

# THE GAZETTE



## A Note From Gopher

“Camp Fire Samish connects young people to the outdoors, to others, and to themselves.”

Our new mission statement recently resonated with me at the Camp Fire National Leadership conference. During her keynote address, Camp Fire CEO Shawna Rosenzweig shared this troubling headline and accompanying statistics:

### **“Youth Loneliness Epidemic: Gen Z Most Isolated Generation.”**

- Despite constant digital connectivity, 79% of young adults report feeling lonely.
- Face-to-face social interactions have declined 40% since 2019, leading to unprecedented rates of anxiety and depression among youth.

Growing up is hard, and these statistics reminded me just how much young people today are dealing with.

At Camp Kirby, our main goal is connection. It’s right there in that new mission statement - **Camp Fire Samish connects young people to the outdoors, to others, and to themselves.**

Connection is an antidote to loneliness and isolation. Connection builds belonging, it increases confidence, it inspires hope. That is what our programs are all about!

**We need your help to continue building connection for young people.** An end-of-year donation will support our technology-free, outdoor-based programming at Camp Kirby, and will have a direct impact on a young person in your community. You can use the button below to make a donation to our year-end giving campaign.

[End of Year Giving!](#)

This year we have received a matching donation of \$15,000 for this year-end giving campaign, so your gift will have double the impact.

Thank you for your support of Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby!

**Marcus "Gopher" Roskamp**  
Executive Director

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## KitKat's Korner

As we flip the final page on an absolutely unforgettable 2025, I can't help but feel grateful, energized, and excited for what's ahead. **Registration for Summer 2026 Overnight Camp is officially open... and already filling quickly!** If you're hoping to join us for another season of growth, adventure, and pure camp fun, we encourage families to register or secure a waitlist spot as soon as possible. Registration for Day Camps, Alumni Camp, and Family Camps will open at 9AM on Monday, January 5th.

[Overnight Registration](#)

Do you, or someone you know, have a passion for working with kids, leading activities, and making a true impact? **Staff applications for Summer 2026 are now open!** We're searching for responsible, enthusiastic, and caring individuals to help create an unforgettable experience for our campers next year. Additionally, for our older campers looking to grow as leaders, we're thrilled to share

that **applications for our CIT (Counselor-in-Training) and KIT (Kirby Intern Team) programs are now open.**

Employment

Teen Leadership

As 2025 comes to a close, I want to thank every camper, family, and staff member for being part of our incredible camp community. Here's to a season of reflection, gratitude, and anticipation, because 2026 is shaping up to be our best summer yet!

Wishing you a warm and wonderful holiday season,

**Kathryn "KitKat" Deshaies**  
Executive Camp Director

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## Thank You Skagit Rotary!



We would like to recognize Skagit Rotary for their contribution to Camp Kirby! We are trying to raise \$8,640 to replace the mattresses at Camp Kirby and Skagit Rotary has donated \$1,000! We are so grateful for this contribution to help us on our way to this goal.

""Service Above Self" is the Rotary Motto. Skagit Rotary works hard to support individuals and organizations like Camp Fire Samish and Camp Kirby because they are helping young people achieve their highest potential and it's making a meaningful difference in our communities. Skagitonians generously support the Skagit Rotary annual auction every year. In turn, we look to reinvest their generosity into post-high school academic scholarships, projects, programs or ideas that remove participation barriers and increase opportunities for healthy youth activities. Thank you for letting us partner with you!" - Skagit Rotary Club President Paul Pickering

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## Support Our Fundraiser!



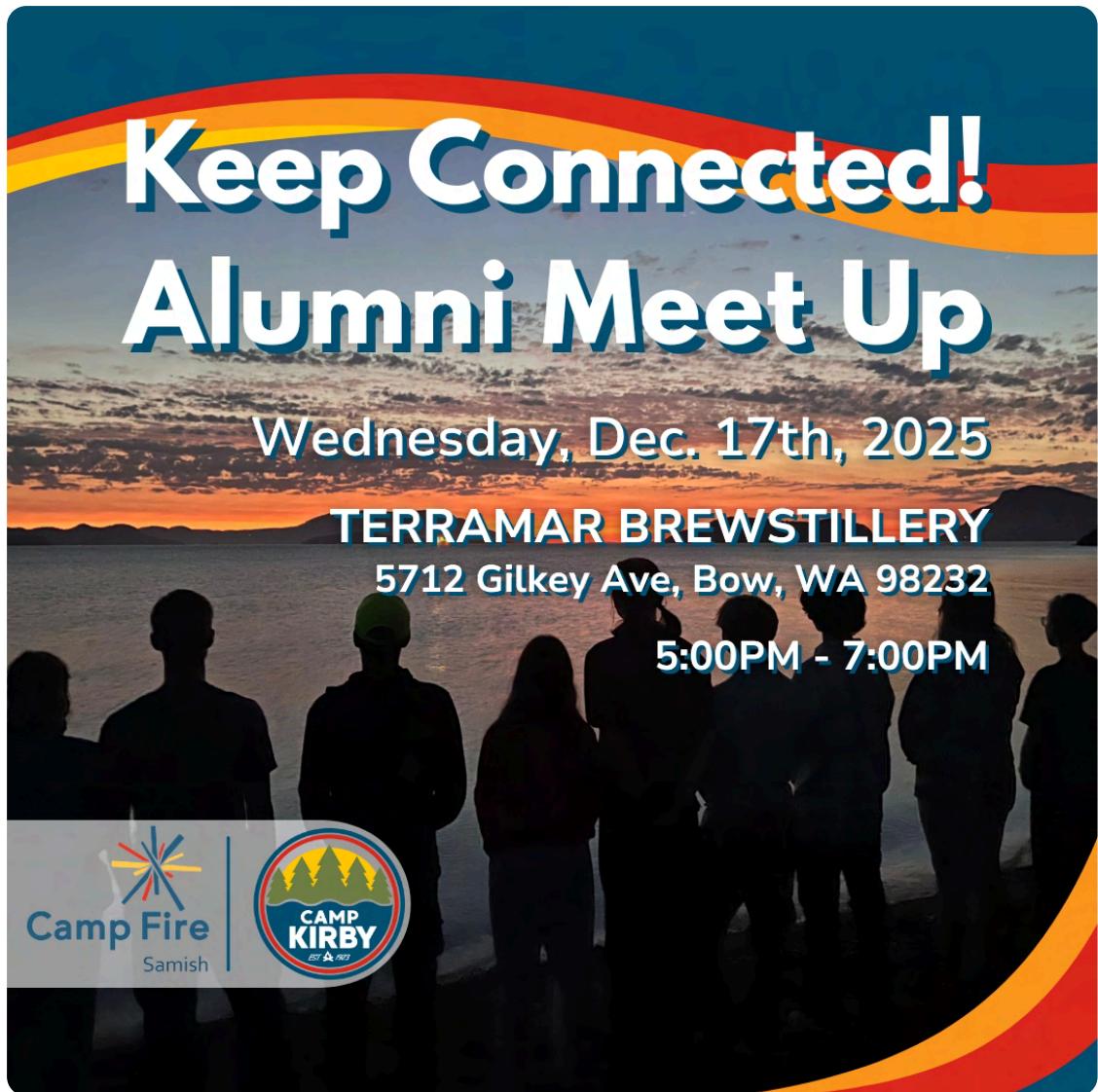
**Sweatshirt | Crewneck | Long Sleeve | T-Shirt**

You can help grow our Campership Fund and help a child attend Camp this year by making a purchase from our limited time fundraiser. We have sweatshirts, crewnecks, long sleeve, and T-shirts with a design made by Camp Kirby Staff! Multiple sizes and colors of

each style are available. The Christmas deadline for our fundraiser is Dec. 7th.

Support our Fundraiser!

## Alumni Meet Up



Come join us at Terramar Brewstillery Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 from 5PM - 7PM for our Keep Connected Event!

[Facebook Event](#)

# Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors!

Please support these businesses who support Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby!



## Mission

Camp Fire **connects** young people to the **outdoors**, to **others**, and to **themselves**.



Camp Fire Samish  
Camp Kirby  
100 Central Ave.  
Bellingham, WA 98225



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