



Section 5



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Council Fire



Clubs and families have spent the year exploring all the trails of Camp Fire. Council Fire is a time to come together and share all the hard work our youth have accomplished. This annual celebration allows us a chance to recognize the youngest youth progressing from Little Stars all the way up to our youth who have earned the highest award, the WoHeLo Award.

Council Fire is a time of tradition as well as celebration. These traditions are seen not only in our ceremony but in the uniforms of our youth. Camp Fire youth in the Horizon Level are encouraged to explore their heritage as well as the Native American roots that Camp Fire was built on. The uniform that they wear to Council Fire represents their journey. While some youth choose the traditional Native American gown, others will present a traditional ceremonial ensemble from their own heritage or something that speaks to their own personality, such as a cloak.

The traditions continue throughout the evenings' festivities. Camp Fire Orca begins the evening with a WoHeLo call. Our Master of Ceremony begins the call and all clubs respond. After the call is complete we begin the processional, complete with drums and song. Once all clubs are around the fire, we begin with a club roll call. As the Master of Ceremony calls a club name, the club responds with "Cola" (from the Lakota, meaning "friend") and the corresponding hand signal, (left palm out flat, facing up, first and middle finger of right hand making a flame).

Among the first things we learn as participants of Camp Fire, is the meaning of our watchword: WoHeLo. WoHeLo is made from the beginning letters of the words: work, health, and love. A tradition of Camp Fire Orca is to light the WoHeLo candles.

At the beginning of the ceremony the candles are lit and the following is spoken:

"I light the blue light of work. We learn to work at home at school, in our clubs, and in our community. We glorify work because through our work, we make things happen. WoHeLo means work."

"I light the red light of health. We choose to be healthy by eating good food, making good decisions, and staying active. We hold onto health because when healthy we can serve and be happy. WoHeLo means health."

"I light the white light of love. We share love in the beauty of nature and in the excitement of learning. Love is the joy of service so deep that self is forgotten. There is happiness in love. WoHeLo means love."

At the conclusion of the ceremony the candles are extinguished and the following is spoken:

"I extinguish the light of work. We go forth with gladness to show other the thought of WoHeLo translated to service."

"I extinguish the light of health. May the flame that we lit leave a message of beauty and health to be treasured. We go forth with gladness to show others what Camp Fire has taught us-the joy of living."

"I extinguish the light of love. We go forth with gladness to show others, wherever they need us, a love that will not fail."

Another Camp Fire Orca tradition is the performance of "Burn Fire Burn". "Burn Fire Burn" is a song and dance performed by Discovery and Horizon club participants and is one of the few original songs still being sung from the time when Camp Fire began in 1910.

Program progression is an important part of our tradition. As youth get older, they are given more responsibility, choices, and leadership. This progression is displayed in the uniform that our youth proudly wear. Once you complete a program level, youth are able to “Fly Up” to the next level and receive the most current uniform. It is customary to present the youth with a small token or gift to each youth, it can be as simple as their new vest/sash, their new level record book, a single flower, or something else representative of their time in Camp Fire so far.

After all of the awards and recognitions have been announced our ceremony comes to an end. Our Master of Ceremony dismisses all attendants and a recessional is sung.

Emblem & Award Ceremony



Club programs reward participation and achievement. By celebrating these milestones, youth build their confidence and sense of pride. Each club handles Emblem and Award Ceremonies differently, here are some examples of how your club could celebrate:

- ✦ Plan ahead and hold a ceremony twice each year.
- ✦ Allow time for families to sew emblems onto uniforms before Council Fire.
- ✦ Start a new tradition and have the youth help plan and create your Club’s own ceremony.
- ✦ Be inspired by the reference “Magic Moments: Ceremonials in Camp Fire”
- ✦ Ceremonies could include: holiday parties, potlucks and/or picnics.
- ✦ Encourage youth to send invitations to family members or a VIP they would like to attend.

Council Fire: Songs & Desires

Processional

We come, we come
To our Council Fire,
With measured tread and slow
To light the fire of our desire
To light the fire of Wo He Lo.
Wo He Lo, Wo He Lo

The little twinkling stars on high
Are whispering nature's lore
While all around us the soft winds sigh
And great Wokanda watches o're.
Wo He Lo, Wo He Lo

Camp Fire Law

Seek beauty, give service
And knowledge pursue.
Be trustworthy ever
In all that you do.
Hold fast onto health
And your work glorify
And you will be happy
In the law of Camp Fire.

Camp Fire Wish

To have fun
To learn to make beautiful things
To remember to finish what I begin
To keep my temper in most of the time
To learn about nature and living outdoors
To have adventures with people, places and things
To make friends

Trail Seekers Desire

I desire to seek the way
That shall become
A delight to my heart
For it will bring me to the fire of human kindness
Lighted by those who have gone before me
On the Camp Fire trail.

Wood Gatherers Desire

As firewood is brought from the forest
For the warmth and clear light to blaze skyward,
I will reach with my Camp Fire friends
For heights that I know are within us.
I will strive to grow strong like the pine tree;
To be pure in my deepest desire,
To be true to the truth that is in me
And to follow the law of Camp Fire.

Fire Makers Desire

As fuel is brought to the fire, so I promise to bring
My strength, my sensitivity, my heart's desire,
My joy, my sorrow to the fire of human kindness.
For I will tend, as my forbearers have tended
Since time began that fire is called
The love of one for another.

Discovery Desire

I shall strive to discover myself at the fire of adventure and
friendship remembering that what I possess
Grows in value, as I share it with others.

Horizon Desire

As Horizons are ever always distant
I shall not stand still and look into their purple shadows
Instead, I shall seek the higher purposes
And new adventures that lie beyond
I shall reach ever outward to the horizon
That is always just beyond my grasp.

Torch Bearers Desire

The light which is given to me,
I desire to pass undimmed to others.

Recessional

Go we forth from our Council Fire
Into the night, into the night.
In our hearts renewed desire,
Burning bright, burning bright.
Loveliness of thought we've found,
Warmth and friendship's love.
Forest stillness closes 'round,
Sky and stars above.
Blend into the mystic call
Wo He Lo, Wo He Lo
May Wokanda's blessings fall
Upon us as we go....



