



Camp Fire

Minnesota

In Camp Fire, nature is the catalyst for growth



Our Promise

Young people want to shape the world. Camp Fire provides young people with the opportunity to find their spark, lift their voice and discover who they are.

In Camp Fire, it begins *now*.
Light the fire within.



Who We Are

Camp Fire guides youth and teens to discover their spark, or inner passions, and develop a growth mindset for youth to thrive. Through Camp Fire clubs and summer camp, youth engage in the natural world to catalyze growth.

Camp Fire clubs help youth thrive and discover their sparks for learning, leading and living. By partnering with schools and affordable housing communities from Mahtomedi to Minneapolis to Minnetonka, we serve low-income families with a need for after school and summer youth programming.

Camp Fire offers summer camp and year-round nature-based programs at Camp Tanadoona in Chanhassen and Camp Bluewater in Grand Rapids. Camp Fire camps offer youth and teens progressive, nature-based learning through day, overnight, adventure and leadership development camps.


Because of Camp Fire, youth work with caring mentors to build skills and a sense of community, develop as leaders, and engage with nature through hands-on experiences.

Discovering Sparks

Our program activities grow with youth – Kindergarten through 12th grade. Our youngest participants are introduced to new ideas and experiences that help them light their spark for learning. As youth grow, they direct their own learning. By developing their spark for leading, youth make a positive impact in their own lives and community. As Camp Fire youth prepare for life beyond high school, they discover their spark for living through college and career exploration.

 **SPARK FOR LEARNING** (K – 5th Grades)
Project-based learning and exploration

 **SPARK FOR LEADING** (Middle School)
Community engagement and youth service

 **SPARK FOR LIVING** (High School)
Career exploration and work readiness

Spark for Learning

K – 5th Grades

Our youngest Camp Fire participants develop their spark for learning through hands-on, land-based, experiential activities. Young brains are wired to wonder and question. This is a powerful time in a child's life to discover and pursue new interests and sparks. Youth explore the natural world and their community in outdoor group adventures, field trips and special events.

At Camp Fire, discovery is fun, high-energy and always interactive. Youth learn to listen and share big ideas, build snow forts and campfires, write and produce plays, try archery and canoeing, learn how to plant and harvest a garden, and take care of their bodies and each other. Camp Fire mentors facilitate fun inquiry and nurture curiosity. Together, kids grow wonder into action!

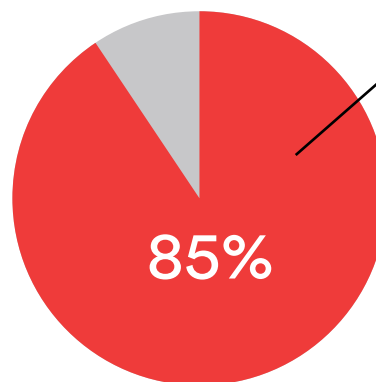
At the end of each school year, Camp Fire clubs come together at Tanadoona for their Year End Celebration, a full day of adventure and new experiences like canoeing, rock wall climbing, archery and s'mores.



In 2015, we launched a Camp Fire Fellowship position. The Fellow, a trained naturalist, is expanding the ways Camp Fire club youth and campers experience nature year-round and become active stewards of the natural world.

“I like being outside in nature because you can learn more about stuff like bugs, what types of bugs there are, how many colors of bugs there are.”

– Seraph, Camp Fire club youth



85% of Camp Fire youth discover their sparks and connect with spark champions.

Spark for Leading

6th – 8th Grades

As youth grow, Camp Fire grows with them. Middle school-aged youth engage in opportunities to take action in their communities and guide their own growth. At Camp Fire, youth find their spark for leading through decision-making, team-building and service-learning activities.

Together, with caring mentors, youth investigate their communities with the goal of matching needs with passion and action. Camp Fire youth might clean a local watershed, mobilize food and toy drives, plant pollinators for bees or care for abandoned animals.

Youth design and implement these projects and more to make a positive impact on their world. In Camp Fire, youth are leaders now!

Service-learning and team-building projects are the foundation to developing a spark for leading. Whether serving in their immediate community or volunteering to prepare the Tanadoona garden for winter, Camp Fire youth develop the critical communication and decision-making skills to grow as young leaders.

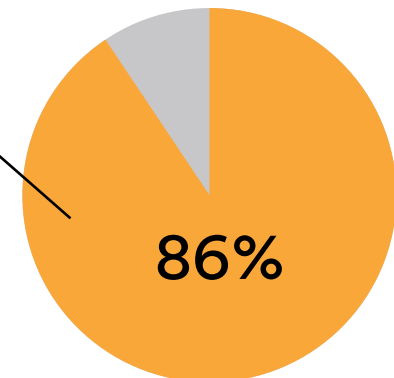


Leadership and stewardship grow hand-in-hand, as youth rise to the challenge of practicing sustainable outdoor living while learning about the natural world and making healthy choices for themselves and the environment.

“Camp Fire helps me finish my homework on time and the leaders support me with my spark so much. Being able to teach my younger [Camp Fire club] friends made me feel responsible and they depended on me to be a good leader.”

– Trianna, Camp Fire teen club participant and camper

86% of Camp Fire youth value nature and steward the environment.



Spark for Living

9th – 12th Grades

Camp Fire plays an important role as teens discover their spark for living. We help teens explore college and career options through communication workshops, financial literacy programs, mentorship opportunities, college and employer visits and guest speakers.

In Camp Fire, teens build upon their leadership skills in opportunities such as:

- Northwoods Adventure Canoe Trips in the wilderness at Camp Bluewater
- Teen Advisory Council participation, serving as advisors to Camp Fire's teen programs and organizational priorities
- Counselor-In-Training and Junior Counselor leadership development participation at Camp Tanadoona
- Volunteer service and opportunities to mentor youth in Camp Fire clubs

Through high-impact, targeted group activities, teens develop knowledge, self-awareness, leadership, grit, persistence, communication and coping skills – 21st century skills for living!

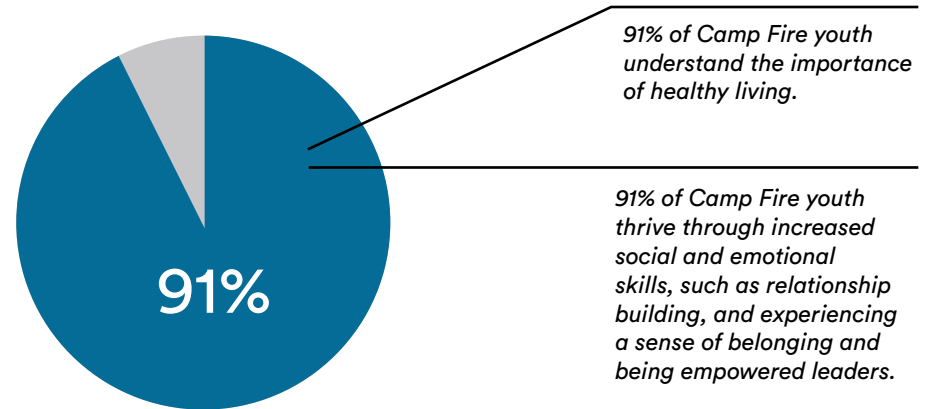
Left photo: College visits help our teens plan for their future education and careers.

Right photo: In 2015, 33 teens participated in Tanadoona's Leadership Development Programs – Day Camp Assistant, Counselor in Training, and Junior Counselor. Eleven Junior Counselors prepared to become future Camp Counselors through this service and development opportunity.

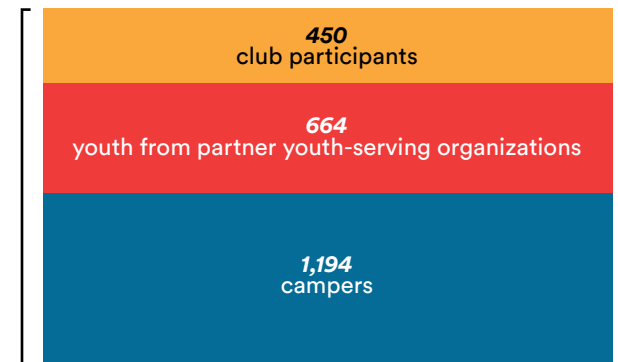


“If I wouldn't have been coming to Camp Fire, I honestly wouldn't be the person I am today because they really made me a better person. Camp Fire encouraged me and... I just really love how Camp Fire brought me up.”

– Faith, former Camp Fire club participant



our impact in 2015:
2,308 youth



Get Involved

Visit us online to learn more about Camp Fire and opportunities to get involved, such as:

- Volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups at our camps and clubs
- Nature education and team-building activities at Tanadoona and Bluewater
- Upcoming events at Camp Fire Minnesota

Financials

2015 Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$526,180
Receivables:	
Promises to Give	157,450
Accounts Receivable	36,708
Other Assets	25,754
Property and Equipment, Net	1,866,683
Beneficial Interest in Trust	787,019
Total Assets	\$3,399,794

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$34,153
Capital Lease	25,644
Accrued Expenses	53,846
Deferred Revenue	19,326
Total Liabilities	132,969
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	883,058
Temporarily Restricted	1,596,748
Permanently Restricted	787,019
Total Net Assets	3,266,825

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,399,794
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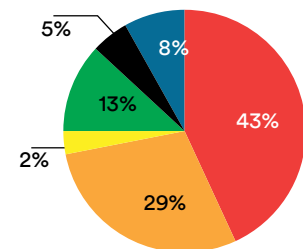
2015 Statement of Activities

Revenues	
Contributions and Grants:	
Operating*	\$782,028
Capital Campaign	35,022
Program Service Revenue:	
Outdoor Programs	524,348
Out-of-School Time Club Programs	92,941
In-Kind Contributions	138,552
Special Events	241,759
Investment Income	41,957
Unrealized Loss	(57,211)
Loss on Disposal of Equipment	(16,448)
Other	197
Total Revenues	1,783,145

Functional Expenses

Program Services:	
Outdoor Programs	699,918
Out-of-School Time Programs	598,476
Management and General	312,675
Fundraising	253,242
Total Functional Expenses	1,864,311

Change in Net Assets	\$(81,166)
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Sources of Operating Revenue

- 43% Contributions and Grants
- 29% Outdoor Programs
- 2% Investment Income
- 13% Special Events
- 5% Out-of-school Time Club
- 8% In-Kind Contributions

*The Minnesota Camp Fire Foundation (the Foundation) was created to support the work of Camp Fire Minnesota. The Foundation funds ensure Camp Fire Minnesota's ability to provide high-quality youth development programs in Minnesota today and in the future. The Foundation donated \$40,000 to general operations in 2015.

Our Spark Champions

524 volunteers contributed **2,883** hours to Camp Fire

Thank you to the many donors and volunteers whose contributions light the spark within Camp Fire youth. For a full list of donors, please visit Camp Fire Minnesota online at campfiremn.org.

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