



Camp Fire

Together
we make

History

For more than a century, Camp Fire alumni like you have brought the values of work, health and love to the world, no matter what challenges you've faced.

Today, Camp Fire welcomes all young people to its programs and continues to thrive with 49 councils in 25 states and Washington D.C., serving nearly 150,000 youth each year.

Thank you for making Camp Fire what it is today—and leading us into tomorrow. We're still creating powerful youth experiences to shape kids and teens, give them the opportunity to belong, connect with nature, develop strong relationships, and make positive social change.

**Wishing you Work,
Health, Love!**

1910

Camp Fire Girls is founded by Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, Charlotte Vetter Gulick and their colleagues.

It is the first multicultural, multiracial, nonsectarian organization to promote outdoor experiences for girls.



1912

Camp Fire Girls of America is incorporated.



1913

Blue Birds is introduced for younger girls.
First official handbook published.

1914-18

World War I

Through the Minute Girl Program, Camp Fire Girls stay healthy, sell Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps, support orphans and earn food conservation honors.

[Learn more about war efforts on the blog.](#)



1918

The Influenza Epidemic kills 500,000+ in the United States.

The first local council is formed in Kansas City, MO.

1920

The 19th Amendment is adopted on August 26, giving women the right to vote.



1926

Parker Brothers introduces Camp Fire Girls board game.



1929

The Great Depression begins.



1939-45

World War II
Camp Fire Girls sell bonds, collect supplies and plant Victory Gardens.

[Learn more about war efforts on the blog.](#)



1940

Shirley Temple becomes a Camp Fire Girl.



1943

Martha F. Allen becomes Camp Fire Girls' first female national executive director.

1943

Camp Fire Girls release its first inclusion policy: "Camp Fire must strive to give girls of all minority groups an opportunity to participate fully."

1948

Camp Fire Girls camps earn accreditation under the American Camping Association's new standards program.



1954

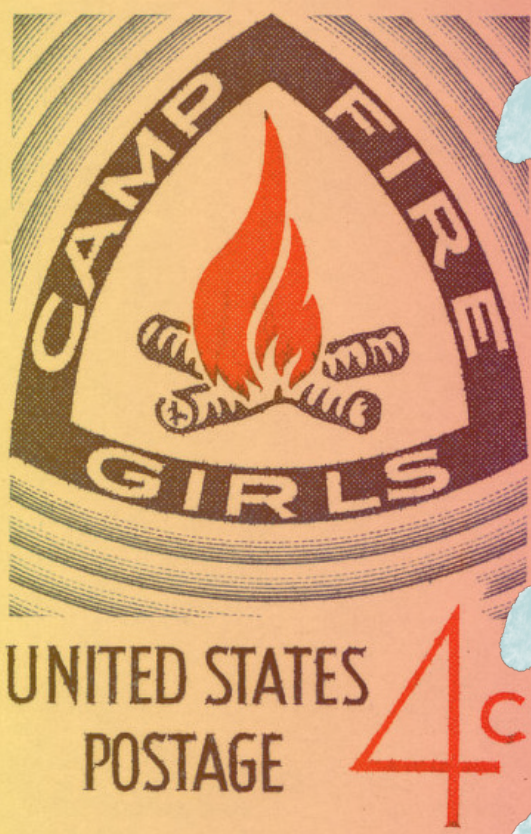
The U.S. Supreme Court declares school segregation unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

While the organization had been multiracial since its inception, Camp Fire Girls calls for greater inclusivity in all groups and member segments.



1957

The Little Rock Nine attempt to integrate a public high school in Arkansas and are met with violent opposition, including by the National Guard, at the direction of the governor. President Eisenhower issues an executive order to force the National Guard to support integration, and school integration continues across the country.



1960

Camp Fire Girls groups celebrate 50 years with a large-scale conservation program, including planting more than 2 million trees.

The U.S. Postal Service issues a Camp Fire Girls 50th Anniversary commemorative stamp.

Camp Fire club "costumes" are now called "uniforms."

1962

The Wohelo Medallion honor is created.

Junior Hi Girls program added for 12- to 13-year-olds.

1963

President Kennedy is assassinated on November 22.

1963

250,000 people participate in The March on Washington.

1964

President Johnson signs the The Civil Rights Act of 1964.

1964

A grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare helps The Camp Fire Girls found local groups in low-income urban areas; rural areas; migrant worker camps; and Native American reservations.

1965-73

United States has active ground troops in Vietnam.

Camp Fire Girls donate bandages, collect toys for refugees and send cookies to soldiers.

August 4 is Camp Fire Day at the New York World's Fair.

Learn more about war efforts on the blog.



1965

The Voting Rights Act is signed.

1966

Horizon Club Afloat Conference sends Camp Fire Girls as ambassadors to the world aboard a Caribbean cruise ship to Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Colombia.

1967

In the case Loving v. Virginia, The Supreme Court rules that laws banning interracial marriage are unconstitutional



1968

Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated on April 4. The Fair Housing Act is signed seven days later.

1969

Apollo 11 mission lands on the moon on July 20.

1975

Camp Fire Girls becomes coeducational and changes its name to Camp Fire, Inc.



1977

Camp Fire National Headquarters moves from New York City to Kansas City, Missouri.

1981

The AIDS epidemic begins in the United States Camp Fire groups respond with AIDS awareness service projects.



1983

Camp Fire, Inc. changes its name to Camp Fire Boys and Girls to raise awareness that the organization serves all children, regardless of gender





1983

A National Leadership Conference statement on youth empowerment grows into a teen-led social action initiative.

1986

The Space Shuttle Challenger explodes on January 28.



1988

The teen-led social action initiative begun in 1985 is renamed: Teens in Action. Teens in Action's first campaign is focused on suicide awareness. Later campaigns addressed HIV/AIDS (1992-1996), inclusiveness (1997-1998) teen violence (1999), and hunger and homelessness (2003-2004).

1989

The Berlin Wall falls on November 9.

At the Malta Summit, the end of the Cold War is declared.



1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination based on disability.

1990-91

The Gulf War.

1993

Camp Fire adds sexual orientation to its Inclusion Policy.

Camp Fire Congress delegates approve amendments to the bylaws replacing all gender-specific terminology with gender-neutral terminology.



ABSOLUTELY

incredible

KID DAY®

1997

Camp Fire founds Absolutely Incredible Kid Day®.

2001

September 11 attacks.

The War in Afghanistan begins.

In January, Camp Fire Boys and Girls changes its name to Camp Fire USA.

2003

Camp Fire begins offering its curriculum in Spanish.

2003

Iraq conflict begins.

2005

Camp Fire is honored as part of "The Extra Mile" monument honoring individuals who have dedicated themselves to service.

2005

Hurricane Katrina devastates the Gulf Coast region.

2010

Camp Fire celebrates its 100th birthday on March 17. Later that summer, synchronized Centennial Campfires are held across the country.

2012

Camp Fire USA rebrands to become simply Camp Fire and introduces Thriveology, its new Social Emotional Learning framework.

2015

The Supreme Court rules that same-sex couples' right to marry is guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process and Equal Protection clauses.





2017

To be more inclusive of youth who identify as nonbinary, Camp Fire officially stops using the word “coed” and other gendered language to describe its programming.

2019

Camp Fire launches Year 1 of the Camp Accessibility, Meaningful Participation, and Equal Representation (C.A.M.P.E.R.) grant and hires its first national Diversity and Inclusion Program Consultant.



2020

The COVID-19 pandemic alters life around the globe. Many Camp Fire groups go virtual.

Camp Fire stands in solidarity with Black youth and families as Black Lives Matter protests sweep the country. See our statement and how we're taking action.



2021...

Be part of our

future.

7 ways to get *involved*:

- ▶▶ 1. Share your story! We want to hear from you.
- ▶▶ 2. What's missing on our timeline? Send us your favorite Camp Fire history dates!
- ▶▶ 3. Find your local council to volunteer.
- ▶▶ 4. Donate to support a sustainable Camp Fire future.
- ▶▶ 5. Follow us on social media     
- ▶▶ 6. Let us know about other notable alumni who are doing amazing things in the world.
- ▶▶ 7. Consider a planned/legacy gift.

Thank you for being a part of our legacy and history!

We are grateful for you and your desire to bring the powerful Camp Fire experience to more young people today.

Have something to add? Contact us at:
info@campfire.org

The goal of this timeline is not to capture everything in our organizational history, but instead convey a snapshot of our organization, our commitment to service and social justice, alongside major world and U.S. events. Our end goal is to eventually create a larger more interactive timeline with your stories woven into into it, that better captures who we are, where we've been, and where we're going. If you would like to be a part of that bigger timeline project, please start by sharing your story:

SHARE YOUR STORY