



# Fact Sheet

**Mission:** *Camp Fire, USA builds caring, confident youth and future leaders.*

- Camp Fire, USA achieves its mission and forms decisions based on 12 core values and the key outcomes defined by The Search Institute that form a foundation for healthy children. Chief among Camp Fire's core values are:
  - Small group learning where children and youth are actively involved
  - Coeducation that provides opportunities for children and families to develop together
  - An inclusive environment that welcomes all children, youth and adults regardless of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or other aspect of diversity
  - Leadership opportunities engaging youth to give service and make decisions
- Camp Fire, USA is a leader in after-school and out-of-school time programming. By design, Camp Fire's programs, including clubs, camping and environmental education, child care and service-learning, build confidence in younger children and provide hands-on, youth-driven leadership experiences for teens and young adults.
- The focus of Camp Fire's active involvement in America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth is A Gift of Giving (AGOG), a program that teaches youth the skills and values of community service and good citizenship through collaborations with local schools, child care centers, churches, etc. Since making a commitment to America's Promise in 1997, well over 100,000 young people have been involved in AGOG and other service-learning experiences.
- The year 2003 marked the seventh annual Camp Fire USA's *Absolutely Incredible Kid Day*, a national call to action for all adults to write letters communicating love and commitment to children. *Absolutely Incredible Kid Day* is celebrated annually on the third Thursday in March (Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004 is the next event). Information and materials are available on the Camp Fire web site and from local councils. Alpha Phi Omega chapters from across the United States have supported this project since 1998.
- Camp Fire youth learn to be an active part of their communities, and their communities help define their Camp Fire experience in turn. Each Camp Fire council determines programming according to its community's needs by tailoring national programs or creating new ones.
- Camp Fire celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2000. Camp Fire was the first nonsectarian, interracial organization for girls in the United States. Based on a commitment to the entire family, whatever its structure, membership was expanded to include boys in 1975. Now, 46 percent of the youth involved in Camp Fire programming are boys. Over 42 million children and youth have become caring, confident leaders in Camp Fire's 90 years of service.

**Participants served:** Over 650,000 annually

**Demographics:** 46 percent male; 54 percent female

**National Chief Executive Officer:** Stewart J. Smith

**National Board Chair:** Judith (Judy) O'Connor of Washington, DC

**Camp Fire, USA Councils:** 125 in 41 states and the District of Columbia

**Web page:** <http://www.campfireusa.org>

**National HQ Phone:** (816)756-1950