

Camp Fire helps youth, teens and families dig deep inside and uncover their “spark,” their personally defined nugget of potential.

Helping youth become who they want to be takes time, and encouragement. It takes paying attention to what sparks a passion. At Camp Fire, that’s what we do. We pay attention. We help youth discover the exceptional people they are.

The Camp Fire Experience

Led by trained, caring adults

Our work with young people is tailored to each individual, guiding them to be their best, a “best” they define themselves.

Volunteers and staff are exceptional role models and champions of children. Programs encourage youth to discover their sparks.

Participant Driven

Camp Fire is led by the youth

Young people chart their course. Camp Fire adults provide guidance and support.

As youth care for others, they become self aware and better citizens

It happens now

Camp Fire helps develop abilities today. We build a strong foundation empowering youth for the present and the future.



Our Story

Founded in 1910, Camp Fire USA was the first nonsectarian, interracial organization for boys and girls in the United States. In 1975, we made a new commitment to include boys in the program. For almost a century, we have been providing services to kids and their families.

***At Camp Fire we
Light the fire
within***

Inclusiveness

Camp Fire is open to everyone—boys and girls and their families.

The uniqueness of all young people and their families is embraced.

Every child is celebrated every day.
No Exceptions.

Participants build lasting relationships with youth and adults of all ages and backgrounds.



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Camp Fire builds Caring, Confident Youth and Future Leaders

In-School Programs

Illinois Prairie Council offers a wide variety of in-school programs for youth that increase knowledge, change attitudes and promote positive behaviors. Programs include:

Kids on the Block - An interactive puppet program for youth that emphasizes diversity and disability awareness. This is an “assembly-style” program. Each grade level highlights a different disability. Youth are asked to start **No Put-down Zones** and are challenged to “**Dare to Care!**”

Self-Reliance - There are four programs designed for elementary school youth. These programs teach about personal safety, stranger danger, positive peer relationships, bullying, and baby sitting skills. Experienced facilitators utilize skits and roleplaying activities to practice home-alone skills, and choosing friends.

I'm Safe and Sure - K and 1st grade

Caution without Fear - 2nd and 3rd grade

I'm Peer Proof - 4th and 5th grades

I'm Taking Care - 5th through 8th grades



Camping and Clubs

These programs provide an opportunity for youth to experience mentoring that reinforces positive behavior and builds character. Programs include:

Traditional Club - Volunteer leaders help youth explore their world through projects that build personal and interpersonal skills. This is for boys and girls 5 to 18 years old. Participants help with club leadership as they get older.

Community Family Club - Brings entire families together to share a meal, large and small group activities in a safe environment. Program is monthly and can be expanded to include other meeting formats.

Camp Kata Kani Summer Day Camp - Professional staff at Camp Kata Kani in Bolingbrook facilitate a summer full of outdoor skills, archery, environmental education, theatre, fishing, arts and crafts, and fun. Extended care is available to those in need of it.

After-School Programs

REACH (Responsible Educated Adolescents Can Help) - Volunteer leaders and staff members work with pre-teens and teens to produce drug- and alcohol-education skits, community-service projects, develop leadership skills and facilitate drug-free fun.

After School Clubs - Grade-specific clubs assist youth in developing into positive young adults. Some clubs are general interest, while others have a specific focus (i.e., newspaper clubs, special populations, etc.) Groups meet weekly. Teachers are employed as leaders, helping them develop better relationships with students and their families.

Community Empowerment

Challenge Course - Adventure education through cooperative games, initiatives and elements teaches group problem-solving and team-building skills.

Salute to Vets - Youth make valentines and care packages for hospitalized veterans around Valentine's Day, visit a local VA Hospital to deliver items and perform in a talent show.

Absolutely Incredible Kid Day - Adults are encouraged to write a positive, empowering letter to a youth. This may be a son or daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, etc. Businesses may also “adopt” a school or hospital and send letters or give away Absolutely Incredible Kid Day stickers.

On the Web at:
www.campfireusa-illinois.org