



CAMP NAMANU

Gears Program – 2026 Application

What is the Gears Program?

Our Gears program is for high school-aged campers who want to get more involved in camp by giving back. Gears campers get to practice team-building, public speaking, service projects, and leadership skills. Gears help run our dining hall by leading meals with the Gears staff. This includes making announcements, sharing dietary information, packing cookouts, and leading other cabins in pre and post meal kitchen duty. Between meals Gears also participate in our usual camp programs like archery, ropes course, arts & crafts, etc.

**An application is required to be considered for our GEARS program. This is a competitive program and therefore not all applicants are guaranteed acceptance. But we highly encourage any and all interested youth to apply.*

Program Dates & Fees

If applicant is accepted, a \$125 non-refundable deposit due at registration and payment plans are available for the remaining cost. Contact our registrar if you have questions or concerns about the deposit or payment plan options. Financial aid options are available.

Gears Session	Cost	Dates
Gears Session 1/2	\$1,050	June 28 th – July 3 rd & July 5 th – 10 th
Gears Session 3/4	\$575	July 12 th – 17 th & July 19 th – 24 th
Gears Session 5	\$1,025	August 2 nd – 7 th
Gears Session 6/7	\$1,025	August 9 th – 15 th & August 16 th – 21 st

Camp Fire Columbia reserves the right to cancel, modify or limit any programs as determined by the council.

NOTE: Two-Week Session Gears return home on the weekends.

Application Requirements and Qualifications

Applicant must:

- Be 15 -18 years old and entering the 10th, 11th or 12th grade in Fall 2026.
- Be able to make a firm commitment to the entire session (length varies between 6-12 days)
- Submit a completed application with:
 - Applicant and Guardian contact information – we will use this during the application process to share updates.
 - 2-3 references, this could be a teacher, coach, employer, etc. Make sure to let your references know ahead of time they may receive calls or emails from Camp Namanu regarding this application.
 - Thoughtful responses to the essay questions.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Desire for personal growth
- Community focused
- Able to take direction from peers and staff
- Strong work ethic

Important Dates to Remember

- **December 1st, 2025** – Application Due by 5:00 PM to the Namanu Registrar namanuregistrar@campfirecolumbia.org
- **January 16th, 2026** – Priority applicants will be notified of acceptance or regrets via email
- **January 16th – May 16th 2026** – If space is still available, we will be reviewing and offering non-priority applicants space on a rolling basis.

PRIORITY APPLICANTS: Complete and return your application to the Namanu Registrar namanuregistrar@campfirecolumbia.org no later than 5:00 PM on December 1st, 2025.



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Applicant's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Pronouns: _____ Grade in Sept/2026: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School: _____ Years at Namanu: _____ How did you learn about Camp Namanu? _____

Please select which e-mail address(es) you would like correspondence/notifications sent to:

☐ Applicant E-mail _____ Name: _____

☐ Guardian E-mail _____ Name: _____

☐ Guardian E-mail _____ Name: _____

Session Preference: Please check your 1st-4th choice sessions, for any sessions you are unavailable please check the "Unavailable" box. We will do our best to place applicants in their 1st choice.

		1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice	4 th Choice	Unavailable
Gears Session 1/2	June 28 th – July 3 rd & July 5 th – 10 th					
Gears Session 3/4	July 12 th – 17 th & July 19 th – 24 th					
Gears Session 5	August 2 nd – 7 th					
Gears Session 6/7	August 9 th – 15 th & August 16 th – 21 st					

Volunteer or Paid Employment Experience:

Dates of Service	Employer/Organization	Position Held	Supervisor Name

List any other extracurricular activities, classes, or leadership experiences you would like us to know about:

References: Please list contact info for two to three people who can provide a reference for you (i.e. teacher, coach, etc):

Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Guardian's Signature: I am aware that _____ (applicant name) is applying for the GEARS Program at Camp Namanu. If selected, I will support them through the program.



Signature _____ **CAMP NAMANU** _____
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Essay Questions

Please type your answers to the following questions and attach them to your application. Answers will be evaluated based on content, not length.

- 1.) What are you hoping to gain from the program? What are you hoping to bring to the program?

- 2.) Please describe a time you had to accomplish a challenging task. What made it challenging? How did you balance getting the task done and taking care of your mental health/stress/anxiety? How did you feel when the task was done?

- 3.) Tell us about a time when you disagreed with a group of peers at school, camp, or in another area of your life. What was the root cause of the disagreement? What did you learn from this experience?

- 4.) Tell us about a program/event you would like to plan and host at Namanu for other units.