



Orca Sounds

September – October 2005

Dates to Remember

September

9-25 Do the Puyallup!



October

20 Wohelo Committee meeting, 6-7 PM

27-30 National Leadership Conference in Kansas City

31 Halloween Club Registrations Due

November

11 Veteran's Day

24 Thanksgiving

Working on Your Wohelo?

The Wohelo Committee will begin meetings with award candidates on Thursday, October 20th. Appointments will be scheduled for 15 or 30 minute times slots as requested. Times are first come, first serve. Call Sheryl at the Camp Fire office to schedule time with the committee. 253.597.6234.

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



Cool Volunteers Make Summer Programs Hot

As summer draws to a close and we start to catch our breaths after the camp season, I want to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers who staffed our summer programs this year. Although it is a cliché, it is no less true: we couldn't do it without you.

A special thanks to **Kenya Brooke**, director of Peace Day Camp; **DiDi Monroe**, director of Wohelo Day Camp; **Johna Noble** and **Jaime Ping**, directors of Wildwood Day Camp and **Judy Holt**, director of Kopachuck and Ft. Nisqually Day Camps. Together these camps served 400 kids.

At Camp Smokey, we had an increase in campers this summer and over 50% of the campers participated in the new Wrangler horseback riding program. Smokey campers loved the horses, the pool and the lights in the cabins. However, a poll done by the BARF (Basic Adult Review Force) team shows that overall campers like the Niwana site better. The reason: they missed the lake.

As our new program year begins, we are looking forward to carrying our summer successes on into the fall.

Kathy Unruh
Executive Director

www.campfireusaorca.org



Camp Smokey Last Stop Japanese Students Before They Return Home

Camp Smokey was enriched this year by 21 campers from Japan, and their interpreter. These boys and girls spent the better part of their summer in the United States living with American families and learning about American culture.

The kids fit in great, according to counselor Megan Doherty. "They were very intent on learning camp songs so they could share them with friends back home, and they taught us some Japanese songs as well. Many of the kids were crying when it came time to say goodbye."

Dealing with the visiting campers' luggage provided a bigger than usual challenge, however. Because the Japanese youth were headed back to Japan just a day or two after they left Camp Smokey, their suitcases were overflowing with gifts and souvenirs to take home. Among the items were lots of American foods such as candy, salad dressings, and boxes of macaroni and cheese! The food presented a particular problem since strict rules at camp restrict food in cabins in order to avoid problems with marauding animals. Campers' food had to be wrapped up in large garbage bags and labeled with their names and stored in the kitchen.

The Japanese youth are part of the World Families program. World Families is a nonprofit educational organization providing international exchange and cultural education programs for children, youth, and families. By discovering another culture through family life, both the hosting families and the international youth participants can increase understanding of their responsibility and role in their own families, communities, and world.



BARF Team Chooses New Members



The BARF Basic Adult Review Force (BARF) Team is a small group of Camp Smokey youth staff that meets throughout the school year to help plan program and events for camp. They plan the dance, decide the camp theme, lead the tribes for Trooper's Challenge and help raise funds for camper scholarships.

Team members are chosen because they are positive role models, enthusiastic about campers and camp and they are willing to make a two-year commitment to camp and the team.

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.

—Henry Ford

We want to commend the 2005 BARF Team members for a good job: Bethie Combs, Megan Doherty, Matt Mistretta, Kira Kaelin, Bryon Bohnen, Stephanie Berry, and Nathan Prideaux;

and congratulate the new 2006 BARF Team on their selection: Megan Doherty, Matt Mistretta, Shawn Gross, Taffi Necker and Kaily Craig.



Longtime Camp Fire Volunteer Retires—Sorta

DiDi (Stitches) Monroe has been a volunteer for Camp Fire for 18 years. She was the leader for both of her daughters' Camp Fire clubs, has volunteered as the nurse for Camp Smokey, and she's been the driving force behind Wohelo Day Camp for the last 10 years. She is a hard act to follow.

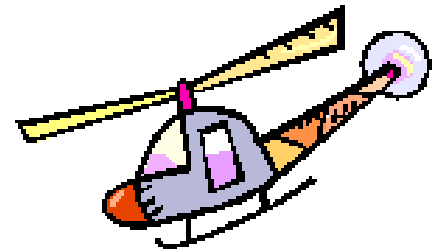
It's A Bird, It's a Plane, No It's DiDi!

Each year, DiDi would set a theme for the day camp. The ideas she came up with to carry out that theme were so much fun that campers and parents both couldn't wait to find out what would happen next. These special added touches made day camp fun and exciting. One year DiDi arrived on the first day of camp in a helicopter!

Always organized, and always fun to work with, we wish you many

thanks, DiDi, for all of your hard work and commitment to Camp Fire kids!

Oh, that's right, you aren't leaving for good. Next year DiDi will be swapping positions with Eleanore Bohnen. DiDi will be treating cuts, scrapes and sunburns as nurse at Wohelo day camp, and Eleanore will serve as camp director.



Eagle Scout Bryon Bohnen Builds Picnic Tables for Camps

For Bryon Bohnen, Camp Fire is a family affair. His mom Eleanore has volunteered as camp nurse at Wohelo Day Camp for many years and every year his whole family comes to Camp Smokey. Mom is the nurse and sister Kristin helps out. His dad, Chris, is a member of the Orca Council board of directors, and takes on any chore; he has held many positions at camp. Brother Ben and sister Emily are still campers. In addition to being a camper, a camp staff member, a member of the BARF Team and the council board of directors, Bryon is also a Boy Scout.

When Bryon heard that some of campsites we would be using for our summer programs didn't have picnic tables, he jumped into gear. With his Eagle project in mind, he asked if we would like some collapsible tables that we could easily transport. Of course we said yes. Before camp this summer, Bryon delivered 10 beautiful collapsible picnic tables for the council to use. Thanks, Bryon!

Next Year: All-summer, All-day Programs

Camp Fire day camps are known for excellent programming, and every summer Orca Council gets many calls from working parents who are looking for day camp programs that run all day, all summer.

The council is currently looking for a site whereto run such a program from 7:30 in the morning to 6:00 in the evening. Ideally the site would have indoor as well as outdoor facilities and be close to transit. Any ideas?