

# Alumni NEWSLETTER



## Growing Up is Hard

Recently, Kathryn and I had the opportunity to attend the Camp Fire National Leadership Conference in San Diego. This statement was displayed on a banner on the main stage, and it really stuck with me.

Growing up is hard.

Think of some of the young people in your life today. Think about the challenges they face, the pressures they are under, the complexities they have to navigate... It's a lot. Research confirms what we already know to be true, that young people today are in crisis.

- Over 2.5 million youth in the US have severe major depression.
- One in seven children have experienced child abuse or neglect in the past year.
- From 2012 to 2018, twice as many adolescents report elevated levels of loneliness at school.

[From Camp Fire Youth In Crisis: Statistics](#)

In the face of overwhelming numbers like these, my mind always turns to the question - What can we do?

Through our programs at Camp Kirby, we are working hard to improve wellbeing in the young people we serve. Outdoor-based, technology-free programs like ours are proven to strengthen resiliency, increase hope, and build confidence. The impact of our programs also lasts far beyond summer camp. We can look no further than you all, our incredible alumni, to see how the benefits of camp can stick with you and impact you for a lifetime.

The work we do with young people is vital. We are proud to offer places of belonging and support, and hopefully we can make growing up just a little less hard.

We can't do this without you. Thank you for the ways you support Camp Fire Samish & Camp Kirby, and we would ask that you continue to do so. As we approach the end of the year, we also hope you will remember us in your year-end giving. Your donations go a long way in helping us fulfill our mission. We hope to see you at our next Alumni Meet Up!

Thank you all for your support and partnership!

**Marcus "Gopher" Roskamp**  
Executive Director



**Keep Connected!**  
**Alumni Meet Up**

Wednesday, Dec. 17th, 2025

**TERRAMAR BREWSTILLERY**  
5712 Gilkey Ave, Bow, WA 98232

**5:00PM - 7:00PM**



**Camp Fire**  
Samish

**CAMP KIRBY**  
EST. 1961

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

Our Alumni Meet Up is a fantastic time to catch up with old campers, counselors, and friends for an evening filled with laughter, stories,

and craft brews. Terramar offers a great selection of drinks, food, dietary friendly food, and allows children and pets too!

### Alumni Meet Up Event

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## 2015 CIT Class Reunion

The CIT Class of 2015 gathered this fall for a long-awaited reunion, traveling from across the country to spend a memorable weekend together in Bend, Oregon. Alumni traveled from California, Washington, Minnesota, Arizona, and Oregon to reconnect and catch up with each other. Over the course of the weekend, the group dedicated about six hours to presentations, where each person shared updates about their lives, careers, and how things have changed since they last worked together in the summer of 2017. For many, it was the first time seeing each other in over eight years.

The group represented a wide range of paths and accomplishments, including a PhD student, a graduate student, and two law students, among others. Outside of their structured time together, the weekend was filled with laughter, sunshine, visits to local food trucks, and fun moments spent by the river. Old stories resurfaced, memories were relived, and the bonds formed during their time at Camp Kirby were celebrated and strengthened once again.

We love seeing how bonds formed at Camp Kirby endure well beyond one summer! If you have a similar story of connection please reach out to us, we'd love to share it!



Top: Qato, Summit, Peach, Bear  
Bottom: Lightning, Elbub, Spike, Steve, and Arctic

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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

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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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