deadlines**

# **GTECH After-School Advantage Program**

This program provides nonprofit community agencies and public schools with state-of-the-art computer labs. Nonprofit community agencies or public schools with existing after-school programs that serve disadvantaged youth aged five to 15 are eligible. Multiple awards of up to \$15,000 worth of computers, online technology and computer software are available. For more information, go to <a href="www.gtech.com/about\_gtech/">www.gtech.com/about\_gtech/</a> proposal guidelines.asp. The deadline is rolling.

# Singing for Change

The Jimmy Buffett Singing for Change Charitable Foundation is awarding grants to programs that are concerned with the health, education, and protection of children and their families, fostering self-esteem and self-sufficiency, nonviolence, and creative problem-solving. All nonprofits are eligible. Multiple awards range from \$500 to \$10,000 each. For more information, go to <a href="https://www.margaritaville.com/sfcarea.html">www.margaritaville.com/sfcarea.html</a>. The deadline is rolling.

# **Support Programs to Help Children**

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation provides funding to nonprofits that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or programs designed to benefit youth. All nonprofits are eligible, and there are multiple awards (amounts not specified). For further information, go to <a href="http://cwf-inc.org/grantseekers/overview">http://cwf-inc.org/grantseekers/overview</a>. The deadline is July 15.

# **Best Buy's @15 Community Grants Program**

Through community grants, the Best Buy Children's Foundation empowers teens to thrive by helping them excel in school, engage in their communities, and develop life and leadership skills. All nonprofits that are within 50 miles of a Best Buy store or regional distribution center and serve early adolescents (primarily ages 13–18) are eligible. Multiple grants typically range from \$3,000 to \$5,000, not exceeding \$10,000. For more information, go to www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/. The deadline is August 1.

#### The Wanna Play? Fund

The NAMM Foundation provides musical instruments to students with demonstrated need and the school and organizations that serve them. All public schools and community organizations serving low-income students are eligible. Multiple awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 each. For further information, go to <a href="https://www.nammfoundation.org/grant-information/">www.nammfoundation.org/grant-information/</a>. The deadline is rolling.

#### Campfire Marshmallow Partnership

Camp Fire USA has been working in partnership with <a href="Campfire Marshmallows">Campfire Marshmallows</a> for the past year and a half. We are excited to announce a few new opportunities that have come from this growing national partnership and ways that councils can participate and benefit from this relationship, including NLC Sponsorship, an opportunity for a case of free Giant Roasters marshmallows for councils' summer programming, and product testing with our councils. Thank you Campfire Marshmallows for all of your support!



# **Camp Fire USA National Headquarters**