



# Orca Sounds

July – August 2006

## Dates to Remember

### July

- 3 Great Escape Camp, Week 2
- 8 Wildwood on-site training
- 10 Wildwood Day Camp  
Great Escape Camp, Week 3
- 13 Thursday 6-8 pm at  
Gig Harbor Round Table
- 17 Wohelo Day Camp  
Kopachuck Day Camp  
Great Escape Camp, Week 4
- 24 Great Escape Camp, Week 5
- 31 Great Escape Camp, Week 6

### August

- 6 Camp Smokey at Roganunda
- 14 Great Escape Camp, Week 7
- 21 Great Escape Camp, Week 8

### September

- 4 Labor Day

For nearly a century:  
**integrity,**  
**responsibility,**  
**tolerance.**  
We build more  
than campfires.



## Three Cheers for Camp Fire Teens!

There has always been something decidedly different about Camp Fire teenagers. They walk and talk with a mature confidence often uncharacteristic of their peers. They lend a helping hand without being asked. They look out for each other. They know how to have fun. They lead.

Many families will be sending their kids off to summer camp during the next couple months. They do it for many reasons. For some it is childcare with a special twist, and for others it is a special week for the kids to get outdoors. No matter the reason, the reality is that Camp Fire USA Orca Council would not be able to offer the summer programs we do without the dedication of some pretty incredible teens who volunteer their time and skills as camp counselors.

Many of our teen staff members have grown up attending our Council summer programs. They were inspired by the youth staff they had as campers. Some of our staff participates in other Camp Fire programs but most do not. For them, camp is Camp Fire.

Last summer 124 teens volunteered 3,340 hours at Orca Council day and resident camp programs. They were counselors, lifeguards, counselor assistants, specialists, dishwashers, and assistant camp directors. Most of all, they were role models to the 600 campers who attended our camps.

Camp counselors complete youth training courses that include 36 to 72 hours of training. Subjects include risk management, health and safety, child development, and leadership skills. In addition to the training courses, staff attends 10 to 24 hours of training before every

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*2006 Council Fire Photos Courtesy of Assistant Club Leader Dawn Twigg*



# SURVEYS SHOW POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR KIDS



*Long Beach Club Member Rides in Parade*

Camp Fire USA is dedicated to its mission to build caring, confident youth and future leaders, and it's working. A survey of the 2004-2005 program year shows

that children and families surveyed in Camp Fire USA programs are reaping the benefits-learning new skills, gaining confidence and preparing for adulthood.

Camp Fire USA curricula, whether used in after-school programs, small-group settings or the Community Family Club, provide 50 weeks of programming and hundreds of activities to ensure the accumulation of developmental assets and age-appropriate outcomes. Every activity is directly tied to measurable outcomes, which are measured each spring using an Outcome Measurement Tool Kit designed in collaboration with an independent evaluation research group based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"Measurable outcomes are one more thing that sets Camp Fire USA apart from the crowd of other youth development organizations," said Jill Pasewalk, Executive Director of Camp Fire USA.

"This process helps us achieve our mission, determine if our programs are succeeding and see firsthand the impact that our programs have on youth, families and communities." Highlights of the 2004-2005 surveys include:

- **97%** of youth surveyed (grades K-2) learned the importance of helping people, and 94% surveyed said they can now make their community a better place.
- **89%** of teens surveyed (grades 9-12) said that being a member of Camp Fire USA has taught them to value people who are different from them in both culture and religious faith.
- **82%** of youth surveyed (grades K-2) learned different ways to deal with negative peer pressure.
- **81%** of youth surveyed (grades 3-5) said that at Camp Fire USA, they use their imaginations to create things.
- **90%** of youth surveyed (grades K-2) said that Camp Fire USA taught them to use words, not violence, to resolve conflicts.
- **86%** of youth surveyed (grades 3-5) say that at Camp Fire USA, they treat people with respect.
- **86%** of teens surveyed (grades 9-12) are preparing for adulthood and learning how to balance their health, family, and school.

**Surveys show Camp Fire USA programs helps strengthen families, increase commitment to service, and improve behavior, academic readiness and attitudes toward health.**

# Actually We Are Talking Rocket Science...

## Wohelo Award helps launch career

*Executive Director Kathy Unruh recently received the following e-mail from former Orca Council member Wendi (Pickett) Otto...*

Sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you. You happened to catch me right during a launch period, so I've only recently come up for air! It's tough to say what I've done since high school in a nutshell, but I'll give it my best shot.

Let's see, what have I done since high school and my Wohelo... well, I received my Wohelo in 1997. That fall I started at the University of Colorado at Boulder in Aerospace Engineering. I received my Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering in 2001 and my Master's Degree in Aero-



space Engineering in 2002. During that time I had three summer internships with the Boeing Company - two in Commercial Aircraft in Renton and Everett, and one on the International Space Station in Houston, TX. In addition, I worked during the school year at the CU Structural Dynamics and Control Laboratory on deployment aspects of large space telescopes.

As I was earning my Master's I worked as a teaching assistant and lab coordinator for sophomore students, which I enjoyed immensely. I kept myself sane by being involved in various activities, such as Engineering Ambassadors and SWE (Society of Women Engineers) outreach programs with the Girl Scouts. Unfortunately, there were no Camp Fire groups in Colorado, and I have to admit I did miss seeing them!

After graduating in 2002, I went to work for Orbital Sciences Corporation in Dulles, VA on the Pegasus Launch Vehicle. Pegasus launches from under a converted L-1011 aircraft to boost spacecraft into space. I'm currently working as a Systems Engineer and responsible for payload-to-Pegasus integration for the IBEX payload. Over my past four years, I've been responsible for payload integration for OrbView-3 (launched June of 2003), DART (launched April of 2005), and ST-5 (launched March of 2006).

In August of 2003 I married my husband, John Otto, who is also an engineer working for Boeing in

Herndon, VA. We are currently living in Northern Virginia with our dog, MacKenzie—a spunky 2-year old Golden Retriever. We're enjoying all the sights living in the DC area has to offer, but we're looking to make it back to the West Coast eventually. In addition, I volunteer occasionally with the local Camp Fire Patuxent Area Council as their Science Coordinator. My job keeps me from spending as much time as I would like, but I have arranged for two "Day at the Smithsonian" events at the Air and Space Museums, which I think everyone who attended enjoyed. The council here is very small and covers a lot of geographical area, and I know they are struggling with that, but hopefully it will grow in the coming years.

As for how Camp Fire as impacted my life—I know for a fact that my Wohelo helped me get my first internship at Boeing (as a freshman no less). It's a long story, but the recruiter had an opening amongst his juniors and seniors, and he noticed my Wohelo on my resume. It turned out his wife was a Camp Fire leader in the Kent area, and he was so impressed that I had earned a Wohelo that he called me in for a "practice interview" in the open slot. By the time the interview was complete, he said he was impressed with me, and he ended up recommending me for an internship--which I eventually received. I can easily say that kick-started my career, and it all traced back to the Wohelo.

While having the accomplishment on my resume caught his attention, I think that the process of earning the Wohelo was a big factor in helping me do well in the interview.



I earned my Wohelo with one of my group mates, Staci Ostheller (now Staci Hoisington), who I still keep in touch with regularly. It's been a while since I've seen her, but Camp Fire friends never die.

As a side note, my cousin, Chelsea Brandon, will be receiving her Wohelo tomorrow night from the Snohomish County Council. I'm extremely proud of her, and I know she became involved in Camp Fire because of me. I hope it will bring her all the opportunities mine has brought.

Wohelo,

WENDI OTTO,  
Systems Engineer,  
Pegasus Program Orbital Sciences Launch Systems Group

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**Register Now!**

**(253) 597-6234**

# Great Escape

## ALL SUMMER, ALL DAY

Great Escape Day Camp — a fun affordable alternative to summer child care for youth in grades K - 6

- outdoor cooking
- crafts & games
- swimming
- field trips

Located in a park like setting at the Elks Club on 19th and Union, Tacoma



## CAMP SMOKEY

Located in the heart of the Cascade mountains on Chinook Pass

Camp Smokey is a week-long (August 6 - 12) overnight camp open to boys and girls in grades 1 - 12. Campers live in cabins or tepees and are grouped by grade. Program includes swimming, hiking, crafts, team building games and just good old fun!

Horseback riding offered as an option



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