

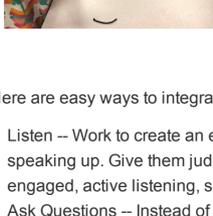


This month we wrap up our series on Camp Fire’s strategic priorities by looking at how we honor the power of young people with meaningful participation in decision-making. This priority is a promise to continue checking in with current youth, listen to them about challenges, inspire and create leadership opportunities, and take their voice into account in all the work that we do.

Camp Fire Columbia believes one of the best ways to honor the power of young people is to share power with them through meaningful participation and decision-making—in our programs and organizational direction. At Camp Fire we respect, honor, seek, amplify, center, and prioritize youth voice; we empower youth; we entrust them with responsibility and authority. You'll often hear us use the phrase youth voice, which encompasses the belief that young people should be able to have the agency and necessary tools to identify their needs and take action to meet them. We understand that kids and teens (as well as adults!) really thrive when we invest in who they are right here and now – not just their future potential. Part of that investment is creating an environment in which they can ask questions and express their ideas and opinions about the things that affect them every day.

How we at Camp Fire Columbia honor the power of young people with meaningful participation:

- Programs are both for young people and created by young people
- Investing in a youth designed logo for Camp Namanu
- Youth are given opportunities for feedback
- Programs offer youth choice in participation



At a Before & After School program at Creative Science School, one student’s love for making pom poms and finger knitting led her to teach a club all about yarn for other Camp Fire youth. When asked how she learned about it she shared she was self-taught from YouTube videos and after enough practice, she started sharing the joy of these creative activities with others by leading club time.

Here are easy ways to integrate youth participation at home, or elsewhere:

- Listen – Work to create an environment where young people feel comfortable speaking up. Give them judgment-free space and time to reflect. Practice engaged, active listening, so youth know their opinions are valued.
- Ask Questions – Instead of assuming we know how to solve a problem—or assuming we know what the problem even is—ask. What do you need? What do you care about? What are the possible solutions? How can I help?
- Let them lead – It can be unnerving to step back and let young people try out their ideas, risk failure, and learn through experience. But a big part of meaningful participation is empowering youth to take their ideas from input to execution.

Youth leadership opportunity!

Camp Fire’s National Youth Advisory Cabinet (YAC) is a group of young people that regularly advises Camp Fire National’s Leadership Team. Including young people in our decision-making is what makes Camp Fire the organization that it is – an organization that is committed to meeting youth and families where they are, and to creating safe spaces where young people can bring their full selves. As part of this Youth Advisory Cabinet, you get to be a part of that legacy.

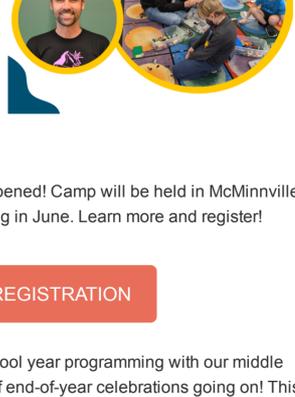
[LEARN MORE AND APPLY HERE!](#)

In order to apply...

- Must be age 16 – 18
- Must be available for a one-year term commitment (follows the school year calendar) (with the opportunity to serve 2 terms total)
- Able to commit to one meeting per month (with the ability to have more meetings if the group desires)
- Has participated in at least one Camp Fire-related program/event/etc.
- Understanding that as a YAC member you must professionally represent Camp Fire in your community and on the internet

Program Updates

Jon Myers, Camp Fire’s Director of Before & After School was recognized and honored as an Oregon ASK Afterschool Hero for going above and beyond in supporting the youth and families, and being passionate and dedicated to the field of expanded learning. Huge congratulations to Jon and all the other nominees and award recipients!



Summer Day Camp registration has opened! Camp will be held in McMinnville, Portland and West Linn schools starting in June. Learn more and register!

[DAY CAMP REGISTRATION](#)

Teen Programs is wrapping up the school year programming with our middle and high school-aged students. Lots of end-of-year celebrations going on! This summer we are re-launching our Teen summer programming for the first time in two years. We’re excited to once again offer older youth opportunities to connect, discover and explore throughout the summer.

Camp Healthcare Providers needed

Are you a medical professional? Then come join us for a fun-filled week or two out at camp this summer! We’re in need of dedicated and reliable volunteer medical staff to help make camp a safe and more accommodating place for campers of all ages. Must be able to provide two references. You will have the option of being compensated credit at Camp Namanu, a tax-deductible donation of time, or a monetary payment of \$1,050 per week.

To learn more about the role read our [recruitment guide HERE](#).

For inquiries, email Camp Namanu Director of Programs, Gina 'Sprout' Sander at gsander@campfirecolumbia.org

[Healthcare Provider Application](#)

You're invited!

Come visit and get acquainted with camp before summer at our open house. **Sunday, June 5th come visit camp anytime between 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM.** Bring your campers and get the lay of the magical land of Namanu. This event is for camper and/or potential camper families.

Keep in mind we're a rustic outdoor space so please dress accordingly and don't forget those comfy walking shoes.

[RSVP](#)

Camp Namanu was nominated for Best Summer Camp in NW Kids Magazine’s Readers choice awards – help us win overall best? Head on over and vote Camp Namanu for Best Overnight Summer Camp, and let’s show NW Kids readers who our favorite is! Voting closes May 31. Vote here: nwkidsmagazine.com/portlands-best-summer-camps-2022/

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!](#)

Memorial Day weekend at Camp Namanu! The Riverside band will be performing a play Saturday, May 28th in the early evening at camp. Bring a picnic and the whole family for a day full of purple weather and fun. Select cabin rentals will also be made available. [Purchase your ticket HERE](#).



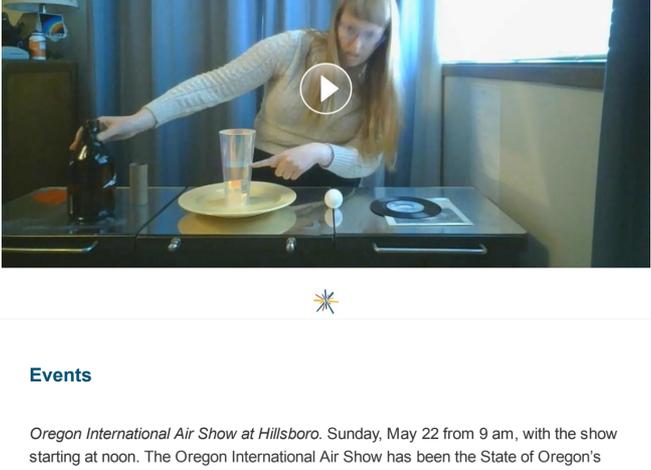
Fun Activities!



Book of the month: You Are Not Alone by Alphabet Rockers
Empower kids to love themselves, stand up for what’s right, and have each others’ backs with this inspiring and inclusive picture book. When we step up to support one another, we can make a world where everyone knows they belong.

To win this book reply to this email and share with us a time when you felt supported!

Activity of the month: Egg drop challenge!



Events

Oregon International Air Show at Hillsboro. Sunday, May 22 from 9 am, with the show starting at noon. The Oregon International Air Show has been the State of Oregon’s largest aviation event since 1988. Beginning in 2021, we will be holding two outstanding events, in Hillsboro and in McMinnville, reaching combined audiences of over 110,000 people each year. The Air Show provides financial benefits to non-profit organizations and charities throughout SW Washington and Oregon. Free parking 2111 NE 25th Ave Hillsboro, OR 97124 <https://oregonairshow.com/hillsboro-tickets-2022>

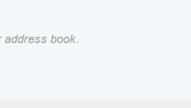
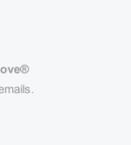
Bug Walk at Mt. Tabor with Portland Insectarium. Sunday, May 22 at 2 pm. Hosted by Creative Creatures PDX (@creative_creaturespdx). For \$5 you can attend the walk and get two bug vials. For \$20 you can get a whole bug-catching kit! Tickets at the website but you can pay the day of, as well. tickettailor.com/events/portlandinsectarium/694641



Friends of Namanu Corner

Save the dates! More details to come.

- July 7 - 9 Friends of Namanu Retreat at Camp Namanu
- September 8 - 11 Friends of Namanu Homecoming at Camp Namanu
- FON Annual Meeting: June 5 from 10 AM - 12 PM at Camp Namanu. It’s time to come out to Camp Namanu to hear what’s going on with FON, Camp Fire and Camp Namanu. Find out how you can help the FON committees with support and volunteer opportunities to help make our events spectacular and of course, see our favorite place.



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