

# Alumni NEWSLETTER



## A Note From Gopher

Happy New Year!

I don't know about you, but I love this time of year. I love being able to reflect on the last year while also leaving some things behind and making plans for the year to come.

As I look back on the year at Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby, there is so much to celebrate! We were able to serve over 2,200 young people in our programs at Camp Kirby, offering them opportunities to build confidence, to develop leadership skills, and create memories that they will carry with them forever. Camp Kirby offers kids a place to be kids, which is incredibly important in our increasingly isolating and fear-inducing world. I am so proud of our entire team for their hard work and dedication to the youth of Northwest Washington.

There are so many opportunities that lay ahead in 2026! We are expanding our youth leadership programs, exploring new ways to enhance camper and staff wellbeing, and implementing some new rhythms that we feel will serve our campers well. There are certainly challenges we are facing, but we face them with confidence knowing we have a great community of supporters like you all.

Thank you for all the ways you've supported Camp Kirby in 2025, and thank you in advance for everything you will do in 2026!

**Marcus "Gopher" Roskamp**  
Executive Director



## KitKat's Korner

Registration is now open for our 2026 Alumni Camp! Alumni from across the years are invited to gather at Camp Kirby July 23rd – 26th, 2026 for a weekend of adventure, nostalgia, and

community. We hope to see YOU there!

Alumni Camp is a chance for past Camp Kirby staff and campers to connect and enjoy the camp of your dreams. Activities include campfires, cookouts, singing, your favorite program areas, and so much more! Registration options include the full event (Thursday - Sunday), one night only (Saturday - Sunday), or a Saturday day only option.

[Register for Alumni Camp](#)

Registration is also open for all of our other summer programs, and sessions are filling quickly!

[Register for Day Camp](#)

[Register for Overnight Camp](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, or if there is anything I can help with. We hope to see you this summer!

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



## End of Year Giving



Thank you all so much!

This year through our end of the year giving campaigns we were able to raise over 10,000 dollars! We couldn't have done it without you. You are helping us impact the lives of the youth in our community!

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## We Are Looking For New Board Members!

Serving on the Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby Board of Directors is an incredible opportunity to make an impact in the lives of young people in Whatcom and Skagit counties. We serve over 2,000 young people each year, and the Board of Directors provides governance and oversight for our organization. We are looking for people with a love for youth development, the outdoors, or for improving the wellbeing of young people in our area.

You can find more information below! If you or someone you know would be a good fit, please share or apply.

[More information](#)



[Facebook Event](#)

We want your pictures from across the decades! Do you have photos from your time at Camp Kirby? Email them to [marketing@campfiresamish.org](mailto:marketing@campfiresamish.org) to have them featured on our socials and on our Alumni Page on our website!

## Mission

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



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