



THE SPARKFINDER

Camp Fire Columbia's Newsletter

Camp Fire Columbia's mission is to create lasting, equitable and caring relationships with nature, others and ourselves. If nature is in trouble, so are we. With Earth Day around the corner and other pivotal environmental issues facing us each day we want to bring awareness to another big piece of Camp Fire's new strategic plan: **To promote environmental stewardship and action.**

Camp Fire Columbia has been fostering environmental stewardship by:

- **Applying and receiving a grant to help us convert vehicles to electric power at camp.** Not only will we be electrifying Camp Namanu's fleet including wheelchair-accessible electric vehicles, but also installing two public charging stations. Electrifying these vehicles will prevent 5,605 lbs. of carbon from entering the atmosphere annually. This project has been made possible by DEQ's Oregon Clean Fuels Program via the PGE Drive Change Fund.
- **Partnering with local organizations like GROW Portland.** We've invested funds and time into helping rebuild garden beds at a few Portland-area schools in collaboration with GROW. During summer programming, youth will learn how to grow their own food and nurture sustainable gardens.
- **Bringing awareness and support through events like Move for Camp!** During Earth Week, we encourage people to join us in moving our bodies for the love and support of the outdoors! Make time to walk, run, bike, or wheel instead of drive and celebrate what nature shares with us. To register for this year's event click [HERE](#).
- **Holding work weekends at camp to help create healthy ecosystems and access to the natural world.** Join us for a work weekend at camp and help us create better access to nature and give back to the land!

When young people experience the power and awe of the outdoors; they learn to respect, love and care for our world.

As we continue this journey, we invite you along. You too can engage in environmental stewardship in your own lives.

Learn about the nature gap

- Did you know 74 percent of nonwhite people in the United States live in a "nature deprived" area (safe, nearby outdoor areas with clean water, clean air and wildlife)? Only 23 percent of white communities are nature deprived. [Read this study by the Center for American Progress and the Hispanic Access Foundation](#) to dive deep into the causes of this inequality and suggestions for how to improve safe outdoor access for BIPOC, LGBTQ, disabled and low-income communities.
- Watch this informative video from the Children's Nature Network: [Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones on Dismantling Racism in the Children and Nature Movement](#)

Follow environmental superstars

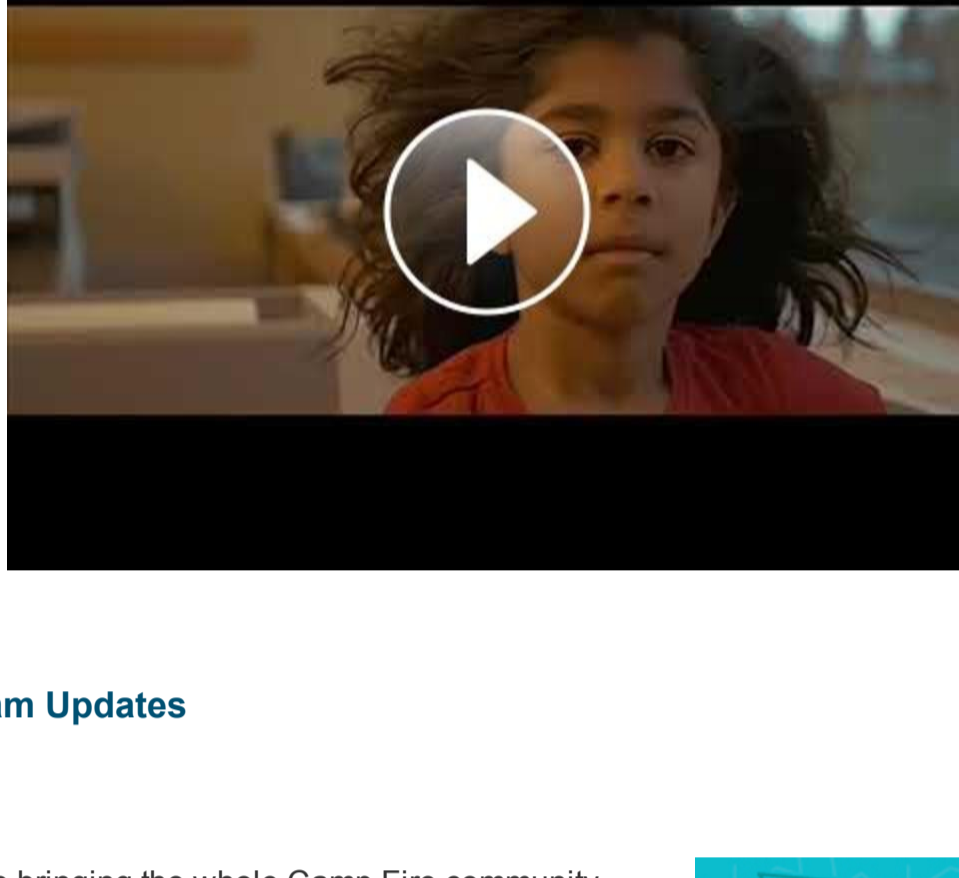
- [@Patiegonia on Instagram](#) - queer environmentalist who's all about building community for queer people, allies and mother nature.
- [@greengirlleah on Instagram](#) - Founder and author of [Intersectional Environmentalist](#)

[Find an Earth Day activity near you!](#) Or participate in [Move for Camp](#) or [work days out at Camp Namanu](#).

Make one small change in your household

- This one helps bring awareness to our own sustainable practices and can help teach our youth and loved ones how to better show up and treat mother nature. Be it as simple as recycling, growing your own vegetables or biking to work more often than driving. Or maybe vow to pick up trash when you see it!

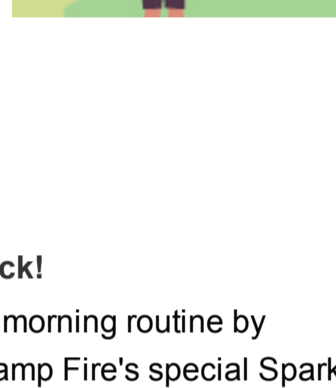
Our programs are full of compassionate young people who know how to make a positive, transformative impact on the environment. Watch as these Camp Fire kids try to save the planet in their music video debut *Earth Hurts*.



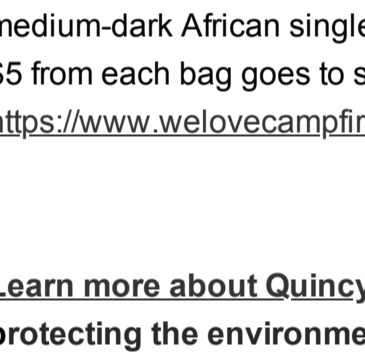
Program Updates

We're bringing the whole Camp Fire community together for our annual event, and you're invited!

Don't miss Spark, happening **virtually next Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 12PM (PT)**! Hear inspirational and moving stories as we celebrate and support our Camp Fire community.



RSVP today—avstream.me/spark22



Camp Fire Coffee is back!

Add a little spark to your morning routine by getting your hands on Camp Fire's special Spark Roast coffee made specifically for us in partnership with [Campfire Coffee Co.](#)! How fitting that we both share an awesome name, and passion for developing young people through time well spent in the outdoors. The Spark Roast is a medium-dark African single-origin coffee (Ethiopia). Each bag is 6.4 oz for \$10. \$5 from each bag goes to support Camp Fire youth! Buy Spark coffee here: <https://www.welovecampfire.com/columbia>

[Learn more about Quincy from Campfire Coffee and his passion for protecting the environment and opening access to outdoor spaces to all.](#)

We all have absolutely incredible youth in our lives, and this past week we took a day to celebrate them for Camp Fire's Absolutely Incredible Kid Day®! Camp Fire founded this holiday in 1997 to encourage and inspire young people nationwide. Learn more at campfire.org/kidday, and get out there and tell a young person how they matter to you!



Find your career in youth development! Bring your energy, skills and spark to our team. We offer higher wages, and more opportunities to grow and inspire organization wide. Work at Camp Namanu this summer and bring the magic of camp to youth, or show up for families and youth in our schools when they need it most. We're hiring for seasonal, full-time and part-time positions!

[WORK WITH US!](#)



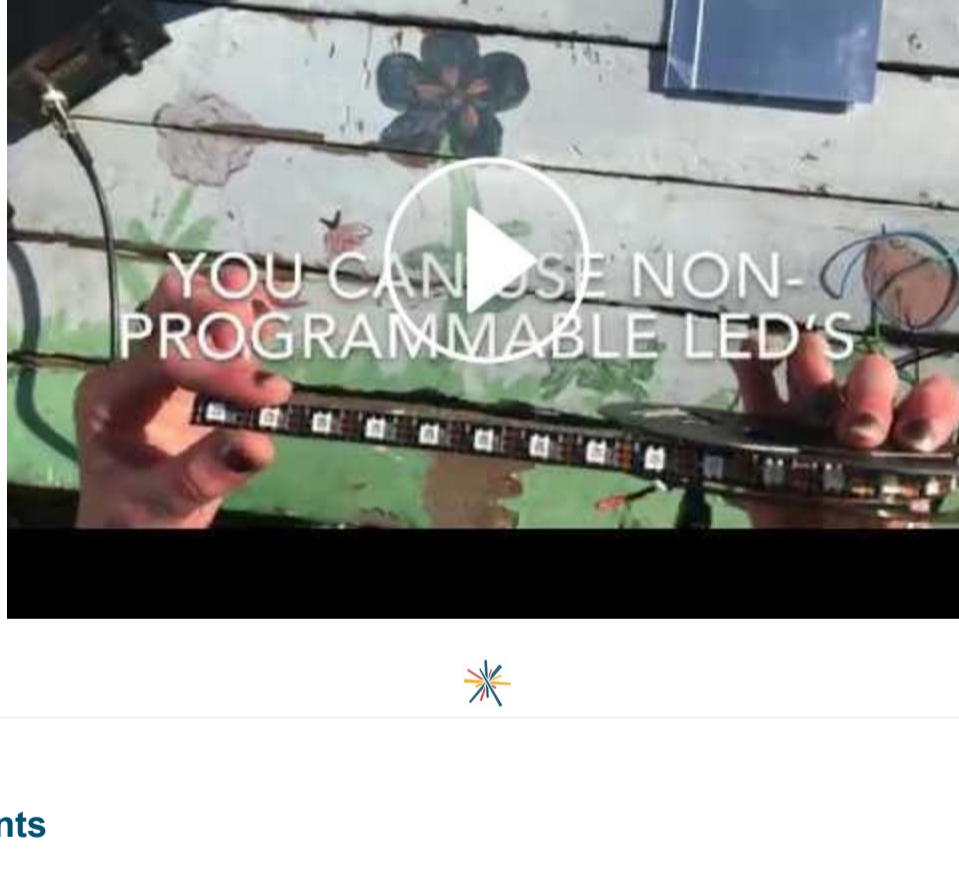
Fun Activities!



Book of the month: *The Intersectional Environmentalist* by Leah Thomas. This is an introduction to the intersection between environmentalism, racism, and privilege, and an acknowledgment of the fundamental truth that we cannot save the planet without uplifting the voices of its people -- especially those most often unheard.

To win this book reply to this email and share with us what you do to help the environment!

Activity of the month: Make an infinity mirror!



Events

Core Spring Market. Sunday, March 20 from noon to 4 pm at 3612 SE 82nd, Portland OR 97266. Support small businesses and artists! Local makers will be celebrating the new season with all their art and craft goodies. Enjoy food from the food carts and treat yourself to something locally handmade! Free and open to the public: corepdx.com

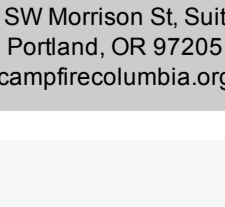
Amity Daffodil Festival. Saturday, March 26 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Amity Community Center, 401 S. Trade St. Amity, OR 97101. Bring your daffodils and enter them in the Daffodil Exhibition and Flower Show! Browse the plant sale and artwork by local artists and children.



Friends of Namanu Corner

The Friends of Namanu steering committee is looking for volunteers to serve on FON Committees. Have a passion for communications, environmental stewardship, event planning, the camp store or fundraising? Contact FON Coordinator Josey Larsell at 38windrose@comcast.net

Join our [Friends of Namanu Facebook page](#) or follow [Friends of Namanu \(@friendsofnamanu\)](#) on [Instagram](#) for news, photos, trivia, giveaways and so much more!



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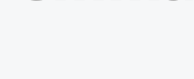
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