



Camp Fire

# Sparks

Information and Inspiration from Camp Fire Inland Northwest  
WINTER 2017

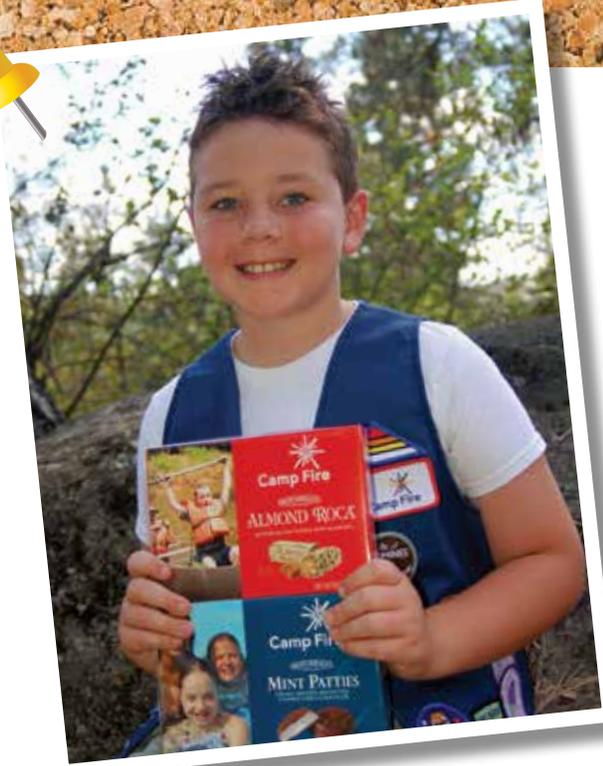


## Sustaining Membership Drive

Camp Fire Inland Northwest plays a vital role in the lives of the youth in our community. Young people want to shape the world. Our purpose is to give kids opportunities to find their Sparks, lift their voice and discover who they are. Private contributions allow Camp Fire to provide the tools to achieve this mission. Our club programs give children the opportunity to experience new things outside of their regular school and family life. It opens their eyes to their potential and helps them build crucial support systems. See Makila's story on page 3. Our two summer camps, Camp Dart-Lo Day Camp in North Spokane and Camp Sweyolakan Overnight/Day Camp on Lake Coeur d'Alene give children the opportunity to learn respect for the outdoors and grow together while unplugged from the everyday deluge of technology. All of our programs give kids the chance to find their strengths, use teamwork to achieve a goal, form lifelong friendships and build a strong foundation for a productive and caring adult life. As a **Sustaining Member**, you help make that happen.

Year-round support of Camp Fire Inland Northwest is crucial to our purpose. Think of it as paying it forward by investing in the development of the next generation. Let us know you support Camp Fire kids. **Become a Sustaining Member!** In March a group of dedicated volunteers will be working on our **Sustained Membership Drive**. Their goal is to raise \$60,000 in 4 weeks. We hope you'll join at a level and payment schedule you are comfortable with. You don't need to wait for March to join. If you join now, we'll count your membership during the Drive. Join through our website at [campfireinc.org](http://campfireinc.org) or give us a call at 509.747.6191. Your membership is tax deductible and connects you with Camp Fire Inland Northwest. **We also need Champions to work on our Sustaining Membership Drive.** If you want to participate in the Drive by making a few phone calls during the month of March, it would make a world of difference for us. It's the people to people contact that makes this drive successful. Contact Steve Jurich or Jill Strom at the Camp Fire office.





## Countdown to Candy Sale

It's the final countdown to the Camp Fire Candy Sale! Support our hard-working Camp Fire kids during our 2017 Candy Sale January 28th through February 26th. When you buy Mint Patties, Almond Caramel Clusters, Almond Roca, P-Nuttles and Camp Snax Trail Mix, you help kids gain confidence and they earn their way to camp and other activities. Want to know where Camp Fire candy will be sold? For a list of locations, check our website, [www.campfireinc.org](http://www.campfireinc.org) for details, or call our office at 509.747.6191.

## Nominate an Outstanding Volunteer!

In April, Camp Fire Inland Northwest will recognize our outstanding volunteers for their dedication and support. Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond to help kids find their Spark? Nominate them today! Go to the "Get Involved" tab on our website at [campfireinc.org](http://campfireinc.org) and download the nomination form and details, or call us at 509.747.6191 and we'll be happy to send you one. Forms are due by Friday, March 24th.

## Annual Meeting

On Monday, January 23rd, Camp Fire Inland NW will celebrate our accomplishments from 2016 and welcome a successful year in 2017. Outgoing Board Members will be recognized and we will be welcoming new Members onto the Board of Directors. 2017 Board Officers will also be elected. Current adult members, including Sustaining Members, have voting privileges. **Please join us at St. John Vianney Parish Hall, 503 N. Walnut Road, Spokane Valley at 6:30 pm.** An Italian dinner will be served, so advance registration is required either by email at [campfire@campfireinc.org](mailto:campfire@campfireinc.org), or by phone at 509.747.6191.

## Registration for Summer Camp is Open!

What's the best thing to do when it's cold and snowy outside? Think ahead to summer camp! Registration for both camps is now open on our website at [campfireinc.org](http://campfireinc.org). If you are a returning camper, you'll notice we've upgraded our website and registration system this year. Printed camp brochures will be mailed in February. This summer we're adding two additional weeks at Camp Dart-Lo! And don't forget...you can give the gift of camp at any time by purchasing a gift certificate for that special child in your life, or by donating to our scholarship fund. Feel free to contact us at [campfire@campfireinc.org](mailto:campfire@campfireinc.org) or give us a call at 509.747.6191.



## From the Desk of Poppy White

As a club leader and camp director I am in a unique position where I get to see the direct impact Camp Fire has on youth – both immediately and in the long-term. I'd like to share Makila's story with you from our Clubs program. My daughter and I met Makila on the first day of Kindergarten. As typical Kindergarten parents do, Makila's parents and I huddled around our girls until the bell rang, doing our best to help them make friends and get comfortable. My daughter gave a shy smile and waved as I exited the room. Makila's eyes widened, a tear rolled down her face, and her mom was not allowed to leave. Sometime later, I learned that Makila was in a house fire at age 3; she was the hero that woke her family to get them out but not before sustaining burns to 40% of her body. One of the implications of the house fire was that she suffered from separation anxiety.

When I approached her mother about Camp Fire we discussed the fact that Makila would most likely not attend without her mom close by. I welcomed both mom and daughter, encouraging them to "just see how it goes." Makila was reluctant to join, even though she knew every child in the club through school the previous year, so her mom stayed for every meeting. Makila would sit on the ground in front of her mom for activities, literally grasping Mom's ankle. Half-way through the year she was moving about on her own, raising her hand, participating like all the others. Sure she had rough days, but they were getting fewer and much farther between. And the progress didn't stop there. Makila has sold candy each year and even earned her way to camp this year...something she thought she would never be able to do. Makila has now performed Color Guard duties twice for the council which requires her to be in front of large groups of people and she has done it willingly and with ease. Makila's mom puts it all in perspective: "Camp Fire has taken my shy kid and turned her into a strong, loving, caring, kind and outspoken leader. Camp Fire has brought her out of her shell. She has learned many valuable lessons and made many amazing friendships."



### Our Promise:

Young people want to shape the world. Camp Fire provides the opportunity to find their spark, lift their voice, and discover who they are. In Camp Fire, it begins *now*. Light the fire within.

## Camp Dart-Lo Lodge Groundbreaking and INW Community Foundation Grant

We've got BIG news on our Camp Dart-Lo Lodge project! The permits are now in place and building plans are complete. On December 3rd, Camp Fire Inland Northwest held a groundbreaking ceremony at Camp Dart-Lo to kick off the construction to modernize the 1947 Lodge. Now it's time to do some serious work. The \$317,000 project will bring the building's original footprint to one level and make it ADA accessible. Wheelchair accessible restrooms, a new kitchen, reception area and a health room will be added. On the exterior, an ADA driveway, entrance and ramps will be included. Walker Construction is overseeing the construction. This project is made possible with generous gifts from the Harriet Cheney Cowles Foundation and many individual donors.

In addition, on December 9th, Camp Fire Inland Northwest was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Inland Northwest Community Foundation which has brought our fundraising total to \$214,000. We are continuing to seek funding through other grant opportunities and private and corporate donations. A list of projects available for "adoption" is on our website at [campfireinc.org](http://campfireinc.org). Believe it or not, you can adopt a project or piece of equipment beginning around \$200. We're also seeking tradespeople in the areas of plumbing, electrical, carpentry and flooring to donate their time and expertise to help "get 'er done" before camp this next summer. Every hour donated is dollars off our bottom line. Contact the office at 509-747-6191 to find out how you can get involved in this exciting project.





## Camp Sweyolakan's Connemara Longford Unit Rebuilt

Last winter, the two-story Longford building in the Connemara unit at Camp Sweyolakan was crushed by falling trees. Surprisingly, it wasn't the big wind storm that knocked down the trees, it was a big snow storm that followed. The unit was rebuilt in late summer. Big thanks go to Walker Construction for making the brand new unit blend in to our rustic setting!

## Share Our Dream Annual Dinner & Auction Results

Camp Fire Inland Northwest's largest annual fundraising event, Share Our Dream Dinner & Auction, was a terrific success! The November 5th event raised almost \$60,000 for Camp Fire programs and camps. A huge THANK YOU goes out to our attendees, sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who donated items. A very special thank you goes out to Laurie and Andrew Skipper for their generous matching donation. Laurie is a very dedicated alumna of Camp Fire Inland Northwest. If you were unable to attend, but would still like to support Camp Fire Inland Northwest, please become a Sustaining Member. Donations are fully tax deductible.

## Absolutely Incredible Kid Day

Change a life...tell the special kid in your life that they are incredible! National Absolutely Incredible Kid Day is March 16th. Adults are asked to write letters of encouragement and inspiration to the incredible kids in their lives. It's a simple and meaningful way to let youth know how much they are appreciated and admired. Good old fashioned hand written letters really make the biggest impact, but you can also use social media like Facebook and Twitter. Be sure to tag #AIKD and #CampFireINW so we can all see the incredible kid in your life!



Light the fire within

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*For more information:* [campfireinc.org](http://campfireinc.org) or call 509.747.6191

## 2017 WINTER CALENDAR



Date	Event	Location	Time
Jan 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Camp Fire Offices Closed		
Jan 20	Chase Youth Award Nominations Due		
Jan 23	Annual Meeting	St. John Vianney Parish Hall	6:30 PM
Jan 28 - Feb 26	Candy Sale	See website for locations	
Feb 20	President's Day - Camp Fire Offices Closed		
Mar 11	St. Patrick's Day Parade	Downtown Spokane	Noon
Mar 16	Absolutely Incredible Kid Day		
March	Sustaining Membership Drive		