



Celebrating 100 Years of Camp Kirby



KitKat's Korner

Happy Holidays from Camp Kirby!

I have been blown away by the love that I have seen for Camp Kirby over the past month. From record-breaking registration for overnight camp, to generous donors, and everything in between, the current energy around Camp is electrifying!

Overnight Camp for summer 2024 is already over 90% full, which is very surreal for me to be saying at the beginning of December. We do have waitlists open for all of our sessions that have filled, and I recommend signing up as soon as possible. Registration for Day Camps, Family Camps, and Alumni Camp will open on January 2nd at 9AM!

I recently attended the ACA Cascadia Conference, and came home inspired to find ways to better serve our campers, staff, and alumni. I attended sessions presented by speakers from all over the country, on topics such as inclusion and accessibility, grant writing, and fostering community and belonging. I am so excited to share the things I've learned with our staff!

This year, we will be hiring seasonal staff during both our spring AND summer seasons. Our Outdoor Education program has grown immensely with the passing of HB 2078, which supports Outdoor School programs for Washington's 5th/6th graders. Our calendar is full for this spring, and we will be serving over 1,000 local students! Hiring for these positions will begin later this month, so keep an eye out for our application opening.

Finally, during this season of gratitude, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby family. I hope that you all have a lovely holiday season, and I look forward to connecting with you in the new year.

Kathryn "KitKat" Deshaies
Executive Camp Director

[Registration](#)

[Employment](#)



With the record breaking amount of registrations on day one for overnight camp, we recommend you prepare ahead by making sure you are set up and able to get into your account on UltraCamp: www.ultracamp.com and [review our rates, dates, and themes](#) ahead of time.

A Note from Gopher

I can't help but echo everything Kathryn has said. This past month has been incredibly exciting, and I am so eager for everything that 2024 will bring! In a world that can be so difficult for young people, we offer spaces for youth to be themselves, to connect to the outdoors, to learn, to grow, and to make lifelong friendships. What could be better than that?!

This amazing opportunity to serve so many more young people through our Outdoor Education program also comes with more costs. At the November meeting, the Board of Directors approved our 2024 budget, which is over a million dollars for the first time ever! It's exciting to see our impact grow, and we are thankful for the generosity of all our supporters and alumni that continues to keep this work possible.

If you are doing any year-end giving, please keep Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby in mind. We need your support! Your donations will go directly towards building and sustaining our programming at Camp Kirby as we prepare to serve so many new young people. [You can check out all the different ways to donate on our website](#), and if you have any questions or want to learn more about how your gifts are used, please reach out to me!

Last month I had the opportunity to attend the Camp Fire National Leadership Conference and was able to meet most of the Camp Fire national staff, as well as leaders from many other Camp Fire affiliates. It was incredible to hear about all the great youth development work happening across the country, and I came back with lots of ideas and inspiration!

Thank you all so much for your support and love for Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby! Have a wonderful holiday season!

Marcus "Gopher" Roskamp
Executive Director



We Won an Award!

Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby were presented with the "Culture of Safety" award at the Camp Fire National Leadership Conference in Washington DC last week. We were recognized



Greg Zweber, CEO and Deanette Andley, Chair of the Camp Fire Board present Marcus with the Culture of Safety Award.

for our extensive plans regarding risk management and safety, as well as our commitment to education and training at all levels of our organization.

Greg Zweber, Camp Fire National's CEO stated when announcing that "Before the national youth protection standards were even an idea, [Camp Fire Samish] had many of the required policies, procedures, and practices in place...They are continuously improving, updating, and extending their youth protection work."

We want to give an extra special shout out to Former Executive Director Erin Walker & current Executive Camp Director Kathryn Deshaies for raising these standards every year and putting these policies into place!

[Shop Our Amazon Wish List](#)

Keep Connected!

Alumni are invited to join us between 5pm and 7pm at Terramar Brewstillery in Bow for beer and some pizza to reconnect and meet and share memories.



Upcoming Day Camp

Campers will step into Camp Kirby's very own fairytale for a day.

[Register for Once Upon a Time Day Camp](#)

Camp Fire Office Closure

The Camp Fire Samish office will be closed from December 16th, 2023 through January 1st, 2024. All pickup orders from the Kirby Store should be arranged before then and any shipping orders must be placed by December 17th to arrive by Christmas.

We here at Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby wish you and yours a very Happy Holidays!



Save the Date!

The Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby Annual Auction on
Saturday April 27th, 2024.

Interested in volunteering with Auction prep or item procurement? Would your
business like to sponsor our event? Do you have a good or service to donate?

Call our office or email Kendra at marketing@campfiresamish.org.

Mission

We inspire and empower all youth to discover their
spark, connect with others, develop leadership skills,
build character, and thrive in the natural world.

*Camp Fire Samish
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