

The Campaign to Make It Possible

Alaska Council at a Glance

Camp Fire USA is a national not-for-profit youth development agency which serves over 650,000 youth annually. Our purpose is to provide, through programs and informal education, opportunities for youth to realize their potential and to function effectively as caring, self-directed individuals responsible to themselves and to others. As an organization, we seek to improve those conditions in society which affect youth. Camp Fire embraces diversity and inclusiveness in all of its endeavors.

Camp Fire first had a presence in Alaska in 1913, and the Alaska Council was founded in 1961. Today the agency serves 5,000 youth annually and is the largest provider of school age child care in the state. The 2009 budget is \$6 million, with funding from the United Ways of Anchorage and Tanana Valley; federal, state and municipal contracts; program fees; and individual, foundation and corporate gifts.

Our Programs

School Age Child Care

Camp Fire's licensed school age child care programs help working families keep kids safe by offering them challenging activities, learning experiences and meaningful opportunities for involvement and membership. Each program is located in the elementary school where the participants are enrolled, creating consistency for the children and eliminating transportation worries for parents. The program **serves 1,200 students each day through 30 locations** in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Community Centers

Camp Fire's six community centers provide safe and nurturing after school and summer environments for 300 youth daily in low-income neighborhoods. The program is similar to the agency's licensed school age child care, with an added emphasis on homework assistance and activities that build self-esteem. Participation in these programs is free to all youth. *Anchorage Locations:* Fairview Recreation Center, AHFC's Loussac Manor, Central Lutheran Church and Tyson Elementary in Mountain View. *Fairbanks Locations:* AHFC's Birch Park and Spruce Park.

Summer Camps

Each year, approximately 1,000 youth attend one of Camp Fire's summer camps. Camp Kushtaka is a residential camp located on the shores of beautiful Kenai Lake in Cooper Landing. Camp Si-La-Meo is a day camp located on the campus of the Alaska Pacific University. Campers spend their days hiking, canoeing, making new friends and learning to appreciate the natural world around them.

Rural Alaska Program

Each summer, Camp Fire brings the fun of summer camp to rural villages across Alaska. Alaska consistently has one of the highest drowning rates in the country. In order to help address this safety issue, in addition to camp activities, the program focuses on teaching swimming and cold water survival skills to local children and teens. Staff work in pairs and run two-week camps in each village. In 2008, Camp Fire hosted camps in 11 rural Alaskan communities, serving over 500 youth.



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