

CLUB INFORMATION

Leader _____

Phone _____

Home

Work

Co-Leader _____

Phone _____

Home

Work

Meeting Location _____

Meeting Day/Dates _____

Meeting Time _____

Note to Parents:

Council Contact Information

OFFICE--9176 Springhill Ln

Greenbelt MD 20770

MAIL-- PO Box 763, Bowie MD 20718

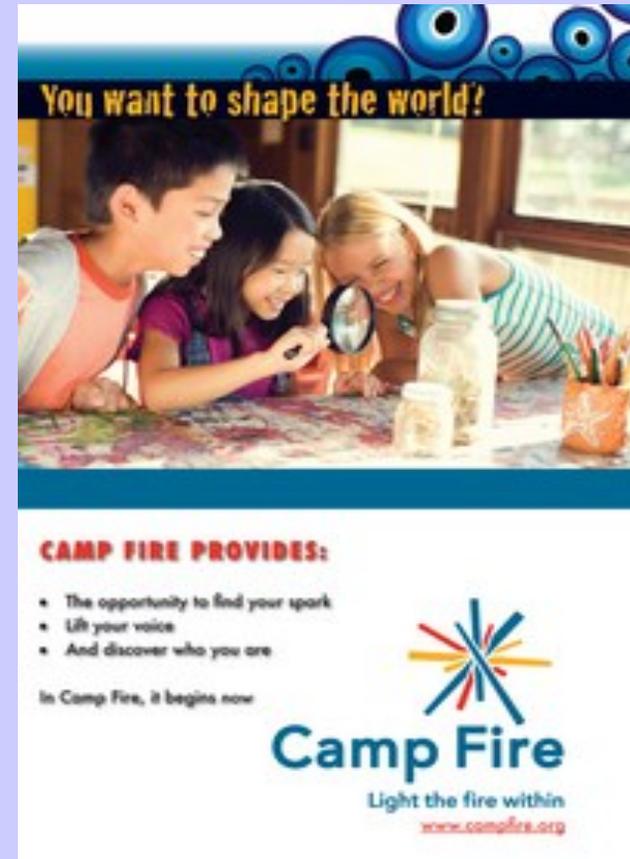
Phone:240-391-6246 Fax: 301-262-0212

E-mail: info@campfirepatuxent.org

www.campfirepatuxent.org

Revised 1/17

CAMP FIRE PATUXENT AREA COUNCIL PARENT HANDBOOK for Clubs and School Programs



The image shows the cover of a parent handbook for Camp Fire Patuxent Area Council. At the top, it says "You want to shape the world?" in yellow text on a dark blue background. Below this is a photograph of three children (two boys and one girl) looking at a map on a table. One boy is holding a magnifying glass over the map. The children are smiling and appear to be engaged in a learning activity. Below the photograph, the text reads "CAMP FIRE PROVIDES:" followed by a bulleted list: "• The opportunity to find your spark", "• Lift your voice", and "• And discover who you are". Below the list, it says "In Camp Fire, it begins now". To the right of the text is the Camp Fire logo, which consists of a stylized starburst or flame shape made of colorful lines. Below the logo, the text reads "Camp Fire" in a large, bold, blue font, followed by "Light the fire within" in a smaller font, and the website address "www.campfire.org" at the bottom.

Our Promise

Young people want to shape the world. Camp Fire provides the opportunity to find their spark, lift their voice, and discover who they are. In Camp Fire, it begins now Light the Fire Within.

WELCOME TO CAMP FIRE

Your child has joined a national quality youth development organization, the best of its kind in America! We want each child's experience to be enjoyable and enriching. The following information will help you and your child "get to know" Camp Fire Patuxent Area Council.

Patuxent Area Council is one of over 120 chartered councils of the national organization. The headquarters are located in Kansas City, Missouri. Camp Fire was founded in 1910 as the first organization of its kind for girls. This council was founded locally in 1912, and opened its membership to boys in 1975. Our Council serves Maryland and the Metro Washington DC Area.

Through the help of numerous caring adults serving as leaders, co-leaders, advisors, parent volunteers and others who join together, Camp Fire is able to provide quality programs for both youth and families.



Camp Fire is inclusive and open to every person in the communities we serve, welcoming children, youth and adults regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or other aspect of diversity.

CAMP FIRE PHILOSOPHY

1. We are youth-centered.
2. We engage the entire family in fun and outcome-rich activities.
3. We are welcoming and inclusive.
4. We build youth and adult partnerships.
5. We provide service to others.

CAMP FIRE LAW

(Worship God or Have Faith (used at the option of each member))

- Seek Beauty
- Give Service
- Pursue Knowledge
- Be Trustworthy
- Hold on to Health
- Glorify Work
- Be Happy



HELP WANTED

Club Leaders can't do it alone!

It takes a lot of people to keep the clubs in Patuxent Area Council active. Tasks range in time from a couple of hours to a whole school year and everywhere in between. If you're interested in volunteering and any of the tasks below interest you, contact your club leader today

Leader	Chaperone field trips and events
Assistant at Club Meetings	Help with special programs
Secure Resources for CF	Teach special skills
Provide healthy snacks	Sponsor a club activity
Serve on a council Committee	Tell others about Camp Fire

WE WANT TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

Our council distributes a monthly Bulletin to all registered Camp Fire leaders/advisors. This newsletter contains information on programs, staff and upcoming events and is an invaluable resource to Camp Fire members, parents and leaders. Contact the office at the number below or visit our website for the latest copy.

If at any time you have a question, concern, or comment, please feel free to contact us!

Camp Fire Patuxent Area Council
OFFICE--9176 Springhill Ln
Greenbelt MD 20770

MAIL-- PO Box 763, Bowie MD 20718

Phone:240-391-6246 Fax: 301-262-0212

E-mail: info@campfirepatuxent.org

www.campfirepatuxent.org a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Friday

SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with Camp Fire on social media websites to interact with other parents, leaders and staff.



Campfiremaryland and Camp Fire Patuxent
campfireinfo



Camp Fire Patuxent Serving Maryland and Metro Washington
DC
Camp Fire Baltimore
Camp Fire Teens in Action Patuxent Area Council
Road-Skill-Roads-Kill Teens in Action Driving Safety Page
Camp Fire Programs with Residential One

BENEFITS OF CAMP FIRE TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Camp Fire uses the 40 Developmental Assets model as researched by the National Search Institute. The Search Institute interviewed more than one million youth and children to find common "assets" of healthy and confident children.

Through Camp Fire, youth build these and many more of the qualities needed to grow into a successful adult.

Develops leadership: Camp Fire programs are progressive, asking for more skills and responsibility as the child advances through the program.

Promotes environmental awareness: Through camping, nature awareness and recycling activities, youth learn to leave a place better than they found it.

Encourages healthy lifestyles: Taking responsibility and making mistakes in a safe environment enables youth to learn how to make the right decisions.

Promotes personal and social responsibilities: Giving to the community and public service are keynotes of many Camp Fire programs and emblems.

Awakens individual potential: Each youth is given a chance to grow and become the best they can be. Camp Fire encourages trying new things, such as developing public speaking skills.

AND...
**CHILDREN IN CAMP FIRE
PROGRAMS HAVE FUN!**



What is Camp Fire?

Camp Fire prepares youth, teens and young adults for life... now. We help youth find their spark, lift their voice, and discover who they are. Our trained, caring staff listens to and guides youth to realize the full potential of their unique skills, passions, and attributes, developing lifelong leadership skills, healthy habits, and a strong connection to nature and their community. We mentor youth to set goals and map a plan of action, allowing them to shape their world and thrive. And in turn, Camp Fire youth give back by mentoring the next generation of young people.

Camp Fire is focused on three areas of development:



School-Year Programs

Delivered before and after school, during the school day, over school breaks, or in volunteer-led club settings, our programs include conflict resolution, cyber-bullying, healthy lifestyle, digital literacy, and community action curricula, as well as mentoring and tutoring.



Environmental & Camp Programs

Offering traditional resident and day camp programs, Camp Fire environmental education helps youth develop a strong connection to nature and healthy, active habits that will last a lifetime.



Teen Leadership & Service Programs

Introducing teens to model citizenship and civic engagement, our teen leadership and service programs give young people the opportunity to participate in meaningful community service and leadership experiences.



CAMP FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The Council recognizes the large responsibility our leaders undertake and want families to know that the care and safety of your child is our top priority. To help this, you can:

- ⇒ Notify the council and your leader of any changes to your child's health, guardianship, behavior and any other major life changes that may affect their happiness in Camp Fire.
- ⇒ Review safety precautions and rules with your youth for every Camp Fire activity they will be participating in.
- ⇒ Turn in all personal medications for any Camp Fire activity to the adult in charge. They will make sure your child gets their medication and that no other child tampers with it.
- ⇒ Ensure your child participates in product sales in a safe and fun way.



Additionally, your leader, or the council, will notify you immediately if:

- ⇒ The time or location changes for any meeting, field trip, event or program.
- ⇒ Your child is not behaving in a manner acceptable to the event or program they are attending. In extreme cases, the parent/guardian will be responsible for removing their child from the event or program.
- ⇒ The health or safety of your child becomes a concern because of an incident at the program, sudden illness, natural disaster or any other situation.



Thank you for entrusting Camp Fire with the care of your child. Every step is taken to ensure the physical and psychological safety of every child at Camp Fire's programs and that every child is treated with fairness and respect.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S CLUB

The success of your child's club will be enhanced by your willingness to be active partners with the club. The following are your responsibilities as a parent/guardian:

- ⇒ Complete and sign the Membership Registration, Medical Information Form and event registration forms or consent for treatment forms for any Camp Fire event or field trip your child would like to participate in.
- ⇒ Turn in the \$35 annual membership fee or the \$75 family membership fee to the club leader or talk with the club leader if this is a challenge for your family.
- ⇒ Communicate with your child's leader about meeting times and locations for club meeting, overnights and other trips.
- ⇒ Review the council's Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy and talk with your child about acceptable behavior while participating in Camp Fire.
- ⇒ See that your child arrives and is picked up on time for all meetings and activities.
- ⇒ Support the council in fundraising activities by having your child participate in sales and other council fundraising activities.
- ⇒ Attend Council-wide events and activities with your child or family such as Camp Fire Birthday Celebration, family camp, our fall and spring events, and Grand Council Fire, the annual council wide youth recognition ceremony.



WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN CAMP FIRE ACCOMPLISH:

- ⇒ COMPLETE A SERVICE PROJECT THAT HELPS THE COMMUNITY
- ⇒ GO CAMPING AND HIKING
- ⇒ LEARN ABOUT SAFETY
- ⇒ VISIT LOCAL POINTS OF INTEREST
- ⇒ LEARN A SKILL FROM AN EXPERT
- ⇒ COOK AND SHARE A MEAL
- ⇒ WRITE AND PRODUCE A VIDEO
- ⇒ TEENS TRAVEL TO VARIOUS NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
- ⇒ MEET NEW PEOPLE
- ⇒ PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PROJECTS SUCH AS PROJECT FRIENDSHIP, THE NATIONAL ART EXPERIENCE, PROJECT BLUE BIRD, EMERGENCY READINESS, INTERGENERATIONAL PARTNERS, CULTURAL AWARENESS
- ⇒ EARN AWARDS FOR ACCOMPLISHING GOALS AND LEARNING NEW SKILLS
- ⇒ PLANT COMMUNITY GARDENS
- ⇒ ADVOCATE FOR IMPORTANT ISSUES





Camp Fire incorporates the Thrive Theory of Change, a research and evidence based methodology, in all programs. It is a four-step process that ensures we provide a more meaningful experience that instills the necessary skills for youth to thrive.

- ◆ Youth identify their personal sparks
- ◆ Youth discover and adopt a "growth mindset"
- ◆ Youth practice self-reflection to assess their personal goals and challenges
- ◆ Youth develop goal management strategies respond to their challenges

According to the Thrive Foundation for Youth research, youth exposed to this methodology are more likely to:

- ◆ Achieve higher grades
- ◆ Attain better school attendance rates
- ◆ Demonstrate social competence
- ◆ Lead healthy lifestyles
- ◆ Volunteer to help other people
- ◆ Provide sound stewardship of the earth and its resources
- ◆ Have a sense of purpose

Measuring Success

Camp Fire, in collaboration with the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality and TCC Group, is the first organization of its kind to implement a comprehensive evaluation system focused on understanding the connection between youth outcomes, program quality, and organizational effectiveness. By using the Youth Program Quality Improvement Assessment (YPQA) and Core Capacity Assessment Tool (CCAT), we ensure effective decision-making, resource allocation, and program planning. At Camp Fire, we are dedicated to measuring and increasing

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual membership fees for Clubs are **\$40** per person for individuals or a **special fee** for families (see family page for info—this covers anyone living in one household). This fee includes membership in Patuxent Area Council, accident insurance for all members, membership in the national organization, and Club insurance. Individual clubs may have dues or a program activity fee. Additionally, youth may purchase uniform vests, shirts, or other items from the Camp Fire Store. Cost of awards for achievement are paid by parents or by each club. The means of determining how to pay for awards is determined by the leader and parents.

FUNDING

Annual membership fees do not in anyway cover the cost of the programs we provide. The dues are minimal because of the generosity of funders and our partners. We are a member of the United Way—



United Way of the National Capitol Area and Central Maryland and the Combine Federal Campaign. Agency

Designation Number: **67182**, United Way of the National Capitol Area Number: **8333**, United Way Central Maryland: **925229**, Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign. **8169**.

Local Fundraising—Partnerships with local restaurants and businesses that help us with donations.

Corporate partners— many families are part of companies that have matching donations or are willing to sponsor special projects or camperships.

We conduct an annual drive fundraising activities in the spring and Fall of each year that require volunteer support from parents of youth in our programs.

Camp Fire's Product Sale: We fundraising by selling holiday flowers are Christmas and Candles through Yankee Candles. We are also looking for other opportunities.

*Every child is welcome in Camp Fire, regardless of ability to pay membership or program fees. No child or family will be denied participation based on income. **Partial Scholarships are available subject to the generosity of donors and fundraising activities. Parents must volunteer a minimum of 10 hours with the club or council to be eligible for assistance.***

FAMILIES MATTER IN CAMP FIRE

Join the fun! Join the club!
Register your entire family



We know that families are very important and that the term "family" is defined many different ways. In Camp Fire, whoever is in your family is welcome in ours!

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS are available for anyone living in one household. **The first two family members pay \$40 per person; the third family member pays \$30. And each additional member pays \$25 each. Family Maximum for Membership—\$150.00** (This fee covers all



family members living in the same household only and does not include the background checks—those must be completed annually for all adults. This fee will vary depending on whether or not fingerprinting is required)



COMMUNITY FAMILY CLUBS are

available for families that want everyone involved in club activities. For more information call 240-391-6246 or email info@campfirepatuxent.org



STEPITUP2THRIVE YOUTH ROAD MAP

def. Thriving [θraɪv] –verb
 (1) Moving forward towards your full potential
 (2) Fulfilling your dreams.

Start the engine
Identify sparks
Identify and grow Sparks and Spark Champions.

Rev it up
Adopt a growth mindset
Understand brain development and move to a growth mindset.

Tune into your gas gauge
Reflect on the indicators of thriving
Explore Thriving Indicators Wheel, Youth and Guide use conversation questions to reflect on youth strengths and challenges.

Launch your navigation system
Build goal management skills (GPS)
Grow indicators of thriving through learning and executing GPS skills: Goal Selection, Pursuit of strategies, and Shifting gears in face of challenges.

Camp Fire
Light the fire within

CONTINUOUSLY DEVELOP AND INTEGRATE NEW SKILLS
FULFILLED POTENTIAL

NEXT 5 MILES



STEPITUP2THRIVE THEORY OF CHANGE

def. Thriving [θraɪv] –verb
 (1) Movement towards one's full potential
 (2) An orientation toward life marked by balance, meaning, and learning from experience in which one knows and finds resources that foster one's talents, interests, and aspirations and through which one contributes to the common good.

Identify Sparks
Identify and grow Sparks and Spark Champions.
Dr. Peter Benson, Search Institute

Adopt a Growth Mindset
Understand brain development and move to a growth mindset.
Dr. Carol Dweck, Stanford University

Reflect on the Indicators of Thriving
Explore wheels of thriving indicators and risk factors. Youth and Guide use conversation questions to reflect on youth strengths and challenges.
Thrive Foundation for Youth, Friends of the Children, and Dr. Linda Wagener, Fuller Theological Seminary

Build Goal Management Skills (GPS)
Grow indicators of thriving through learning and executing GPS skills: Goal Selection, Pursuit of strategies, and Shifting gears in face of challenges.
Dr. Richard Lenz, Tufts Institute for Applied Research

CONTINUOUSLY DEVELOP AND INTEGRATE NEW SKILLS
FULFILLED POTENTIAL

IF Adult Guides support youth to:

- Identify and grow their inner passions or Sparks;
- Understand and apply a Growth Mindset;
- Reflect on Indicators of Thriving and Risk Factors;
- Visualize personal growth that builds upon their sparks, strengths and resources;
- Develop goal management skills to build indicators of thriving (GPS) Goal selection, Pursuit of strategies and Shifting gears in the face of blocked goals;

THEN Youth will be on a road to a hopeful future...
working towards their full potential. The evidence is measurement of goal management skills and thriving goals accomplished.

Along the road, youth:
Build positive, sustained adult youth relations, with high quality, high quantity time; Learn life skills that include self-reflection and goal management; Practice these skills in valued home, school and community activities.
Dr. Richard Lenz, Tufts

CLUB PROGRAMS(SMALL GROUP AND SCHOOL PROGRAMS)

Little Stars (3 – 5 year olds) learn to get along in a group, have fun, form friendships and develop a sense of belonging through creative and constructive play, field trips, parties, crafts, service projects, games and more. **Great for Family Day Care Programs.**



Starflight (Kindergarten - 2nd graders) encourages ingenuity, creativity and initiative. Members have fun, find out how to make things, learn about nature and living outdoors and make friends as they grow in ability and sensitivity to others.

Adventure (3rd - 5th graders) develops skills in creative arts, sports, citizenship and outdoor-living. Adventure members participate in more extensive projects, and learn life skills, including resistance to peer pressure, conflict resolution, etiquette and respect for others.



Discovery (6th - 8th graders) shares leadership responsibilities with their club advisor, allowing them to plan activities celebrating and reflecting on their efforts. Discovery youth learn problem-solving and decision-making with current social and personal

issues.

Horizon (9th - 12th graders) members are encouraged to explore opportunities for life after high school - lifestyles, career directions and hobbies. Youth use personal skills through community involvement and sharing expertise. The skills Horizon members gain culminate during their work on the WoHeLo, the highest youth award.



Teens In Action: Camp Fire's teen service learning and leadership program, based on the idea that teens are key to the future and are making a difference nationwide. Members are empowered to serve and stand up in their communities.



Community Family Club: Utilizes Camp Fire curriculum to involve the entire family in small group, asset building activities and experiences. The program is designed for the whole family, whatever form that takes for the participants.

Camping: Patuxent Area Council offers a wide range of outdoor programs for our youth including field days, overnight camping, day camp, outdoor recreation and environmental projects. We believe that outdoor experience are an important part of youth development and integrate this experience into every aspect of our program for youth. Family Camp Program is offered to include families in the out of door experience.



Club Leaders: Each Camp Fire Club is led by trained adults who are volunteers of the Council. Leaders are required to complete an application form and agree to a criminal background check each year. Each application is reviewed and references checked before being allowed to form or meet with a club. Any adult driving youth must complete a driving record check. Any adult who is present at more than one meeting must comply with the background checks.

Training is provided for leaders, co-leaders, advisors, and interested volunteers. In addition to leader training, the council offers training opportunities for First Aid, CPR, camping skills and workshops on child enrichment.

Contact your leader or the Camp Fire Office about upcoming training dates if you are interested.