

#### **Our Promise**

**Young people want to shape the world.**

**Camp Fire provides the opportunity to  
find their spark,  
lift their voice,  
discover who they are.**

**In Camp Fire, it begins *now*.**

#### **CORE VALUES**

- We believe that children and youth are our most precious resources.
- We believe in an approach to youth development that builds assets and empowers individuals.
- We believe that the best youth development occurs in small groups where children and youth are actively involved in creating their own learning.
- We are committed to coeducation, providing opportunities for boys, girls and families to develop together.
- We provide caring, trained mentors to work with children and youth.
- We are inclusive, welcoming children, youth and adults regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or other aspect of diversity.
- We believe in the power of nature to awaken a child's senses, curiosity, and desire to learn.
- We foster leadership, engaging children and youth to give service and make decisions in a democratic society.
- We provide safe, fun and nurturing environments for children and youth.
- We enrich parents' and other adults' lives by expanding their skills and urging them to share their talents and build relationships with children and youth.
- We respond to community needs with our programs and expertise.
- We advocate on behalf of children, youth and families.

#### **A Brief Description of Camp Fire**

Camp Fire is a contemporary, inclusive, coeducational organization engaging young people and their families in high quality youth development programs. The organization originated from a summer camp in 1910. Very quickly, the Camp Fire movement established afterschool and summer programs throughout the nation. Tulsa area clubs first formed in 1912 and Green Country Council received its charter in 1939. The organization has been co-educational since the mid-1970s and today's Camp Fire offers boys and girls quality programs with measurable outcomes.

Camp Fire's program philosophy guides the development and implementation of all programs:

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

Camp Fire programs provide children and youth with opportunities to develop personal life skills, social responsibility, healthy lifestyles and leadership qualities of working cooperatively with others, self-management, and resilience.

## A Brief Outline of Camp Fire’s Historical Milestones

1910 – 1940

### The Early Years

Dr. Luther Gulick and his wife, Charlotte, founded Camp Fire Girls in 1910 to help girls develop into young women strong of mind, body and character. The Gulicks laid a firm foundation for the program and its popularity spread across the country. While the Great Depression slowed the growth of the organization, Camp Fire remained a viable resource for youth development.

1941 – 1960

### The Middle Years

Camp Fire regained its momentum as girls enacted its motto of “Give Service” during the war years. Following World War II, the organization grew rapidly alongside the first wave of the Baby Boom. In 1960, Camp Fire celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

1961 – 1999

### The Boom Years

Camp Fire experienced dramatic growth and change as the Baby Boom generation matured. In 1975, the organization became co-educational, encouraging girls and boys to learn side-by-side the leadership and life skills that would help them become responsible adults. Programs emphasizing self-reliance and resistance to peer pressure, along with programs in childcare facilities developed. Camp Fire celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 1985.

2000 & Beyond

### Making a Difference Where It Makes the Biggest Difference

**Statement of Strategic Direction:** Camp Fire Green Country aims to strategically expand and improve quality youth development services by offering a variety of accessible, inclusive, and outcome-rich complementary learning (out-of-school) opportunities delivered by safe, well-trained and supervised youth development professionals to children and youth in low-income, high-risk and vulnerable circumstances through a network of deliberate partnerships with Tulsa-area families, schools, neighborhoods, community-based organizations and funders.

Through this Statement of Strategic Direction, the Board of Directors and staff articulate their deliberate shift to ensuring that no child misses out on the opportunities, experiences and relationships that enrich, equip and empower them for successful adulthood. Camp Fire’s aim is to utilize the organization’s resources to provide children and teens marginalized by their family’s poverty or other vulnerable circumstances with the same advantages enjoyed by their more affluent peers. Participation in quality afterschool programs, field trips to museums, sporting events and other attractions, the challenge and fun of camp and outdoor activities, and relationships with adults who offer support, encouragement and high expectations. The intentional infusion of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), health/fitness/nutrition, and college and career exploration in all aspects of programming, also contributes to leveling the playing field for disadvantaged youth.