

Orca Sounds

March/April 2010



Upcoming Events

March

- 3 Leader/Volunteer Meeting
- 17 Camp Fire's 100th Birthday!
- 18 Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
- 22 Ice Cream Social (invitation only)
- 26 National Art Entries due
- 27 Junior Daffodil Parade

April

- * Torch Bearer projects due
- 7 Volunteer/Leaders Meeting
- 10 Grand Floral Parade
- 14 State Arbor Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 Mystery Trip (invitation only)
- 30 National Arbor Day

May

- 1 Kids Health & Safety Fair
- 5 Volunteer/Leaders Meeting

June

- 4 Council Fire
- TBD Risk Management Training

July

- 12- Tentative dates for Wildwood
- 16 Camp
- 31 National Centennial Celebration

August

- 8-14 Camp Smokey

For more information,
visit the Calendar page at:
www.campfireusaorca.org



How Sweet It Is!

This year's Candy Sale opened on January 22 and ended on February 16. Our thanks go out to all of those who participated, from leaders to parents to board members, and last, but not least, our Club program members. These youth took the opportunity to help Camp Fire while they learned and practiced a variety of important skills such as:

- **Goal-setting**—What do I want to get from the Candy Sale? How many days will it take me to reach my goal?
- **Marketing**—What do we sell and how do we sell it? What influences a customer to buy? How does display and presentation affect sales? What can I say about the candy?
- **Risk Management**—Where are safe places to sell candy? When is it safe to talk with strangers?
- **Customer Service**—How do customers like to be treated? What's too aggressive, too shy, just right in approaching customers? Do I know how to make change for customers?
- **Organization**—What time do I need to be there? Who is going with me? If more friends go, will my share of the sales be enough? Do I have the amounts and kinds of candy that I need? Who is bringing the signs, the cash for change? How do I keep track of my sales and the money I have collected?

These are just a few of the many skills that can be gained through the Candy Sale, but they are ones that will be used over and over again, no matter what kind of career a person chooses. Selling candy is a fun way to learn them, it helps support Camp Fire USA, and it builds memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you all for participating.

Kathy Unruh, Executive Director



Everyone Loves a Parade!

Camp Fire shares its birthday every year with another well-known event: St. Patrick's Day, the religious feast day and the anniversary of St. Patrick's death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over a thousand years.

St. Patrick's Day falls during the Christian season of Lent. Traditionally, Irish families would attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. The usual Lenten prohibitions against eating meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

St. Patrick's Day Parade World's Largest

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in the United States. On March 17, 1762, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City. The event helped the soldiers connect with their Irish roots, as well as with their countrymen serving in the English army.

During the next 35 years, Irish-American immigrants started "Irish Aid" societies and each group would hold an annual parade. In 1848, several groups united their parades to form one New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Today, it is the world's oldest civilian parade and the largest in the U.S. It boasts over 150,000 participants, nearly 3 million viewers, and the 1.5-mile parade route takes more than five hours to complete.

No Irish Need Apply

Up until the mid-19th century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. After Ireland's Great Potato Famine in 1845, however, close to a million poor, uneducated Irish Catholics fled to America to escape starvation. Despised by the American Protestant majority for their religious beliefs and funny accents, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish-Americans celebrated their heritage by marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

Before long, however, the Irish began to realize the political power of their vast numbers. They started to organize, and by voting together, were able to influence the out-

come of elections. Suddenly, the annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for many political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended the New York City parade, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.



History of the Grand Floral Parade

Daffodils are not native to the Puyallup Valley, but were introduced in 1925 in an effort to replace the dying hop industry. Hops, a plant used in brewing beer, were no longer in demand and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommended bulb growing as a crop well-suited to the valley's soil and climate.

The Daffodil "Festival" began a year later when a Sumner couple, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Orton, held a garden party at their home for civic leaders from 125 Western Washington towns. The party was arranged so the guests could see the many varieties of daffodils blooming in and around their estate. The Commander at Fort Lewis brought a military band and many officers and their wives and the event became an annual affair.

Interest in the daffodils—as well as the fields themselves—grew each year until 1932, when "Bulb Sunday" came into being. Viewing the daffodils in bloom became so fashionable that it created a massive traffic jam as up to 8,000 vehicles crowded the roads bordering the fields.

The parade itself was born in 1934 when a Tacoma photographer suggested that the daffodil blooms be used as decoration for a festival parade. Up to that time the blooms were thrown away or used as fertilizer. Automobiles and bicycles were decorated with daffodils and, together with a group mounted on the area's finest riding horses, paraded through the valley towns.

In 2010 the Daffodil Festival will be 77 years old, and there has been a parade every year since 1934, except for the war years of 1943-1945. The bulb industry has also evolved and found a lucrative market in cut flowers, each year selling more than 20 million Daffodil buds, 8 million Tulip buds and one million Iris buds.

**This year's Junior Daffodil Parade
is March 27.
The Grand Floral (Daffodil)
Parade is April 10.**



March 18, 2010. Absolutely Incredible Kid Day® is a national letter-writing campaign where kids receive letters of support, love and encouragement from parents and adults. It only takes a few minutes to jot a note that will be remembered and appreciated for a lifetime. The positive impact of these letters on kids is what Absolutely Incredible Kid Day® is all about.

10 Letter-Writing Tips

1. Getting started can be the toughest part. Form a mental picture of the child and the things that you enjoy or appreciate about him or her.
2. Make a list of adjectives that describe the child: funny, honest, smart, helpful, caring...
3. Begin with a favorite poem or a famous quote that has special meaning to you.
4. Remember fun times or special moments you and the child have shared. Refer to these events and tell the child what you enjoyed about that time.
5. Be specific and descriptive. Use humor. Try “Do you know what I like about you? I like it when you . . .”
6. You don’t have to limit yourself to pen and paper. Send an encouraging E-mail, postcard, greeting card, or simply tell the child how you feel, over the phone or face-to-face.
7. Don’t worry about the length and feel free to write it by hand. A short note can be cherished as much as a formal letter.
8. Include things that you would like to hear in a letter that you might receive. Chances are, the incredible kid you’re writing to feels the same!
9. Be optimistic and future-focused; emphasize positive self-esteem.
10. Write a letter right now!

Sample Sentences to Get You Started

- *You always make me smile when you...*
- *This letter is my way of letting you know that you are special and that someone is thinking about you.*
- *You are very special in your own way...*
- *I hope you discover what your own talents are and share them with the world.*
- *When I think about you, I think of... and feel...*
- *Did you know that the world is a better place just because you’re you?*
- *Spending time with you makes me so happy! I really enjoy when we...*

**What a lot we lost when we stopped writing letters.
You can’t reread a phone call.**

~Liz Carpenter

1910- 2010

100 Years of Camp Fire History

1910	Camp Fire Girls founded by Luther Gulick, M.D., and his wife, Charlotte Gulick, as the first non-sectarian organization for girls in the U.S. First meetings in Vermont. Name “Camp Fire” chosen because campfires were the origin of the first communities and domestic life. Once people learned to make and control fire, they could develop and nurture a sense of community.
1912	Camp Fire Girls of America incorporated in Washington, D.C., as a national agency.
1913	The “Blue Bird” program officially introduced for younger girls. (In 1989 the “Blue Bird” level becomes the “Starflight” level.)
1918	First local Camp Fire council formed in Kansas City, Missouri. (In 1977, Kansas City becomes the national headquarters.)
1954	National headquarters calls for greater inclusiveness of all groups within the membership.
1960	Camp Fire celebrates 50th anniversary with “She Cares . . . Do You?” program and plants more than 2 million trees, builds 13,000 bird houses and completes several other conservation-oriented tasks. Commemorative stamp issued and major conservation effort launched.
1962	New program level, “Junior Hi,” for 12-13-year-old girls created. Name later changes to “Discovery” with the inclusion of boys.
	Wohelo Medallion becomes Camp Fire’s highest achievement and honor. It is named for Camp Fire’s watchword, “Wohelo,” which stands for “work,” “health” and “love.” (Renamed “Wohelo Award in 1996)
1975	Camp Fire encourages boys to participate in all activities. Today, 46 percent of the youth served by Camp Fire USA are boys.
1988	“Teens in Action” introduced as a one time social issue campaign for older youth. Today the service-learning program serves over 60,000 teens.
1997	First Absolutely Incredible Kid Day®—a call to action for all adults to communicate through letters their love and commitment to children on the third Thursday of each March.
1999	National convention in Seattle announces new mission: “Camp Fire builds caring, confident youth and future leaders.”





2000	Camp Fire celebrates 90th anniversary as one of America's leading youth development agencies. Conducts nationwide search for oldest living Camp Fire member.
	Camp Fire USA launches a new brand and introduces a national theme line, "Today's kids. Tomorrow's leaders."
	Camp Fire introduces the "Community Family Club" small-group model, designed to provide parents and other caring community adults the opportunity to interact positively with children and teens.
2003	Camp Fire USA begins translating new curricula for small-group programs into Spanish.
2004	Camp Fire USA's Online Store opens
2005	Camp Fire USA introduces the "Little Stars" small-group program designed for ages three to five,
2010	Camp Fires USA's 100th Birthday!



The Flintstones Meet the the Jetsons

This drawing is from *A Campfire Girl's Happiness* by Jane L. Stewart. Compliments of The Gutenberg Project, this book is one of several historic Camp Fire books now available online. These eBooks are "for the use of anyone anywhere at no cost and with almost no restrictions whatsoever. You may copy it, give it away or re-use it under the terms of the Project Gutenberg License which is available online at www.gutenberg.net."

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Care, Camp, Contribute, Connect...

Orca Council club leader Rebecca Engelhardt reports that participants had a GREAT time at the February 26 Art Workshop learning about recycled art ideas for the art competition. Community volunteer Barb White led the workshop, took photos and provided a handout. (An electronic copy of the handout is available online for club members who were unable to attend.) Look for the handout and more photos from the workshop at www.campfireusaorca.org.



The deadline for the National Art Competition entries is March 26!