



Courtney Knauss
Camp Fire USA Orca Council
2004 Wohelo Award Recipient

Courtney Knauss has a life-long passion for the arts, as a writer, musician, and graphic artist. Now a senior in University Place School District, Courtney has been involved in the band program for eight years, and is currently a second year member of Curtis High School's Symphonic Band. She has served as a staff member on CHS' Viking Shield newspaper for two years, which provides an outlet for her love of writing. As a freshman, Courtney won the Washington Education Association's annual essay contest for high school students across Washington State.

A member of National Honor Society, she takes classes through the Running Start program at Tacoma Community College in addition to her high school course work. Courtney is active in the Senior High Youth Program at University Place Presbyterian Church, a highlight of which was traveling with them on a mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico.

As a 13-year member of Camp Fire USA, Courtney has completed all four program levels. She has also earned all four levels of the God and Country Program: God & Me, God & Family, God & Church and God & Life. She has earned several Presidential Service Awards and two Honorable Mention Awards

from Colgate's Youth for America program. Courtney was Council Fire chairman for Camporee 2003: Treasure Island, and a co-chair for Grand Council Fire, 2004. In November of 2003, Courtney attended the National Convention of Camp Fire USA in Chicago, Illinois. She served as a counselor at Hidden Beach Day Camp for three summers. Courtney has earned Torch Bearer Awards in cooking, sewing, money management, investing and creative arts. She attended Washington Business Week at Western Washington University, and co-led "Team Up For Sara", an extraordinary drive which galvanized an entire community and added hundreds of potential donors to the National Bone Marrow Registry.

"Camp Fire has taught me the importance of sharing my passions with younger children in order to help inspire them to reach their goals and pursue their dreams," says Courtney.

Next year, Courtney plans to attend either Western Washington University or the University of Montana, where she will study psychology and education while earning a Bachelor's Degree.