

Orca Sounds

January – February 2008



Dates to Remember

JANUARY

- 7 Torch Bearer Plans due
- 14 Presidential Service Award forms due in office
- 18 Candy Sale Kickoff, 7 pm
- 25 Candy Sale starts

FEBRUARY

- 7 Leader Meeting, Puyallup, 6:30 pm
- 11-15 Salute to Veterans
- 15 Candy Sale Last Chance Weekend
- 18 Candy Sale ends
- 29 Camp Sealth Adult Weekend

MARCH

- 1 Adult Awards Recognition nominations due to office
- 6 Leader Meeting, Orca office, 6:30 pm
- 6 Arbor Day Posters due to office
- 17 Camp Fire USA's 98th Birthday
- 20 Absolutely Incredible Kid Day

APRIL

- 1 Torch Bearer projects due
National Art Competition entries due to office
Wohelo complete portfolio due
- 5 Junior Daffodil Parade
- 9 Washington State Arbor Day
- 10 Leader meeting, Puyallup, 6:30 pm
- 12 Pacific Science Center Camp-In (Adventure/Discovery)
- 19-20 9th Annual Olympic Coast Cleanup
- 22 Earth Day
- 25 National Arbor Day
- 30 Orca Council Service Awards due

For more dates, see Calendar at



*...few world leaders or those who have made great contributions to science or art got straight A's in school. Instead, they have other qualities in common. They have high levels of emotional intelligence defined ... as empathy, optimism, good teamwork, a sense of humor, as well as the ability to bounce back from failure. **Good camps, with their emphasis on fellowship, independence and age-appropriate challenges make a unique contribution to the development of the whole child—disappointments, obstacles, and skinned knees—no extra charge.***

~Wendy Mogel

Camp...There's More To It Than You Think

It's no secret that Orca Council Executive Director Kathy Unruh is a fanatic about camp. Known by thousands of kids by the camp name Smokey, she has been directing Orca Council's resident camp for many years. Kathy's love of camp goes back almost 50 years to when she attended Camp Wakoma on the Longbranch Peninsula. For Kathy, going to camp was a life-changing experience. She believes that it has that same impact on other kids as well.

Recently Kathy found an article in *Camping Magazine* that echoes many of her feelings about camp and she wanted to share with Orca Council members. It is called *The Dark Side of Parental Devotion: How Camp Can Let the Sun Shine* by Wendy Mogel, PhD.

The article is available free online. Here is a link: <http://www.thefreelibrary.com/The+dark+side+of+parental+devotion%3a+how+camp+can+let+the+sun+shine.-a0144353019>. Visit it today!



Candy Kick-Off: The Sweet Life

This year our Candy Kick-off will be held on **Friday, January 18th** with an overnight event to follow. It will take place at the Our Savior Lutheran Church in Tacoma, just off Canyon Road at 112th and Bingham Ave starting at 7pm. This will be a fun event for all with prizes and treats.

Youth members will have the opportunity to participate in the Sales & Sense curriculum for candy training. Club Candy Captains will have their own training to go over their club packets and will also be able to do an early store sign up.

All members attending must have their medical form and members staying the night need a permission slip upon entrance.

Parents are encouraged to join in since the Candy Sale is a family supported effort. This sale is essential to supporting our Club Program as well as providing club rebates and individual seller incentives for our members.

All youth must be a currently registered member of Camp Fire USA Orca Council before selling candy.

Let's start off with a sweet Kick-off to have a sweet success of a Candy Sale!



Talking with 2007 High Seller- Michelle Fraser

by Johna Noble

Last week I visited with Michelle Fraser and her family to talk about the Candy Sale. Last year Michelle sold 762 units and was the Council High Seller.

I asked her what goal she set at the beginning of the sale. According to Michelle, she never really picked a specific number, she was just determined to be the High Seller. She knew the 2005-2006 High Seller, Melissa Rogers, had sold 750 units the previous year, so she figured that she would need to sell

at least that many.

I asked Michelle if she had a favorite location for selling. I found out that she, like most sellers, does like some locations more than others. Because the weather can be so variable this time of year, most sellers prefer stores where they can sell indoors. Michelle actually preferred the Top Foods in Lake Tapps last year. She likes the look of the front of the store with all the flowers and the store does have a small overhang which provides some shelter. The table location is right next to the path of the door, which is a bonus for Michelle since customers are drawn in by the table display. At some stores she said the table location makes it difficult for customers to see the table. This can be a problem because customers are not only drawn in by the seller, but by the table with the signage and display as well.

When asked which incentives she enjoys most, Michelle has one word: camping. Michelle loves camp and selling candy is just another way to help cover the cost. Her club, the Shooting Stars, also went on a camping trip this summer. The club has always been very supportive of the annual Candy Sale and has earned substantial club rebates for their treasury in the past years.

As part of a new incentive this past year, Michelle won a Visa gift card in the 5+ case club drawing. I asked Michelle what was the first thing she bought. "I got my nails done," she laughs.

What lies ahead for Michelle for this year's Candy Sale? Michelle says she isn't sure. Now that she is in high school; she has fewer opportunities to sell since she has more school commitments. However, while Michelle may not strive to be High Seller this year, don't count her out. According to her mom Terill, Michelle has always sold more each year than the one before.



High Selling Fraser Family Has An Attitude—A Good One! *by Johna Noble*

The Fraser family takes candy seriously. They have to. With two club members selling, they go through a lot of candy. In addition, last year mom Terill was the Club Candy Captain for her daughter Amanda's Adventure club as well as for her daughter Michelle's club. The candy filled their living room during the sale.

The Fraser family has done fundraising for other organizations and understand the importance of supporting the organization. Dad Kelvin says that fundraisers like the Candy Sale give families an opportunity to make a short term time commitment to give the greatest value down the road. The Frasers loves camp, and that has always been a driving force for them, but they also want to support Camp Fire USA.

Last year, Michelle was the Council High Seller. I wondered if her younger sister Amanda had set her goal for this year yet. Amanda said she hadn't picked a number, but figured she would just get out there and sell. When asked what their plan was to achieve their goal, Terill said they really like to have a great first weekend. But, she added, "You can't give up after the first weekend. Customers are out there in different locations. We go to all different places to sell."

Last year you could find Terill or Kelvin at a store every weekend with the kids. They learned that while selling is a family effort, splitting up at different doors or locations allows them to sell more. On some days Terill would take both Amanda and Michelle to sell and Kelvin would come at lunch so the girls each get a break by having lunch with dad. Don't worry, he would still bring something for Terill to eat if he didn't switch places with her. Sometimes, some of the older siblings would stop by and lend a hand. The family also had a list of about 20 family, friends and regular customers they like to contact.

The Frasers try to set a goal for each day at a store sale for an even number of cases to split between them. This gives them something to focus on for the day or weekend rather than being overwhelmed by their overall goal. They primarily sell on weekends to allow the girls a break during the week to focus on school. They usually sell on Valentine's Day and they always finish out the last weekend. Sometimes they have already met their goal, but are willing to sell more if the council still has candy left.

"You have to hear so many no's to hear so many yes's," says Terill. "Having a good attitude makes all the difference."

Camp Fire Salutes Hospitalized Veterans



This year during the week of **February 11-15**, we will honor our Veteran's in our annual Salute to Veteran's program, a program that Camp Fire has been involved with since 1976.

Each club is encouraged to find local men and women to honor during this celebration. Traditionally members made valentines to distribute to VA hospitals, but a local facility such as a VFW hall may gladly accept them as well as provide a place for our members to meet and interact with these special citizens who gave so much for our country. We have a lot of military facilities in our area we can support. Get together with your club and decide how you want to Salute our Veteran's this year.

Project Requirements: To be done by all program levels.

1. "Who are Veterans?" Learn about who Veterans are, and what they have done for our country.
2. Make a Valentine card for a Veteran; include a short note. Sign the card with your first name only. Do not include your address. Please don't include candy or gum.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS:

Starflight (choose one of the following):

1. As a club, make a poster wishing Veterans a Happy Valentine's Day from Camp Fire. Decorate it any way you wish.
2. As a club, donate one of the following to the Veteran's Hospital: checkers, dominoes, cribbage board, playing cards, puzzle, crossword puzzle book, word search book, score cards; or make a puzzle, book mark or game and donate it.

Adventure (choose one of the following):

1. As a club, make a poster for Veterans wishing them a Happy Valentine's Day from Camp Fire. Decorate in any way you wish.
2. As a club, make a Valentine's Day mobile to hang in a hospital room.
3. As a club, donate one of the following to the Veteran's Hospital: checkers, dominoes, cribbage board, playing cards, puzzle, crossword puzzle book, word search book, score cards; or make a puzzle, book mark or game and donate it.

Discovery and Horizon (choose one of the following):

1. Write a long letter to a Veteran. Sign your first name only. Do not include your address.
2. Donate one of the following to the Veteran's Hospital: checkers, dominoes, cribbage board, playing cards, puzzle, crossword puzzle book, word search book, score cards; or make a puzzle, book mark or game and donate it.
3. Attend the Valentine's for Veterans celebration at the Veteran's Hospital and help deliver valentines. If your club is interested, contact Johna Noble at (253) 597-6234 or johna@campfireusaorca.org.

The Salute to Veterans curriculum can also be found in the Leaders Manual binder. Additional information is also available in the January 3, 2008 Leader Meeting Notes, available to download from the council website.





Great Backyard Bird Count

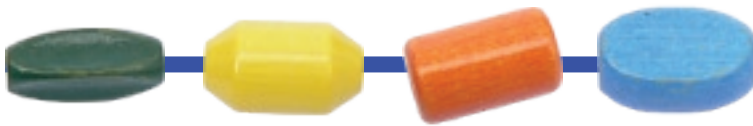
The Tahoma Audubon Society is offering crash courses **February 15-18** in bird identification in Gig Harbor, University Place and Tacoma.

If you can't make it to a class, visit www.birdsource.com or call Tahoma Audubon at (253) 565-9278 to learn how you can participate in your own backyard.

Adult Weekend for Camp Fire Friends

Once again Camp Fire friends come together for a weekend of activities and relaxation at Camp Sealth on **Feb 29-March 2**. Last year our Orca group had a great time learning new things and meeting new people. Jaime highly recommends the log furniture class!

If you are interested in going, ask Johna for a registration form and let her know if you would like to carpool to save on the ferry fees. The cost depends on the number of days you stay. Friday there are no workshops, so she recommends paying the weekend rate for Saturday and Sunday, which includes 4 workshops, lodging dinner on Saturday, breakfast and brunch on Sunday.



2008 Carnival of Beads Is Outta This World

Adventure members may sign up for a day at Camp Sealth on **Saturday, March 22** from 9-4 to complete activities to earn Camp Fire beads. The cost is \$11 (without beads) for each youth. (It is recommended to purchase the 20 beads afterwards at the Orca office since they will cost less than at the event.) Each group must be accompanied by 2 adults. Forms are available from Johna. Clubs may use one form to register. Registrations must be postmarked by March 1st and mailed to the address listed on the registration.

Leaping Lizards, It's a Leap Year!

Yes, 2008 is a leap year. But what does that mean exactly?



The 365 days of our calendar year are meant to match up with the solar year--the time it takes the Earth to complete its orbit around the sun. But in fact, this trip takes a little bit longer than 365 days. About 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to be exact..

This difference may not seem like a lot, but over time it adds up. Without adding leap years, after 100 years the calendar would be behind by 25 days! This means that when kids got out of school in June for summer vacation, the true start of summer would still be a month away. And when they returned in September, they would be missing some great days at the beach sitting at their desks.

The Egyptians were the first to come up with the idea of adding a leap day once every four years, and later, the Romans designated February 29 as the leap day. But still this didn't entirely solve the problem. because our calendar year was still longer than the solar year by 11 minutes and 14 seconds. To compensate, the extra day is actually added in 97 years out of every 400, rather than 100. This is done by making every year divisible by 4 a leap year unless that year is divisible by 100. If it is divisible by 100 it can only be a leap year if that year is also divisible by 400.

(Aren't you glad someone else keeps track of this?!)

So 1600 and 2000 were leap years, but 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not. In this millennium, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2500, 2600, 2700, 2900 and 3000 will not be leap years, but 2400 and 2800 will be.

The probability of being born on a leap day is 1 in 1,461, which adds up to roughly 200,000 people in the U.S. with leap-year birthdays. People born on February 29 celebrate their birthday in numerous ways, including at the World Wide Leap Year Festival in Anthony, Texas/New Mexico.

Arbor Day Poster Contest Entries Due March 6th

2008 Arbor Day National Poster Contest
Trees are Terrific...Inside and Out!
sponsored by Toyota

National First Place

National first place winner, his or her parents, and teacher will receive an expense-paid trip to Nebraska City, Nebraska, home of Arbor Day. They will stay at Lied Lodge & Conference Center and participate in the National Awards Weekend.

* \$1,000 Savings Bond

* Arbor Day Foundation Lifetime Membership

* Tree planted in his or her honor

* Framed copy of his or her artwork

* The student's teacher will receive \$200

National Second Place

* \$500 Savings Bond

* Framed copy of his or her artwork

* Tree planted in his or her honor

* Student's teacher will receive \$100

National Third Place

* \$250 Savings Bond

* Framed copy of his or her artwork

* Tree planted in his or her honor

* Student's teacher will receive \$50

buffers and absorb dust and other air pollutants. Trees are the essential link in the food chain of life; they capture sunlight and convert it into energy.

There are many ways to celebrate Arbor Day. One of them is to submit an Arbor Day poster contest entry. The contest is open to 5th graders across the country. Contact Johna Noble, (253) 597-6234 or jnoble@campfireusaorca.org for contest rules and information.

For homeowners, Arbor Day is an excellent time to take stock of the trees you already have and plan for the future. Inspect trees for any broken branches or evidence of disease or insect infestation. Think about how planting new trees might improve the look of your property or provide wind or heat protection. Take a trip to your local nursery to see what's available and to get new ideas.

Walk around your neighborhood. Are there any public areas where tree planting or tree maintenance might make a real difference to your community? Talk with your neighbors. Find out what their opinions are.

Poster Contest Shows Appreciation for Trees

The first Arbor Day took place on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska. Julius Sterling Morton a Nebraska journalist and politician who was originally from Missouri, felt that Nebraska's landscape and economy would benefit from the wide-scale planting of trees. He planted orchards, shade trees and wind breaks on his own farm and urged his neighbors to do so as well.

When he became a member of Nebraska's state board of agriculture he proposed that a special day be set aside for tree planting and increasing awareness of the importance of trees. On Nebraska's first Arbor Day more than one million trees were planted and in 1884 Nebraska named April 22nd, Morton's birthday, an annual legal holiday.

Today all 50 states celebrate Arbor Day although the dates vary in keeping with the local climate. In 1970, President Richard Nixon proclaimed the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day.

So why *are* trees important?

Trees provide us with food, shelter, medicine, clothing, tools, heat in the winter and cool shade in the summer. They add seasonal character to the landscape and a focus for enjoying the outdoors.

Trees help supply oxygen and refresh the air we breathe by utilizing carbon dioxide produced when we exhale and burn fossil fuels. Trees also reduce noise pollution, act as wind





Hometown Santa Parade

The streets were lined in downtown Puyallup for the annual Santa Parade on December 1st. Although it was a little cold, members arrived early and pitched in to help decorate the trailer and SUV decorated with lights, garland, and even a Christmas tree. Our entry was complete with a Camp Fire USA banner to lead the way. There were smiling faces as we made our way down the street and waved to the crowd. You could just feel the holiday spirit in the air!

Thanks to all who brought decorations and help represent Camp Fire USA! A special thanks to the Duffney family for lending the SUV and trailer along with chauffer ser-

Leavenworth a Worth-While Trip

Those past mishaps from previous years were only a distant memory. We sold out the small bus quickly for the December 8th trip. Hesselgrave gave us a beautiful ride to that winter wonderland known as Leavenworth. A beautiful snow covered town in a village that brings festivity to life.

Everyone had a great time and before they knew it, it was time to head home. An uneventful ride back to the Top Foods parking lot, and even the grown ups had had so much fun they were ready for bed! If you missed this trip, sign up early next year to reserve your seat on the bus.

Holiday Benefit Party

The Lovely Little Roses Adventure Club hosted a holiday party for families in need. They definitely met their goal to increase the number of families served over last year at the Salvation Army House.

This year they were able to secure a larger location at the Fellowship Church in Tacoma. They were able to provide a shopping and wrapping room for parents to choose gifts for their children. Children participated in games and crafts with the help of volunteers. Children were also able to get a photo taken with Santa to go home as a souvenir. Each family enjoyed a soup, stew, or chili dinner complete with a wide selection of dessert from the huge dessert table.

All of this was made possible by fundraising efforts from the Lovely Little Roses Club. Volunteers brought their crock-pots full with their dessert plates teetering on top. It was great to see how much food we were able to provide by everyone contributing.

Congratulations to the Lovely Little Roses who worked so hard to make this event possible.

On December 17 2007, a Christmas party was held that The Lovely Little Roses helped plan. It helped about 60 families have a Merry Christmas.

We would like to thank those who helped with it. We really appreciate it. All the families had fun and I hope you had fun helping.

Mary Hilliard, Michelle Green, and
The Lovely Little Roses

**PARENT PERMISSION & RESPONSIBILITY FORM
CAMP FIRE CANDY SALE**

JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 19, 2008

My child: _____, is a registered member of Camp Fire USA Orca Council. He/she has my permission to participate in the Orca Council 2008 Candy Sale.

I agree to accept responsibility for all candy he/she receives, and I understand that at the end of the sale, I am required to account for all checked out candy. If I fail to remit funds or products, I understand that I am liable for any outstanding balance and my child's incentives may be held until all sales are accounted for. I will see that my child has supervision and guidance when he or she is selling.

Parent/Guardian Signature (Print name)

Parent/Guardian Signature (Signature)

Street Address

City

Zip

Phone: (Work)

(Home)

Date: _____

**Fill out form, detach permission slip
and return to your youth's Club Sale
Coordinator before Friday, January 25,
2008**



**CANDY SALE:
January 25 – FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

CAMP FIRE USA IS NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING CANDY.

Our business is building caring, confident youth and future leaders.

Camp Fire kids have been helping to pay for their program since 1912

The founder of Camp Fire, Dr. Luther Gulick, felt very strongly that youth should be responsible and support not only themselves, but also their community. The annual Candy Sale helps Camp Fire members earn their way to camp, pay for club activities, yearly registration fees, and Camp Fire merchandise. It also helps offset administrative costs associated with the program.

LEARNING AND EARNING

Camp Fire USA members are doing more than supporting their organization when they sell candy. They are learning valuable skills! Across the nation, children of all ages are selling candy for a good cause. This experience teaches youth to:

- Plan
- Set goals
- Manage money
- Improve communication skills
- Provide service to the community
- Work together



**Michelle Fraser
2007 Council High Seller**



HOW CAN I HELP?

- Complete, sign and return the “Parent Permission and Responsibility” form before your child is issued candy.
- Ask your child about his/her candy sale efforts, his or her goal, how he or she can reach it and how you can help.
- Help your child become familiar with the candy varieties and practice selling.
- Clarify and emphasize safety rules. **Do not let your child sell alone.** Help him or her decide safe ways and places to sell and discuss prospective buyers.
- Help your child start his or her selling activities on Friday, January 26, 2007
- Oversee the money your child collects and double-check amounts before turning money into the Club Sale Coordinator.
- Offer to help with your child’s club Candy Sale.
- **Encourage and support your child and his or her Club.**



QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CAMP FIRE CANDY SALE?

**Call your child’s club leader or
Candy Sale Manager, Kara Holt, at (253) 597-6234.**

WHERE DOES THE CAMP FIRE CANDY GO?

The current sale price for a box of Camp Fire mints, almond caramel clusters, or Almond Roca® is just \$5.00.

For every box sold, 44% (\$2.20) covers the cost of the candy, and 56% (\$2.80) goes directly to seller incentives and the Club program. Orca Council clubs earn cash refunds that go directly to their treasury and members can earn credit to be used for day or resident camp, Camp Fire merchandise, membership or Council activity discounts.

WHAT DOES MY CHILD GAIN?

- Social interaction and decision-making skills (setting sales goals, developing sales plan, meeting consumers)
- Improved self-esteem and personal life skills (working for rewards, handling money, utilizing math skills, applying safety rules, learning to sell, exploring careers)
- Responsible citizenry and community service
- Appreciation of diversity (meeting new people, seeing community)
- Enjoyment of learning (working as part of a group, having fun selling)
- Leadership skills (speaking before others, contributing ideas, carrying out plans)

**CAMP FIRE USA ORCA COUNCIL
3555 McKinley Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98404
253-597-2634**

Camp Fire USA is a 501(c) 3 organization.