CLUB PROGRAM

Facilitator's Supplemental Guide

SUPPLEMENT TO THE SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Camp Fire

Light the fire within

1. INTRODUCTION 4

The Club Program and You as a Leader 5
What to Know Before You Get Started 7
About the Club Program 8
Inclusion 9
Camp Fire's Program Framework 10
The Camp Fire Journey 11

2. STARTING A CLUB 12

Key Considerations for Starting a Club 13
Club Leadership Structure 13
When, Where, and How Often to Meet 13
Program Levels 14
Ages and Program Levels 14
Recruiting Members for Your Club 14
Building Your Leadership Team 16
Leading with Safety 17
Supplies and Equipment 20
Family Support 20
Club Finances 21
Fundraising 22
How Would a Club Work? Club Planning Tool 23

3. CLUB PROGRAM OVERVIEW 28

Club Program Levels 29
Small Group Curricula and Activity Sets 30
Small Group Curricula 31
Activity Sets and Special Projects 33
Work Health Love Award 34
Recognition and Ceremonies 35
Recognition Items 35
Recognition Attire 36
Other Options for Recognition Display 38
Ceremonies 39

4. PLANNING AND FACILITATING CLUB MEETINGS 44

Planning and Facilitating Club Meetings 45
Small Group Quick Planning Guide 46
Agenda Planning Template 50

5. A GUIDE TO YOUR FIRST FOUR MEETINGS 52

PROJECT: Our Club 53
1. Getting to Know You 54
2. Camp Fire Trails 59
3. Our Club Name 63
4. Our Club Banner and Celebration 68

Special Thanks

Thank you to Camp Fire Snohomish County for writing this guide and to all those who reviewed this guide and contributed valuable suggestions for its revision.

Camp Fire

WELCOME CAMP FIRE CLUB LEADERS!

You have what it takes to guide, support, and empower young people on their Camp Fire journey!

Supportive adults are key to our work at Camp Fire. We combine your passion for helping youth thrive with guidance and support that will help you be the best possible leader and mentor to young people.

The Power of Your Leadership:

As a Camp Fire leader, you create a safe space where young people can have fun and be themselves. In your club, youth will build a supportive community in which to explore, collaborate, and grow together – where they will find connection and feel a sense of belonging. You will guide young people on this powerful journey, navigating with them toward self-discovery, community connection, and engagement with nature.

A Legacy of Empowering Youth:

The Club Program has a long history in Camp Fire! For more than 100 years, Camp Fire has been working to foster positive youth development. Though the world has changed since our founding in 1910, many of the values, goals, and outcomes of Camp Fire remain the same: we are creating a safe and inclusive space for young people; building social and emotional skills; facilitating developmental relationships; helping to build community; and connecting young people to the outdoors, to others, and to themselves.

Equipping You for Success:

This Club Program Facilitator's Guide is designed to empower adult leaders like you in both volunteer and staff-led programs. Packed with practical tips, tools, and strategies, this guide equips you to create engaging and impactful club experiences.

This guide serves as a companion to the Small Group Facilitator's Guide, which dives deeper into your role as a facilitator. The Club Program Facilitator's Guide focuses on the club program experience, providing specific tools for starting a club, planning meetings, and tailoring the program to your unique group. Together they are a comprehensive guide to your success!

Get ready for an enriching and rewarding adventure as you guide youth to discover their spark, lift their voice, and light the fire within!

The Camp Fire National Headquarters Team

1. INTRODUCTION

The Club Program and You as a Leader **5**
What to Know Before You Get Started **7**
About the Club Program **8**
Inclusion 9
Camp Fire's Program Framework 10
The Camp Fire Journey 11

Camp Fire

The Club Program and You as a Leader

The Camp Fire Club Program uses **experiential learning** to create a deeper connection and sense of belonging in the program and/or the community. As a facilitator, you'll play a pivotal role in creating this enriching environment.

Club leaders encourage youth to think deeply and engage in inquiry about themselves, others, and the natural world.

As a facilitator, you encourage youth to bring their whole selves into each activity. You place youths' interests, backgrounds, experiences, culture, and multiple identities at the core of the program, using this to ignite curiosity and action. You serve as young peoples' Spark Champions by modeling growth mindset, building on youth experiences, and creating space for youth to use their voice.

As a Camp Fire leader, your role is central to helping young people thrive. The experiences you create with young people center around **developmental relationships** – the close connections through which young people discover who they are, gain abilities to shape their own lives, and learn how to interact and contribute to the world around them.

Club Leader Roles & Responsibilities:

Here's how you can support a high-quality club environment:

- **Safe & Positive Environment:** You ensure all activities adhere to Camp Fire standards and affiliate policies, creating a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive space for young people.
- **Meet Developmental Needs:** You design activities to meet the specific needs and interests of your age group, providing scaffolding and support for learning.
- **Collaboration and Connection:** You promote empathy, community building, and positive interaction among club members. You create opportunities for young people to work together, solve problems, and achieve goals as a team.
- **Engage Minds:** Your activities encourage high-level thinking through choice, planning, and reflection. You encourage youth to ask questions, and to reflect on themselves, others, and the world around them.
- **Spark Discovery:** You recognize and encourage young peoples' passions and interests, helping them discover, nurture, and grow their unique "Sparks."
- **Growth Mindset:** You model a growth mindset – showing young people that challenges and failures are opportunities to learn.
- **Empower Youth:** You honor the lived experience of young people and empower them to plan their own journeys. You encourage self-expression, decision-making, and leadership. You create an environment where their voices are heard and their choices are valued.
- **Connect with Families:** You inspire connection, engagement, and support from families and caregivers by being in regular communication with them.

The Rewards of Leadership:

Beyond the immense satisfaction of guiding young people on their journeys, being a Camp Fire Club Leader offers a wealth of personal benefits:

- **Develop Leadership Skills:** Gain valuable experience in program planning, teamwork, and communication.
- **Make a Lasting Impact:** Witness firsthand the positive changes you inspire in young people's lives.
- **Expand Your Network:** Connect with other passionate leaders and build a supportive community.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Continuously develop your skills and knowledge through our comprehensive training resources.

What is it like to be a Leader?

Today's Camp Fire leaders are as varied as today's young people. Being a leader is an experience you can customize to fit your availability and personality. There is no one right way!

- Camp Fire provides materials, training, and support to help guide you.
- You decide your club's age group, size, and meeting schedule.
- Clubs may have multiple leaders. Two or more adults are present at all club meetings. Co-leading with other adults is encouraged! Club families can assist and be involved in various roles.
- Camp Fire curricula follow five program areas called Trails. These purposeful and developmentally appropriate curricula are designed so leaders are supported to prepare and facilitate the program with ease.
- Leaders serve as youth champions by modeling growth mindset, building on youth experiences, and prioritizing youth voice.
- Camp Fire leaders guide youth to discover their spark, lift their voice, and light the fire within.

This guide is for you!

This guide is for new and experienced Camp Fire club leaders. It will be an invaluable source of information during your first few weeks as a leader, and a great resource as you continue your leadership journey.

What to Know Before You Get Started

The Club Program Facilitator's Guide is your essential resource for leading club programming. It is a companion to Camp Fire's Small Group Facilitator's Guide. Packed with practical advice and resources, this guide gives you a framework to create a vibrant and impactful club experience for young people.

Inside, you will:

- Discover key considerations for starting your club.
- Use the **"How Would a Club Work?" Club Planning Tool** to get started with a new club.
- Find out more about Camp Fire Small Group curriculum and other resources for creating enriching experiences for youth.
- Learn about Camp Fire's reward and recognition items, review suggestions for displaying items, and receive guidance for planning meaningful ceremonies.
- Use the **Small Group Quick Planning Guide** to plan your club meetings.
- Find the **Our Club** project to guide you through your first four club meetings.

Get the Training and Support You Need:

- **Connect with your Affiliate:** Your affiliate will guide you through essential training on program requirements, safety procedures, Camp Fire policies, and resources specific to your area.
- **Ongoing Learning:** Stay up to date with the latest resources and best practices through the Camp Fire National Headquarters' online platform, the Learning Lab.

Refer to these additional resources for support and skill development throughout your leadership journey:

- **Small Group Facilitator's Guide:** This comprehensive guide provides a framework for delivering impactful small group experiences. Learn about Camp Fire's philosophy, discover how your role fosters essential skills in youth, and find practical tools for program planning, activity facilitation, connecting with families, and evaluating for program effectiveness.
- **Camp Fire Learning Lab:** Register online (visit campfireresources.org and click "Register") to access skill-building trainings, downloadable curriculum resources, and other valuable tools to support your success as a club leader.
- **Foundational Practices Guide:** Learn strategies and techniques that promote belonging and connection to self, nature, and others.
- **Policies and Procedures:** Work with your affiliate to fully understand and comply with all Camp Fire health and safety policies, procedures, and youth protection standards. You cannot start a club without taking the appropriate child-safety courses first.

Your Success Starts Here!

With the Club Program Facilitator's Guide, comprehensive training opportunities, and the unwavering support of your local affiliate, you are well on your way to igniting a spark in your club and creating an environment where young people can thrive.

About the Club Program

The Camp Fire Club program is developed for ALL youth ages 3-18 to explore their Sparks, learn new skills, and build strong relationships.

Youth are guided through Camp Fire's Five Trails on a journey toward self-discovery, community connection, and engagement with nature.

Through a mix of fun, participant-driven activities, games, service projects, events, and experiences, youth explore their passions, build relationships, contribute to their communities, and thrive.

- Open to ALL youth, preschool – high school
- Clubs meet in small groups to create a sense of community and practice using their voice
- Clubs meet on a regular schedule determined by its members and leaders
- Clubs meet at a variety of locations including community sites, schools, homes, outdoors, or online/hybrid
- Clubs are led by caring adult facilitators who are trained and supported by Camp Fire

Program Levels

Ages 3-5	Little Stars
Grades K-2	Starflight
Grades 3-5	Adventure
Grades 6-8	Discovery
Grades 9-12	Horizon

The Club Experience

In the Camp Fire Club program, young people are encouraged and supported to design their own learning experiences, choosing projects and activities with the help of adult leaders. As young people mature, they take on more responsibility in leadership, planning, and decision-making.

Club members plan their program from: Camp Fire National curricula and activity sets, offerings from your affiliate, their special interests, and opportunities in the community.

The Five Trails

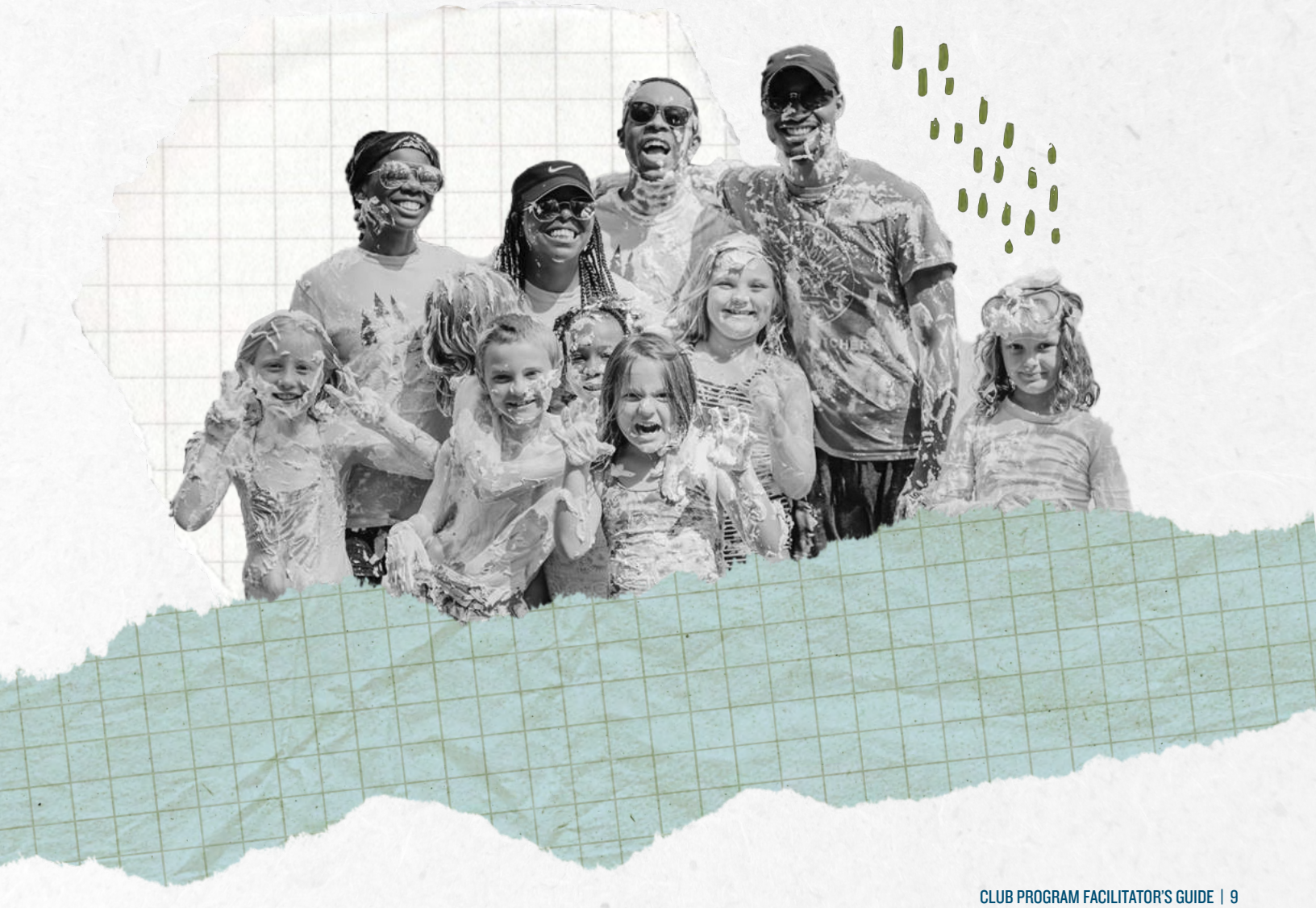
Trail to Knowing Me
Trail to Family and Community
Trail to Creativity
Trail to the Environment
Trail to the Future

Inclusion

Camp Fire's Statement of Inclusion:

"Camp Fire believes in the dignity and the intrinsic worth of every human being. We welcome, affirm, and support young people and adults of all abilities and disabilities, experiences, races, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, religion and non-religion, citizenship and immigration status, and any other category people use to define themselves or others. We strive to create safe and inclusive environments that celebrate diversity and foster positive relationships." (Expanded and updated in 2021)

Camp Fire takes pride in its long-standing commitment to providing programs and services to all youth and families. Camp Fire programs reflect our Statement of Inclusion by engaging youth in activities that allow them to practice collaboration, communication, and teamwork. Through these activities, facilitators can help provide a foundation for young people to work toward equity, inclusivity, and justice.



Camp Fire's Program Framework

Camp Fire's program framework is a comprehensive look at what we do across all Camp Fire programs.

CREATE POWERFUL YOUTH EXPERIENCES

Get outside

Inclusive Environments

Relationships that are developmental

Peer-to-peer engagement

Spark discovery

Meaningful participation

Safe interactions

TO DEVELOP ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Connection to Outdoors:
Comfort in nature
Care for the environment
Committed to environmental justice

Connection to Others:
Relationship building
Respect others
Creative thinking
Community contribution

Connection to Self:
Self-awareness
Positive identity
Belonging

TO HAVE LONG-TERM BENEFITS

Lifelong love of nature

Health & well-being

Civic engagement

Academic success

Job & career-readiness

The Camp Fire Journey

Growing up is hard. That's why Camp Fire connects young people to the outdoors, to others, and to themselves. We do this through powerful youth experiences that are grounded in research-based areas found to contribute to youth thriving:

YOUTH EXPERIENCES

- Get outdoors
- Inclusive environments
- Meaningful participation
- Peer-to-peer engagement
- Spark discovery
- Safe interactions
- Relationships that are Developmental

These Camp Fire experiences create conditions needed for young people to develop the social, emotional, and cognitive competencies that indicate thriving, otherwise known as essential skills and mindsets. These skills and mindsets must be intentionally taught, modeled, and practiced just like any other skill. While we measure the essential skills and mindsets gained in our programs, we know from research that developing these skills leads to greater outcomes that last a lifetime!

ESSENTIAL SKILLS & MINDSETS

Connection to Outdoors

- Comfort in nature
- Care for the environment
- Commitment to environmental justice

Connection to Others

- Relationship building
- Respect others
- Creative thinking
- Community contribution

Connection to Self

- Self-awareness
- Positive identity
- Belonging

As a Camp Fire facilitator, you will play a vital role in creating experiences that nurture these essential skills and mindsets. By incorporating them into your program, you'll help young people not only have fun, but also develop the tools they need to thrive.

For more information on the Camp Fire Journey, or definitions of each of the essential skills and mindsets, please visit The Camp Fire Journey and learn more through our **Learning Lab** course The Camp Fire Journey: Thriving Through Connection.

2. STARTING A CLUB

Key Considerations for Starting a Club **13**
Building Your Club Leadership Structure 13
When, Where, How Often to Meet 13
Ages and Program Levels 14
Recruiting 14
Building Your Leadership Team 16
Leading with Safety 17
Supplies and Equipment 20
Family Support 20
Club Finances 21
Fundraising 22

How Would a Club Work? Club Planning Tool **23**

Camp Fire

Key Considerations for Starting a Club

This section will guide new club leaders through the key considerations in starting a club.

Use the **"How Would a Club Work?" Club Planning Tool** at the end of this section to plan your new club with these considerations in mind.

Club Leadership Structure

Clubs can be structured in many ways to meet the needs of leaders and youth. Clubs often involve multiple families or parent/caregivers to help share in responsibilities. This allows for a collaborative approach where everyone contributes to planning, facilitating, and creating a thriving club environment.

Note: At least two adults must be present at every meeting, and every adult leader needs to have taken the Camp Fire child-safety courses.

Classic Club: A group size of 6-12 youth is recommended. In this traditional club model, 1-2 leaders plan meetings and events while involving parents and caregivers for support as much as possible.

Cooperatively Led Club: Leadership responsibilities are shared among multiple (3+) leaders who rotate tasks like planning, leading meetings, facilitating activities, or managing various club needs. This structure can allow for the creation of sub-groups that share resources.

Community Family Clubs: These clubs encourage multi-age participation with high family and sibling involvement. Led by a few key leaders, families work together to plan and build a cross-age community. These clubs can be as large as leaders are able to manage.

Staff-Led Club: Clubs led by paid Camp Fire staff may have a variety of structures to meet community needs. Leaders take on the role of planning, leading, and managing club meetings.

When, Where, and How Often to Meet

It is important for clubs to meet on a regular basis so that young people can develop bonds, feel safe and comfortable in the group, learn together, and share successes. Each club will have different preferences for meeting times and places based on their needs and interests.

When do clubs meet?

There's no one-size-fits-all meeting schedule! Make a plan that works best for you and your club¬—consider before and after school, evenings, and weekends. Plan a routine and stick to it to help families plan for and build around their busy schedules.

The younger the youth, the shorter the meeting should be to maintain engagement. Preschoolers may only meet for 45 minutes. Kindergartners usually meet no longer than an hour. Older youth will maintain engagement for longer and might meet for up to 1.5 - 2 hours.

Where do clubs meet?

Club meetings may take place in a community space such as a school, camp, church or community center; in a home; online; outdoors; or another place that meets health and safety requirements.

Your location should have plenty of space for active games and projects, be accessible to all youth, and be secure and free from safety hazards. Your meeting space should have access to a phone or cell coverage, fire extinguishers, a first aid kit, and have at least two exits in case of emergency. See the Leading with Safety section in this guide for a full checklist of considerations for your program space.

How often do clubs meet?

Clubs may meet weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or another schedule that works best for the club and its leaders.

We recommend at least one meeting per month for older groups and more frequent meetings (e.g., weekly) to maintain engagement for younger groups.

Some clubs may choose to meet three times per month and the fourth time go on a field trip or participate in local Camp Fire or family events.

Ages and Program Levels

Camp Fire Club Program uses curricula that are divided into levels to meet the developmental needs of youth at various ages and stages.

Your club can be similarly divided by age or it can span a few years. For clubs with youth from a range of ages, it is possible to adapt curricula to the needs of your club by adjusting activities or drawing from multiple curriculum levels.

Program Levels

Ages 3-5	Little Stars
Grades K-2	Starflight
Grades 3-5	Adventure
Grades 6-8	Discovery
Grades 9-12	Horizon

Recruiting Members for Your Club

When you begin, your club may only have a few members. The right size for your group will depend on the ages and needs of the youth in your club and will vary from group to group. Younger youth often benefit from smaller group sizes; a club of Little Stars (preschool-aged youth) may only grow to 4-6 members.

New members may be recruited by both club leaders and the program leaders at your Camp Fire affiliate.

Why grow your club?

Here's why actively recruiting new members can benefit everyone involved:

Enhanced Learning and Play

- With more members, you can explore a wider range of games and activities, catering to different interests and encouraging teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.
- A larger group allows for more flexible pairings and group formations, accommodating various project types and learning styles as well as fostering inclusivity and collaboration.

Leadership Development

- As the club grows, more opportunities arise for youth to take on leadership roles, providing valuable experience and fostering responsibility.
- Mentorship opportunities can flourish as older youth guide and support younger members, building confidence and fostering a sense of community and positive club culture.

Increased Diversity and Growth

- By attracting members from diverse backgrounds, you create a richer learning environment, fostering understanding and appreciation of different perspectives.
- New members bring fresh ideas and experiences, encouraging everyone to explore beyond their usual routine and grow in unexpected ways.

Powerful Impact

- Growing your club creates lasting connections and fosters a stronger sense of community. As one parent shared, "My kids made friends with youth they would not have met except through our Camp Fire club. Camp Fire was a constant source of connection, growing with them and meeting them wherever life's journey took them. These friendships, forged around shared experiences, laughter, and growth, transcended time and circumstance, becoming a lifelong testament to the power of Camp Fire."

Top Tips for Recruiting Club Members

1. Leverage Camp Fire Resources:

- Connect with your Camp Fire affiliate: They might have a waiting list of youth eager to join a club in your area.
- Share promotional materials: Work with your affiliate to create or obtain captivating fliers that advertise your club's unique offerings.

2. Spread the Word in Your Community:

- Set up an information booth: Engage potential members at school events or community functions by showcasing your club's activities and achievements.

3. Tap into Existing Networks:

- Encourage current members to invite their friends and classmates: Personal recommendations can be powerful, so empower your members to be ambassadors for your club!

4. Embrace Continuous Growth:

- Consider adding members or forming new clubs at any time of the year! While fall is a popular recruiting time for new school year activities, your club can welcome new members year-round.

Building Your Leadership Team: Finding the Perfect Co-Leader(s)

Ensuring the safety and well-being of young people is paramount. For this reason, **all meetings require the presence of at least two adults.** Having a strong co-leader and other adult volunteers by your side can significantly enhance your club experience. Here's why finding the right co-leader(s) is crucial:

1. Enhanced Safety and Support:

- Two adults present at each meeting increases safety and risk management for both the youth and the leaders themselves.

2. Shared Responsibilities:

- **Sharing the workload:** From planning activities to managing logistics, co-leaders can alleviate individual pressure and ensure the club runs smoothly. Leaders may choose to divide responsibilities such as planning club meetings, facilitating activities, keeping records, coordinating events and fundraisers, communicating with families, or providing snacks or supplies.
- **Sharing experiences:** Whether you are enjoying fun moments or navigating challenges, having a co-leader allows you to share the highs and lows, fostering mutual support and collaboration.

3. Potential Co-Leader Pool:

Finding the perfect co-leader can feel daunting, but there are many possibilities to explore:

- **Parents, guardians, or other family members** of existing club members.
- **Friends, co-workers, community leaders, or neighbors** who share your commitment to youth development.
- **Older siblings or extended family members** with an interest in youth engagement.
- **Paid staff** from your Camp Fire affiliate may be able to serve as co-leaders and support your club.
- **Your Camp Fire affiliate.** Reach out to your Camp Fire affiliate for guidance in finding potential co-leaders, ensuring a smooth and successful recruitment process.

Remember, the ideal co-leader will **complement your strengths** and **share your passion** for creating a positive and enriching experience for the young people involved.

Leading with Safety

At Camp Fire, making sure youth are safe in our programs is our top priority. Supporting young people's well-being and safety must happen before we can achieve our mission of connecting young people to the outdoors, to others, and to themselves.

Your goal is to ensure both physical and emotional safety and monitor and address conflicts between participants. These guidelines will help ensure a safe and healthy environment for everyone involved in your club:

- **Risk Management:** Work with your affiliate to fully understand and comply with all Camp Fire health and safety policies and youth protection standards. They will provide training and guidance specific to your program.
- **Adult Supervision:** There must always be a minimum of two adults present at every club meeting. Additional supervision may be necessary depending on the ages and size of your group. *Check with your affiliate to confirm the required adult-to-child ratio for your club and to learn about ratios requirements based on applicable state licensing or other accreditation requirements.* **Clubs must meet Camp Fire standards for adult supervision.**
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Be familiar with emergency procedures for your meeting location. Know evacuation routes, designated meeting areas, how to contact emergency responders, and incident reporting procedures. Have emergency contacts for each young person in case you need to reach a parent or caregiver.
- **First Aid:** Maintain a well-stocked first-aid kit that is easily accessible during meetings and outings. Follow your affiliate's policies regarding first aid and CPR training.

Program Space Safety Checklist

Things to consider for the program space when facilitating club programming:

- ❒ The program space is free of health and safety hazards. (indoor/outdoor)
- ❒ The space is accessible for all participants, considering physical limitations, mobility aids, or other barriers to participation.
- ❒ The program space is clean and sanitary; the space is well maintained. (indoor)
- ❒ There is adequate ventilation and lighting in the program space; ventilation and lighting can be controlled through windows, fans, adjusting blinds/light levels. (indoor)
- ❒ The temperature of the program space is comfortable for most participants; staff can control the temperature as needed. (indoor)
- ❒ The program space is not easily accessible to the public to limit the possibility of outsiders entering the program space during programming. (indoor/outdoor)
- ❒ There is sufficient space to move around freely and comfortably to do all activities (furnishings or other obstacles don't limit movement, there is adequate table space for projects). (indoor/outdoor)
- ❒ The program space is flexible; furniture and supplies can be moved around when needed and are age-appropriate and in good condition. (indoor)
- ❒ The program space offers a clear line of sight to all children. (indoor/outdoor)
- ❒ The program space has some protection from the elements (e.g., shade, windbreak, cover). (outdoor)
- ❒ Drinking water is available and easily accessible to all. (indoor/outdoor)
- ❒ First-aid kits are well-stocked and accessible in the program space. (indoor/outdoor)
- ❒ There is an accessible fire extinguisher in or near the program space. (indoor)
- ❒ There are posted or easily accessible emergency procedures, evacuation plans and numbers in the program space. (indoor)
- ❒ There is a phone accessible for emergency use.
- ❒ Closets, utility rooms and storage areas are locked during operations and only accessible by program personnel (indoor).

Other safety practices to consider:

- ❒ Staff are easily distinguishable (nametag, lanyards, t-shirts, etc.).
- ❒ The program maintains required adult/youth ratios.
- ❒ Youth are supervised via sight and/or sound.
- ❒ There are always two adults present with at least one current in first aid and CPR.
- ❒ Staff regularly inspect the grounds, facilities, and equipment to identify and eliminate potential hazards.
- ❒ There is additional safety equipment used for special activities that require it (e.g., archery, fishing, crafting).
- ❒ Program equipment and furniture are regularly maintained, clean and free of hazards and clutter.
- ❒ Smoking is not allowed in areas used by children indoors or outdoors.
- ❒ Children's allergies and other health concerns are readily available to all staff as well as contact information for each child.
- ❒ Food is served and eaten under sanitary conditions (e.g., table washing and sanitizing, using clean serving and eating utensils, protecting food from table surface with a plate, paper towel, or napkin).
- ❒ Hand hygiene is generally practiced (e.g., upon arrival, before/after eating, after messy activities and outdoor play, after toileting, etc.).

These guidelines are informed by the School-Age Program Quality Assessment and by the School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale.

Emergency Procedures

Keeping our young people safe is the top priority. Before your first session, take a complete tour of your program site, inside and out. Be familiar with the location of fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, exit doors, and emergency exit routes, areas that are off limits, and areas appropriate for outdoor games and exploration. Don't forget to identify an outside location that you can designate as an emergency meeting place.

If you live in an area prone to extreme weather, such as earthquakes, tornados, thunderstorms, hurricanes, wildfires, or floods, you will need to have emergency procedures for these events as well.

Share this information and establish emergency procedures with youth and other leaders or volunteers during one of your first meetings.

Tip: Make learning about emergency procedures fun by engaging youth in a mission around your program site. Create a scavenger hunt with clues, riddles, and a celebratory reward at the end. Make it a fun way to learn about safety while building teamwork and excitement for their program journey.

Think of your mission as a fun adventure where you uncover exciting features:

- Safety Superpowers: Locate fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and exit doors. These are your superhero tools!
- Escape Routes: Locate all exit doors and practice drills with your group.
- Mystery Zones: Identify any off-limits areas - accessible only with adult supervision, of course!
- Game on!: Scout out areas perfect for outdoor games, hikes, and outdoor explorations.
- Meeting Point HQ: Choose a safe, easily accessible spot outside for emergency gatherings. This will be your team's special headquarters if needed!

Ask participants if there is anything else they need to know in order to feel safe in the program space. Set the norm that they are welcomed and encouraged to tell you that they feel physically or emotionally unsafe at any time during the program. Reassure youth that safety is the top priority.

Emergency Checklist:

- ❒ Emergency Plan: Be familiar with your program's procedures for fire, medical emergencies, evacuation, natural disasters, etc.
- ❒ Emergency Exits: Ensure all exits are easily accessible and unobstructed.
- ❒ Fire Extinguishers: Know the location of fire extinguishers at your program site.
- ❒ First-Aid Kit: Maintain a well-stocked first-aid kit with essential supplies.
- ❒ Training: Train facilitators and volunteers on the emergency plan, including first-aid procedures and communication protocols. Identify one main person to handle calling emergency contacts should something occur.
- ❒ Emergency Contact Information: Access to emergency contact information for program staff, volunteers, parents/guardians, and relevant authorities.

Supplies and Equipment

It is a good idea for leaders to have some general supplies handy in the program space. Having the right supplies will prepare you to facilitate an engaging and enriching program. Keep in mind your club's planned activities and age group, and consider the following suggestions:

- **Arts and Crafts:** Stock basic supplies like plain paper, markers, crayons, paints, glue, scissors, and construction paper. Add specific materials based on planned activities.
- **Open-Ended Materials:** Provide a variety of open-ended materials like blocks, loose parts (natural materials like pinecones or fabric scraps), and recycled materials to encourage creativity and imaginative play.
- **Games and Activities:** Consider supplying a variety of board games, playing cards, sports equipment such as balls, jump ropes, and other recreational equipment.
- **Learning Tools:** Depending on your program's focus, include books, educational materials, manipulatives, and technology tools led by your groups' interests.
- **Snack and Beverage Supplies**: If providing snacks or drinks, ensure age-appropriate options, allergy considerations, and proper storage facilities.
- **First-Aid Kit:** Maintain a well-stocked and readily accessible first-aid kit.

Additional suggestions:

- Books and magazines.
- Construction materials, like cardboard and blocks.
- Cooking utensils and ingredients (if planned).
- Miscellaneous materials like yarn, cloth, buttons, beads, or old newspapers or magazines for use in creative projects.
- Comfort items like beanbags, pillows, rugs, blankets, etc. for creating cozy spaces.
- Technology: If using technology, check program policies and ensure safe and responsible use with appropriate software and internet access restrictions.
- Promote sustainability: Use reusable materials, recycle, and encourage eco-friendly habits.

Family Support

The Small Group Facilitator's Guide offers valuable tips for building strong relationships with families and caregivers. It highlights the importance of family involvement in your program's success and provides more in-depth strategies and guidance on:

- **Understanding Family Diversity:** Be mindful of varying family structures and avoid assumptions about participants' home lives.
- **Effective Communication:** Establish clear communication channels (family meetings, newsletters, emails, social media) to keep families informed and engaged.
- **Encouraging Family Participation:** Create opportunities for families to contribute through volunteering and collaborating on program activities or events.
- **Building a Supportive Team:** Recognize that family support is a team effort and involve families in brainstorming ways they can contribute based on their interests and availability.
- **Expressing Appreciation:** Show sincere gratitude for family involvement through personal notes, thank-you cards, and public recognition.

By following these strategies, you can foster a collaborative environment where families feel welcome and empowered to support young people in your club.

Club Finances

Membership and Fees: Contact your affiliate to learn about Camp Fire membership or registration fees. These fees support Camp Fire in supporting all programs. Typically, club participants register with their Camp Fire affiliate annually at the beginning of the school year. Both youth and adult volunteers register to participate in Camp Fire.

Club Dues: (Optional) Clubs can choose to collect dues to cover specific club expenses like supplies and materials, meeting space fees, field trips, events, celebrations, recognition items, etc. Dues can be collected at club meetings annually, monthly, or on a schedule decided by your club. Choose the method that works best for your group and keep dues affordable for your members.

Financial Aid: Camp Fire recognizes that finances should not hinder youth participation.

- Develop a plan for situations where members may not be able to contribute financially.
- Check with your affiliate to see if financial assistance is offered to youth for membership, recognition items, events, or other expenses.
- Explore sponsorship opportunities within your community. Partnering with local businesses can help cover club expenses.

Best Practices for Managing Club Finances

Managing club finances responsibly and transparently is crucial. Here are some key practices:

- **Record Keeping:** You may be asked by your affiliate to turn in a report of revenue and expenses at the end of the club year. If you start recordkeeping right away, it will make it easier when reports are due. Consider identifying one leader or volunteer as your record keeper.
- **Open Communication:** Maintaining clear and accurate records of income (from dues and fundraising) and expenses builds trust with families.
- **Shared Decision-Making:** Establish a system for making informed choices about how club funds are used. Consider how you will involve youth in discussions and decisions.
- **Banking Options:** Clubs can manage their funds independently. Opening a bank account may be a good option for some clubs. Discuss this option with your affiliate for guidance.

Fundraising

Clubs support the program financially by paying fees and participating in fundraising programs. At many Camp Fire affiliates, clubs sell candy or other products to help raise money for club and affiliate operations. Your club's support helps pay for the services your group receives, such as training, and the opportunity to participate in activities and programs.

Product sales are great opportunities for youth to learn teamwork, goal-setting, and communication skills. Your club may also earn other incentives throughout the sale.

Get in touch with your affiliate to learn about fundraising opportunities available to your club to support youth programming and help you earn treasury funds.

Benefits of Youth-led Fundraising

Benefits for Your Club:

- **Funding Activities and Projects:** Fundraising allows you to cover costs for materials, trips, special events, and other enriching experiences for your club members.
- **Recognition Items:** Earned funds can be used to purchase awards and emblems, celebrating the achievements and efforts of your club members.

Benefits for Individual Members:

- **Life Skills Development:** Fundraising teaches valuable skills like teamwork, goal setting, and communication.
- **Camp Fire Currency:** Incentives such as prizes or funds that may be used towards Camp Fire events or camps.
- **Satisfaction:** Participation in fundraising efforts can be a source of personal pride and achievement.

Benefits for Camp Fire:

- **Lower Program Costs:** Fundraising helps keep program registration fees affordable for all families, ensuring broader accessibility.
- **Enhanced Programs:** Funds can be used to provide training and materials for adult leaders, ultimately improving the quality of Camp Fire programs.
- **Financial Assistance:** Fundraising allows Camp Fire to offer financial assistance to families who might otherwise face financial barriers to participation.

Camp Fire

HOW WOULD A CLUB WORK? CLUB PLANNING TOOL

1. Training:

Training is essential. By prioritizing training and staying informed, you equip yourself to lead a thriving and impactful club experience for the young people involved.

Sign up for Learning Lab, Camp Fire's online learning system, at campfireresources.org. Click "Register" and fill in your information to get started.

Check with your Camp Fire affiliate to create a checklist of training required to complete before you begin leading programming. **You must take the appropriate child-safety courses before starting a club.**

- ❒ _____
- ❒ _____
- ❒ _____
- ❒ _____

Consider training multiple adult leaders. Having several trained adults strengthens your club and ensures a safe and enriching environment for everyone.

Training is an ongoing commitment: Continuously seek learning opportunities to enhance your skills!

Small Group Facilitator's Guide
Foundational Practices Guide
Affiliate Policies and Procedures

2. Building Your Club Leadership Structure:

How will the club leader and co-leader(s) or adult volunteers share facilitation duties?
(Leaders could be volunteers or paid staff depending on the club program model at your affiliate.)

_____ Leader & Co-leader: Two adults who facilitate planning and lead the meeting with the youth.

_____ Leader & Other Adult Volunteers: One adult agrees to be present as a team member at all meetings, while other co-leaders or volunteers may rotate.

_____ Leader coordinates meeting schedule. All parents are asked to be on a team to run meetings.
An example may be: Weekly Monthly Interest/Skill Groups Family Committee

Remember that cultivating leadership skills in youth is a core principle of Camp Fire. While ensuring safety and guidance, you can create opportunities for meaningful youth participation by offering young people leadership and facilitation responsibilities during your club meetings. Talk with your group about how and when they would like to take on facilitator responsibilities.

3. Our Club Will Meet:

Time: from _____to _____
Day of the Week: _____
Frequency: _____
Date of our first meeting _____
Place_____
Address _____Room_____

❒ The meeting site meets all safety considerations.

4. Build a Strong Support System:

Keep in mind that at least two adults are required at every meeting.

❒ **Recruit a Co-Leader:** Having a partner ensures safety and allows you to share responsibilities.
❒ **Seek Additional Support:** Consider parents, guardians, older siblings, or community members who share your passion for youth development. Tap into their diverse skills and perspectives to enrich your club experience.
❒ **Partner with Families:** Encourage families to participate in events, volunteer their time, or share their expertise during club meetings. Empower families to contribute by sharing leadership roles such as: record keeper; treasurer; newsletter editor; transportation coordinator; snack provider or preparer; activity set-up and clean-up manager; affiliate liaison; and coordinator of special events, presentations or workshops. You might also ask families to contribute in other ways, like providing supplies.

Job/Responsibility	Volunteer Name
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

❒ Keep Communication Lines Open: Establish clear communication channels with families through regular newsletters, emails, or family meetings. Read the Family Support section for more tips on effectively engaging and communicating with families, empowering you to build a strong support network for your club.

5. Registration:

Complete registration forms as required by your local Camp Fire affiliate. Fees will vary depending on your affiliate. Find out if financial aid is available.

How to Register: _____

The annual registration fee is $_____

6. Club Dues and Expenses:

Clubs maintain financial responsibility by ensuring transparent recordkeeping and agreeing on a system for decision-making, spending, and managing the club's treasury funds.

Clubs may start a bank account and collect dues or solicit a sponsor to cover costs. (Optional)

Some clubs collect a one-time start-up fee from each member in the beginning. Other clubs will collect dues at meetings (weekly, monthly, etc.). Choose the method that works best for your group and keep dues affordable for your members.

Our club will collect dues: Yes / No Our club will solicit a sponsor: Yes / No

Our club dues will be $_____ Weekly Monthly Quarterly Yearly

7. Fundraising and Expenses:

How our club will raise funds: _____

Here's how we anticipate spending our funds: (e.g. supplies and materials, meeting space fees, field trips, events, celebrations, recognition items, etc.) _____
_____

Remember that an important part of Camp Fire programming is involving youth through input and shared decision-making. This extends to managing club finances responsibly, creating a sense of ownership, and ensuring resources align with youth interests.

8. Program Curriculum

Curriculum Level: _____

(Little Stars, Starflight, Adventure, Discovery, Horizon, or a combination if you have a mixed-age club)

Clubs work through the small group curriculum by completing activities and projects in each of the five Trails: Trail to Knowing Me, Trail to Family and Community, Trail to Creativity, Trail to the Environment, and Trail to the Future.

Access Camp Fire Curriculum on Learning Lab!

To access Camp Fire national curricula and activity sets, visit our Curricula Page on **Learning Lab.**

www.campfireresources.org/national-curricula

9. Recognition and Display:

Recognition Attire: Camp Fire recognition attire allows youth to show off their accomplishments by displaying emblems, pins, beads, and other rewards and recognition items they have earned through their Camp Fire experiences. Youth wear their attire for ceremonies or to officially represent Camp Fire.

	Example:	Our Attire:
LITTLE STARS	Red Sash	
STARFLIGHT	Red Vest	
ADVENTURE	Blue Vest	
DISCOVERY & HORIZON	Blue Sash	

Check in with youth about how they would like to display their recognition items.

See more information about displaying recognition items in the Recognition and Ceremonies section of the Club Program Facilitator's Guide.

Our club will display recognition items in this way: _____

Note: Check with your affiliate to see if you offer financial assistance to youth for membership, uniforms, events, or other expenses. If you do not offer financial assistance, consider creating alternative options so all youth can participate.

10. Snacks and Refreshments

Meeting snacks are optional. Members may take turns bringing snack, or snacks may be paid for by the club treasury or affiliate. Make sure to ask families if there are any food preferences or allergies of which all adults should be aware.

11. Family Communication:

Our club will communicate with families primarily through this method: _____

12. Camp Fire Support

Get to know your support system and who to ask for help. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out!

Local Affiliate: _____

Affiliate Contact: _____

13. Emergency Contact Information

Incident Reporting Contact at Your Affiliate: _____

In addition to police, fire, and ambulance services, here are some other important emergency numbers to have on hand:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or Crisis Text Line: Dial 988 (This is a 24/7 resource for people in distress.)
- Local Domestic Violence Hotline: _____ (Many areas have a hotline specifically for domestic violence situations.)
- Child Abuse Hotline:_____ (There may be a national number and/or a hotline specific to your state. *Note: It is important to know your reporting procedures and requirements.*)
- Poison Control Center: _____ 1-800-222-1222 (Call if someone has ingested something poisonous.)
- Local Non-Emergency Police Number: _____ (Use this for situations that require police attention but are not life-threatening emergencies.)

For Safety and Emergency Checklists, see the Leading with Safety Section of the Club Program Facilitator's Guide.

3. CLUB PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Club Program Levels **29**

Small Group Curricula and Activity Sets **30**

Small Group Curricula 31

Activity Sets and Special Projects 33

Work Health Love Award **34**

Recognition and Ceremonies **35**

Recognition Items 35

Recognition Attire 36

Other Options for Recognition Display 38

Ceremonies 39

Incorporating Traditions 41

Friendship Circle 42

Club Program Levels

At all levels, youth in the Camp Fire Club Program follow the Five Trails on a journey toward self-discovery, community connection, and engagement with nature.

Clubs may form at any level and young people are welcome to enter the program at any stage!

Each level builds upon the skills learned in the previous level and offers youth increasing opportunities for input, decision-making, and leadership as they progress through the club experience.

Small Group Curricula and Activity Sets

The Camp Fire Club Program uses Camp Fire Small Group Curricula and Activity Sets as a tool for guiding youth on their Camp Fire journey toward self-discovery, community connection, and engagement with nature.

As a club leader, you will have access to these high-quality resources on the Learning Lab Curricula page. You'll find:

- **Curricula Sets:** In-depth, program-level curriculum provides a framework for club meetings with engaging, purposeful, and developmentally appropriate activities and step-by-step instructions.
- **Activity Sets and Special Projects:** Complement the curriculum with engaging themed activities that foster fun and skill-building.

Please note that teen programming is currently being reviewed to meet the needs of youth today. If you have any questions regarding progression, please reach out to programming@campfire.org.

Small Group Curricula

Camp Fire Small Group Curricula are developed for youth to explore their Sparks, learn new skills, and build strong relationships. Through a mix of activities, youth build relationships, tap into their passions and potential, and engage with their community.

Through hands-on experiential learning, the curricula build upon interests, curiosity, culture, diversity and the lives of each young person. The curricula are meant to be facilitated in a small group setting to allow for youth to create a sense of community and practice using their voice and choice in a group.

The Five Trails

Participants work through the small group curriculum by completing activities in each of the five Trails.

Trail to Knowing Me:

Youth learn about relationships, improve communication skills, gain self-knowledge, and learn how to stay healthy and safe. This Trail relates to the long-term benefit of Health & Well-being, as youth learn how to take care of their mind and body.

Trail to Family and Community:

Youth learn about families and communities, how to work as a team, how to become effective leaders, and how to help in their homes and communities. This Trail relates to the long-term benefit of Civic Engagement, as youth find their purpose in the world around them.

Trail to Creativity:

Youth stimulate creativity and imagination through activities that involve the visual and performing arts. This Trail relates to the long-term benefit of Academic Success, as youth learn that creativity comes in many forms.

Trail to the Environment:

Youth understand and appreciate the natural world by participating in activities focused on nature, environmental awareness, and animals. This Trail helps develop a life-long love of Nature.

Trail to the Future:

Youth develop numerous mental and physical skills needed for their futures by playing games to teach sharing, teamwork, and good sportsmanship. This Trail relates to the long-term benefit of Job/Career Readiness.

Choosing Projects with Your Group

Each Trail is comprised of **Projects,** which are sub-topics under the Trail subject areas. The curricula are split into these areas to ensure that the project enables them to gain skills that benefit youth's brains and bodies.

To complete a Trail, participants complete multiple **Activities** under one of the Projects available. Activities within Projects are grouped together because they follow a specific theme (e.g., self-care, team-building, creative writing, geology, etc.) and build upon each other to progress participants' understanding of the topic.

Each Trail has multiple Projects to choose from, with different activities in each. Work with the young people in your group to choose a Project they are interested in. It is recommended that you start with the first activity under each Project and proceed one after another so that the information will build upon itself.

Activity Format

All activities are presented in an easy-to-use and consistent format. The most important activity components featured in the activity templates are:

- Brief description of the activity
- Materials needed
- Step-by-step instructions
- Outcomes that the activity aims to teach
- Reflection questions
- Level adjustments to allow for the most engaging activity for all youth

Creating Custom Activities

Facilitators should use the Activity Planner Template when creating new activities for your club.

Learn how to plan purposeful activities in our Learning Lab course **Purposeful Programming**, which guides you in a program planning and facilitation approach that is thoughtful and intentional.

Resources can be found on Learning Lab.

Click here to access the Activity Planner Template.
Click here to access the Learning Lab course Purposeful Programming.

Activity Sets and Special Projects

Camp Fire clubs have a long tradition of participating in special projects that enhance program experiences for youth. Leaders have access to activity sets and special projects through the Learning Lab Curricula page and through affiliates. These activities include step-by-step instructions that complement the curriculum, and you can plan ahead of time to embed them into your program schedule.

Special projects and activity sets provide a platform for:

- **Skill Development:** Special projects often involve activities that enhance creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, and outdoor skills.
- **Purposeful Action:** Youth can tackle real-world issues and contribute to positive change in communities and beyond.
- **Special Interests:** Enhance Sparks and explore your club participant's interests by taking deep dives into special themes like art, music, STEM, and the outdoors.

Activity sets and special project guides can be downloaded on the Curricula Resource page on **Learning Lab:** campfireresources.org/national-curricula/

Work Health Love Award

Work, Health, and Love are values that have been central to Camp Fire since our founding in 1910.

The Work Health Love Award is the highest achievement for youth in Camp Fire. This prestigious award, open to teens in grades 9 through 12, offers opportunities for personal development, leadership, and advocacy on important issues.

The award is earned by completing an intensive and highly individualized project. Teens design their projects based on their interests, values, and goals. Completing the requirements to earn the Work Health Love Award takes hard work, dedication, motivation, creativity, determination, and discipline. The award demonstrates perseverance, the ability to set and achieve meaningful goals, a strong work ethic, commitment to community service, and leadership.

Those in the 9th grade or higher may begin working on the three-year journey toward the Work Health Love Award. Activities are completed individually under the guidance of an advisor. It is recommended that all work be completed by the time award recipients graduate from high school so the achievement can be recognized on their resume and applications.

For more information, contact your affiliate and access the Work Health Love Award resource packet on **Learning Lab.**

Recognition and Ceremonies

Recognition is an important part of all Camp Fire programs. It is a powerful tool that helps youth build positive identities and pride in their accomplishments. This dedication extends to our adult leaders as well, recognizing their invaluable contributions to the Camp Fire community.

Recognition comes in many forms, both tangible and intangible. A warm smile, a heartfelt compliment – these authentic gestures create a supportive environment. Recognition can also become a visual record of the projects and activities in which members have participated.

Whether recognizing outstanding achievements, years of dedicated participation, or simply everyday progress, effort, and experiences, Camp Fire celebrates individual and group accomplishments in a variety of ways.

Club leaders and youth should consider how they will incorporate recognition and celebration into their Camp Fire club experience.

Recognition Items

Camp Fire emblems are more than just decorations or rewards; they are **tangible symbols of accomplishment.** These emblems represent the skills, knowledge, and experiences young people gain as they progress through the program. Earning emblems provides a sense of pride and motivates youth to continue learning and growing. Young people are excited to be recognized for the work they do in Camp Fire!

How Youth Earn Recognition Items

Camp Fire club members can earn **Emblems** or other recognition items as they complete Projects and Trails within their program level. The requirements for earning items vary for each age group, so be sure to check the curriculum for details.

Club members also have opportunities to earn recognition for special projects, community contributions, leadership roles, and activities they participate in outside of Camp Fire. Examples of other ways youth can earn recognition are through sports, performing arts, creative arts, or other special interests.

Marking progress through recognition can be especially motivating to young people who are working toward larger goals. After each activity, consider incorporating small rewards or recognitions that acknowledge achievement and progress. This could be anything from beads, stickers, or certificates to entries in record books or personal accomplishment journals youth fill out after each meeting.

Youth benefit from frequent recognition. You are encouraged to have a short recognition ceremony each time a Project is completed. At this time, you can present recognition items to your group.

Centering Youth Voice

Youth like to be recognized for their work by adults who they know and trust. For some, emblems and stickers are very important. Others might appreciate certificates or vouchers that can be exchanged for something. Talk with youth about what recognition items would be the most meaningful to them.

Learn more about how youth can earn recognition items at the Emblem page on Learning Lab: campfireresources.org/camp-fire-emblems/.

Recognition Attire

Camp Fire recognition attire offers a sense of unity and belonging for club members.

While every program may take a different approach to recognition attire depending on the needs of your community, uniform attire gives youth a place to display their recognition items and can create a sense of pride and camaraderie within the club and across the Camp Fire network.

Youth wear their attire for ceremonies or to officially represent Camp Fire at occasions such as club meetings, field trips, product sales, or other events and outings. Wearing Camp Fire attire creates awareness and visibility of Camp Fire in the community.

The suggested attire for youth is a solid white top, blue or khaki pants, and a Camp Fire sash or vest signifying program level.

Emblem Placement

The Camp Fire identification and program-level emblems are placed over the heart. We encourage youth to make their own creative choices and decide where to place the remaining emblems on their attire or gear.

Example Recognition Attire

Little Stars	Red Sash
Starflight	Red Vest
Adventure	Blue Vest
Discovery & Horizon	Blue Sash

LITTLE STARS

STARFLIGHT

ADVENTURE

DISCOVERY & HORIZON

At all levels, Camp Fire youth pair their recognition attire with a white shirt and blue pants.

The Camp Fire identification and program level emblems are placed over the heart.

We encourage youth to make their own creative choices to decide where to place the remaining emblems on their uniforms or gear.

Other Options for Recognition Display

As part of the Make Your Mark emblem redesign in 2021, teens from across the Camp Fire network expressed they wanted more freedom in how and where they display their Camp Fire awards and recognition. Young people were excited to have new options like vinyl stickers so they can share their accomplishments wherever they go. While traditional vests and sashes held many emblems, young people wanted to publicly display some of their accomplishments without wearing a uniform and asked for more youth choice.

In the same way that we allow clubs to name themselves as a group, we also encourage clubs to work together to determine if they'd like the club to display emblems in one standard way, and, if so, how. Take time in the early stages of your club to allow young people to determine what they would like and what is most accessible to all members. Keep in mind these are awards and recognitions for young people, so their display of those should be their own.

Build whatever skills are needed to maintain their displays into your club programming. Need cool sweatshirts or jackets? Take a field trip to the thrift store. Teach skills like sewing so that maintaining and adding to emblem displays is something young people can do themselves. Awards and recognition should not burden parents or families.

Here are some examples of emblem display options happening at affiliates and brainstormed by our youth consultants:

- Banners
- Water bottles
- Backpacks
- Messenger bags
- Record books
- Sticker books
- T-shirts

Options for adhering emblems to display items:

- Sewing
- Velcro (so emblems can be moved around)
- E6000 Glue (can be found at local store)

Ceremonies

Ceremonies are important Camp Fire traditions that help us celebrate our experiences, and they are valuable opportunities for youth to be recognized for their efforts and accomplishments. These ceremonies can mark the completion of a project, the earning of emblems, milestones in the club's journey, or any other reason. Ceremonies also help us celebrate the shared journey of Camp Fire.

Participation in ceremonies that recognize achievements, mark occasions in the lives of youth, or focus on special emotions of the group are an important part of young people's self-development. The members of a Starflight Club receiving their first emblem, the Adventurer earning their Trail awards, the Discovery member taking the lead to help campers and ending a weekend trip on an inspirational note, or the teen in a Horizon club leading a community initiative are all growing in self-awareness and developing a positive self-identity. Years later, youth remember with pride the Camp Fire memories they took part in.

Youth in any group situation can benefit from the opportunity to share their feelings and reflect on what they have accomplished individually and together. Ceremonies can give youth this opportunity whether they are planned or spontaneous.

Youth also benefit from frequent and continuous celebration, acknowledging both the grand accomplishments and the everyday victories. Big or small—celebrate all! There should also be a place in the lives of youth for celebration that has no specific purpose other than the shared experience. Spontaneous ceremonies can turn these memories into magical moments.

Here are some reasons to hold ceremonies:

- Receiving rewards and recognition items
- Fly-ups (completing a program level, such as moving up from Starflight to Adventure)
- The end of a service project
- The end of a special event
- Any occasion the group is excited about or proud of
- An outdoor experience such as a camping trip
- Family events

Ceremonies can be held indoors or outdoors. You might just involve your group, or you may invite families, caregivers, and other special people. A Camp Fire ceremony is to celebrate an experience together, rather than a performance or a show for others to view. Including guests in the ceremony by singing songs, lighting candles, or joining a friendship circle adds another layer of connection and shared experience.

Camp Fire Celebration

Camp Fire Celebration is the traditional ceremonial event held at the end of the program year to celebrate club experiences and accomplishments. It is typically an affiliate-wide event that provides an opportunity to bring different clubs together, though some clubs may choose to plan and conduct their own Camp Fire Celebration individually.

Camp Fire Celebration can be a great opportunity for older youth to get involved in planning and leading. Some affiliates rotate leadership responsibilities among clubs with older youth. Planning and hosting the event can be a valuable culminating experience for teens who are getting ready to graduate from the program.

Ask clubs to share special projects, show off accomplishments or Sparks, or perform songs and skits representing their time in Camp Fire. Some youth may feel comfortable speaking in front of a group while others may prefer bringing an object or drawing that symbolizes something they learned or enjoyed about their time in Camp Fire.

Planning Ceremonies

Ceremonies have three distinct parts – an opening, a middle, and an ending. They do not have to be long, however. Even just a few minutes can be meaningful.

Opening – Set the mood and focus of the ceremony. Invite youth to help choose a theme.

- Candles are often used because of the symbolism of the flame to a campfire. (When open flames are not appropriate or allowed, battery candles also work well.)
- Traditionally, red, white, and blue candles have had special meaning in Camp Fire ceremonies. Blue stands for WORK, red stands for HEALTH, and white stands for LOVE. Together they symbolize the Camp Fire tradition of Work, Health, Love.
- Groups could stand in a friendship circle and share a silent moment or sing a song.

Middle – During the middle, the theme is communicated, and the purpose is met. Suggestions:

- Communicate the theme in words or actions.
- Recite a short poem or sing a song related to the theme.
- Demonstrate a skill learned in earning an award.
- Tell a story about how the group completed the project.
- Give youth opportunities to share their Spark.
- Present rewards and recognition in a creative way. Youth prefer when awards are given to them by a known, trusted adult.

Closing – The closing should make the ceremony a time to remember. End with an activity that involves everyone. Suggestions:

- Extinguish candles or flames of a campfire.
- Share a song or poem.
- Share closing reflections of events.
- Gather in a friendship circle.
- Pass a symbol of achievement, such as an emblem, from person to person.
- Have youth share what they are particularly proud of.
- Write personal goals or wishes on small pieces of paper and tuck them away or burn them in a campfire.

Take care to be sure ceremonies do not use culturally appropriative language, symbols, or traditions.

Incorporating Traditions

When traditions and rituals are woven into our celebrations, they add layers of meaning and purpose. These rituals act as threads that shape identities and foster a strong sense of community. They help us connect with something larger than ourselves, imbuing experiences with significance and emotional depth.

Traditional elements, like lighting candles or sharing a song, can evoke past experiences and create a powerful sense of shared history. Participating in these traditions allows young people to feel a sense of belonging and connection to a larger group. As they participate year after year, these rituals become ingrained in their Camp Fire identity.

The Power of Song

Feedback from youth tells us young people also recognize songs as an important part of club activities. They intuitively understand the power of song to bring people together and promote a sense of unity and belonging. By incorporating songs into your club's experiences, you can create lasting memories and foster a strong sense of community within your group.

Our Commitment to Addressing and Ending Cultural Appropriation

Historically, Camp fire has created symbols, emblems, and traditions using Native and Indigenous cultures as primary influences. In 2019, Camp Fire began work to acknowledge, address, and end our use of language, symbols, and traditions inspired by Native and Indigenous cultures. We understand that our historic use and creation of items that were meant to mimic Native and Indigenous cultures, particularly through our rewards, recognitions, and ceremonies, have caused harm to Native and Indigenous communities by contributing to the homogenization, stereotyping, and erasure of these cultures. **Learn more in our Learning Lab course:** Cultural Appropriation and Camp Fire.

Striking a Balance: Honoring Traditions and Embracing Innovation

Don't be afraid to create new traditions. It's valuable to incorporate established Camp Fire rituals (that are not culturally appropriative), but creating new ones fosters a sense of ownership and allows young people to express themselves uniquely.

The Friendship Circle

A friendship circle is a traditional way to close a Camp Fire session and a powerful ritual that strengthens bonds and fosters a sense of camaraderie within the group.

Have the youth stand in a tight circle, cross their right arm over their left and join hands with the person on each side. Explain that a "friendship squeeze" will be passed around the circle carrying a special feeling for everyone to take home. Ask members to gently squeeze the hand of their neighbor to their right, signifying well wishes and positive energy. Encourage participants to focus on the feeling of connection as the squeeze travels around the circle, returning to the person who started it.

You may choose to add a personal touch by inviting participants to silently share a word or phrase that represents how they are feeling as the squeeze travels around. Your group may also choose to sing a song in the friendship circle.

4. PLANNING AND FACILITATING CLUB MEETINGS

Planning and Facilitating Club Meetings **45**
Small Group Quick Planning Guide **46**
Agenda Planning Template 50

Planning and Facilitating Club Meetings

Most Camp Fire club meetings follow a similar plan. The club meeting plan incorporates best practices that support connection by incorporating rituals, routines, traditions, and other tactics that promote community-building. Each meeting focuses on an activity that aligns with program outcomes and provides opportunities for peer-to-peer engagement, exploration, and fun.

The **Small Group Quick Planning Guide** on the next pages offers an easy format to help you get started planning fun and engaging meetings.

For a more in-depth look at planning and facilitating, see the **Small Group Facilitator's Guide.**

Guiding a New Camp Fire Club with the Our Club Project

The Our Club Project is the perfect launchpad for new Camp Fire clubs. This specially designed project guides you through the **first four club meetings,** laying the groundwork for a vibrant and successful group. Think of it as a roadmap to help you create a welcoming and inclusive climate where young people feel comfortable expressing themselves. You will find the Our Club project in the final section of this guide.

SMALL GROUP QUICK PLANNING GUIDE

This guide will help facilitators plan intentional and engaging group activities! Use the Agenda Planning Template to help you structure your group session.

- ❒ 1. Start with Purpose!
- ❒ 2. Choose Your Group's Activity.
- ❒ 3. Plan Your Agenda.
- ❒ 4. Facilitate!
- ❒ 5. Reflect On Your Experience.

1. Start with Purpose!

Planning a fun, inclusive, and impactful experience for young people is about aligning with **youth needs, wants, interests, and program goals.** Ask youth for their input!

At Camp Fire, our primary purpose is to support connection. We believe in more than just completed projects—we are interested in how each activity is part of a larger journey, leading youth toward growth and discovery. Our program is planned, intentional, and responsive, ensuring that each activity we do with youth is a meaningful step towards learning or building skills related to social, emotional, cognitive, and physical well-being. This learning focus connects to desired youth outcomes by supporting the development of essential skills and mindsets:

Connection to Outdoors

- Comfort in nature
- Care for the environment
- Commitment to environmental justice

Connection to Others

- Relationship building
- Respect others
- Creative thinking
- Community contribution

Connection to Self

- Self-awareness
- Positive identity
- Belonging

Start by considering the purpose of the activity based on youth input and the desired youth outcomes.

2. Choose Your Group's Activity.

Camp Fire Small Group Curricula are tools for guiding youth through Camp Fire's Five Trails on a journey toward self-discovery, community connection, and engagement with nature. Camp Fire's curricula and activity sets will help you plan experiences that are purposeful, engaging, and developmentally appropriate for your small group.

Access and download curricula and activity sets on the **Camp Fire National Curricula page.**

The (developed for grades K-2) and **Adventure** (developed for grades 3-5) level curricula can be adapted to the needs of your group.

1. **Work with youth** to choose projects based on their wants, needs, and interests.
2. **Choose a Trail from one of the Five Trails:** Trail to Knowing Me, Trail to Family and Community, Trail to Creativity, Trail to the Environment, and Trail to the Future.
3. **Choose a Project within a Trail.**
4. **Complete all Activities within a Project to complete a Trail.**
5. **Earn Rewards and Recognition Items**!
   See the Emblem page on Learning Lab: campfireresources.org/camp-fire-emblems/ to learn how youth earn recognition awards in the form of stickers or emblems for the Projects and Trails they complete.

3. Plan Your Agenda.

The following elements should make up most small group sessions, though you will need to be flexible and adjust depending on your time constraints:

Welcome/Greeting: Welcome youth to the program space with a warm greeting! Use positive words, inclusive body language, or welcoming rituals like high fives, fist bumps, or special handshakes to promote belonging. Welcome youth by name and convey genuine interest in their well-being.

Early Bird Activity: *(< 5 mins)* Be prepared with something for youth to do while they wait for others to arrive. Think of what jobs they can do to help set up an activity or prepare for your session. Offer a choice of activities like playing cards, puzzles, games, drawing, centers, or free play. Consider using your Early Bird activity to introduce youth to materials related to the activity's theme.

Firestarter: *(5-10 mins)* Energize, relax, or promote connection at the beginning of program time with warm-up activities like team-building games, challenges, and mindfulness practices. These dynamic activities are the sparks that ignite connection, excitement, and focus right from the start. A list of suggested Firestarters can be found at the beginning of your curriculum guide.

Opening: *(5-10 mins)* Start with an engaging ritual or tradition, like an opening circle, song, or thought-provoking question to set the tone and begin each session in a meaningful way. During the opening, you will also want to address housekeeping business like taking attendance, checking a job chart, assigning responsibilities, planning, etc.

Main Activity: *(20-30 mins)* Choose an activity from Camp Fire curriculum based on desired program outcomes and youth input. This structured activity aligns with your purpose, providing opportunities for learning, collaboration, and fun.

Reflection: *(5-10 mins)* Conclude with reflection activities that encourage participants to process their experience, solidify learning, and share takeaways. Reflection activities should always be included. Be sure to make time for reflection even if it means ending an activity early.

Look Ahead: *(5 mins.)* Involve youth in making decisions about future sessions. This might include planning a particular snack, activity, game, or event. Remind youth about permission forms, supplies, or clothing they may need at the next session.

Closing: *(<5 mins)* To close your program on a high note, embrace the power of meaningful closing rituals. End with a fun, shared experience that fosters connection, emphasizes community, and leaves everyone feeling uplifted. Your closing ritual could be a friendship circle, a special song sung together, or a poem recited in unison. Repetition is key—make it a ritual you repeat at the end of each session, creating a sense of belonging.

Sample timing represents a session lasting 1-1.5 hours.

4. Facilitate!

Use these steps to guide you through activity facilitation.

Prepare

- Use the Agenda Planner Template below to plan your program agenda.
- Gather supplies and materials and prepare the activity space.
- Consider how you will use Group Formers to split into smaller teams or partners if necessary.
- Consider whether any participants may need physical accommodations.
- Consider any responsibilities or leadership roles youth can engage in during the activity.

Engage

- Start by asking youth broad questions that get them thinking about the topic at hand. Get discussion going during an opening circle when youth are focused, laying the groundwork and helping smooth the transition into your main activity.
- Ask youth how they feel about the activity, if they have ever done something like it, or if it will be new. Ask them to share what they already know about the topic/activity.
- Let your tone set the mood for the activity. Your energy is contagious!
- Break down complex tasks to make them approachable and less intimidating.
- Guide inquiry. Answer questions with questions to promote deeper thinking and encourage diverse perspectives.
- Model attentiveness as an active listener! Draw out contributions from all participants.
- Finally, follow their lead. Give youth control of their experience by letting them direct their learning.

Reflect

Get young people thinking and reflecting deeply about their experience! Reflection is embedded into each activity, and follows the "What, So What?, Now What?" format. These three categories help guide your reflection in an engaging and meaningful way:

WHAT? Youth summarize their experience and discuss what went well and what needs work.

SO WHAT? Youth think about why the experience matters and assess their own skills.

NOW WHAT? Youth consider how the experience matters in a broader context and how they can use these skills outside of Camp Fire.

- Use a variety of reflection strategies with youth, so the reflection will stay fresh and effective.
- Always emphasize the importance of creating a space where everyone feels comfortable sharing and participating. Offer specific guidance and support on active listening and demonstrating respect and kindness towards others.
- Be sure to acknowledge all youth comments, responses, questions, and contributions!

5. Reflect On Your Experience.

After your session, take some time to reflect on your own experience as a facilitator. What worked well? What did you learn as a facilitator? Were there any challenges you encountered, and how can you approach them differently next time? By reflecting on your practice, you can create an even better experience for young people.

Tips For Leaders

- **Prioritize Physical and Emotional Safety:** Cultivate a haven of respect. Set clear expectations, redirect positively, and be understanding of individual needs. Involve youth in co-creating guidelines that promote kindness and inclusivity. Be consistent in holding youth and yourself accountable.
- **Encourage Youth-Led Exploration:** Incorporate youth voice by empowering youth with input, decision-making, and leadership opportunities. Be open to their ideas and let their curiosity guide the learning journey. Invite youth to make their own plans and set their own goals.
- **Focus on Connection:** Prioritize reflection and relationship-building over content. If your activity is not working, the connection is still valuable. Model and create opportunities for youth to practice empathy, kindness, and explore emotions.
- **Work Together:** Create opportunities for collaboration, where youth learn to value differences, listen actively, and work towards shared goals. Recognize and appreciate the unique ideas and skills of each young person.
- **Be Prepared:** Have a few backup activities in your toolkit. It's always better to be overprepared than underprepared. Don't worry if the activities take longer than expected. You can always revisit activities in future sessions.
- **Consider Snack Time (Optional):** Plan time for youth to have snacks. Invite them to try new things without any pressure, while also offering options that are comfortable and tasty for youth. Plan timing strategically for optimal energy levels. Gather information about participants' dietary restrictions and allergies in advance.
- **Be Flexible!** Adapt the plan as needed to accommodate the flow of the program and youth engagement. Don't be afraid to pivot in the moment when the needs of your participants change.

Quality Checklist

❒ Yes	❒ No	Does the plan provide an appropriate level of challenge for your age group?
❒ Yes	❒ No	Does the plan provide enough active learning to keep youth engaged throughout?
❒ Yes	❒ No	Does the plan include a variety of grouping sizes (pairs, small groups, large group)?
❒ Yes	❒ No	Does the plan include opportunities for youth to make choices, offer input, and participate in decision-making?
❒ Yes	❒ No	Does the activity allow youth to lead or help others?
❒ Yes	❒ No	Does the activity provide opportunities to practice group process skills like contributing ideas, taking turns, active listening, and sharing tasks?
❒ Yes	❒ No	Does the activity provide an opportunity for youth to plan or make goals?
❒ Yes	❒ No	Are there opportunities for youth to name or explore their emotions?
❒ Yes	❒ No	Does the reflection relate to the activity's purpose and outcomes?
❒ Yes	❒ No	Are the reflection questions open-ended?

AGENDA PLANNING TEMPLATE

Group:

Activity Title:

Time:

Date:

Trail:

Materials:

Welcome/Greeting
Early Bird Activity
Firestarter
Opening
Main Activity
Reflection
Look Ahead
Closing

Youth Outcomes (See The Camp Fire Journey):

Notes/Facilitator Reflection:

5. A GUIDE TO YOUR FIRST FOUR MEETINGS

The Our Club Project 53

Meeting Plan 1: Getting to Know You 54

Meeting Plan 2: Camp Fire Trails 57

Meeting Plan 3: Our Club Name 63

Meeting Plan 4: Our Club Banner and Celebration 68

A Guide for Your First Four Meetings

PROJECT: Our Club

LEVEL: Starflight and Adventure

PURPOSE: Youth develop an understanding of Camp Fire and begin to establish a cohesive group.

YOUTH OUTCOMES: Relationship Building, Belonging, Respect Others

MEETING PLANS:

1. Getting to Know You
2. Camp Fire Trails
3. Our Club Name
4. Our Club Banner and Celebration

- Many leaders use this project to introduce Camp Fire to their newly formed clubs.
- The Our Club project is developed for Starflight or Adventure level clubs, but the activities can be adjusted for younger or older groups.
- There may be more activities in the meeting plan than you can do. However, it is better to be overprepared than underprepared. If youth really enjoy an activity or it takes longer than expected, carry over an activity to the next meeting.
- Consider revisiting elements of the Our Club project when new members join an established club to help build community and introduce them to Camp Fire.

Launch your club with this fun and collaborative project that sets the tone for the year ahead!

Getting a new club started can be overwhelming without knowing exactly where to start. The Our Club project is meant to guide facilitators through their first four club meetings and introduce Camp Fire to their newly formed clubs. By following these meeting plans you will learn practical strategies for structuring engaging and productive club meetings that prioritize connection and build community.

The Our Club project provides more detailed instructions than other projects because the structure of your early meetings can guide the rest of your club experience. By focusing on building connections, fostering youth voice, and establishing clear expectations, you're laying the foundation for a thriving Camp Fire club.

- **Encourage Youth-Led Exploration:** Incorporate youth voice by empowering youth with input and decision-making opportunities. Let young people take the lead whenever possible (even if it takes a little longer). This might look like taking responsibility for daily routines, presenting ideas to a small group, leading a group project, or choosing and planning program activities. Be open to their ideas and willing to step back and let curiosity guide their learning journey.
- **Celebrate All Contributions:** Recognize and appreciate the unique ideas and skills of each young person. Highlight their strengths and talents, creating a space where everyone feels valued and respected.

Remember, our primary purpose is to support connection. While activities and learning are important, focus on creating a safe and inclusive environment where youth can build relationships, practice empathy and kindness, and explore their emotions together. If your activity isn't quite working, don't be afraid to shift gears. Connection and positive interactions are what truly matter!

Our Club Project: MEETING PLAN #1

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Purpose: Learn about each other, begin to develop a sense of belonging to a club, introduce Sparks and the Camp Fire Logo, create club guidelines, and introduce the method in which your club chooses to display their recognition items.

Kid-Friendly Purpose: Today we will play some games to help us get to know each other and to know more about Camp Fire.

Materials:

- ❒ Name tags or index cards, masking tape and yarn (if not using stick-on name tags), and crayons and markers for creating name tags.
- ❒ A soft ball or toy (beach ball, soft rubber, sponge ball, or plush toy) for the "Get Acquainted" ball game.
- ❒ A picture of the Camp Fire logo (printed or on a screen).
- ❒ A large sheet of paper, whiteboard, or other method for brainstorming club guidelines.
- ❒ Bandana, handkerchief, or scarf for the "Giggle, Giggle, Giggle" game.
- ❒ A large sheet of paper or poster board and drawing supplies for creating a Group Mural.
- ❒ An example of recognition items and methods for displaying them.

Preparation:

Gather name tag supplies. You will need either pre-made name tags or index cards along with masking tape and yarn. For younger groups, consider pre-writing names on their name tags.

Greeting

Welcome youth warmly to the program space. Make everyone feel welcome with personal greetings, positive words, and inclusive body language. Introduce yourself and your co-leader.

Early Bird Activity

Give youth an index card with their name on it or have older youth write their own name. Invite them to use crayons or markers to decorate their nametags while they wait for the group to arrive. Ask youth to wear their nametags.

Firestarter

Get Acquainted Ball Game

Ask members to stand in a circle. Gently bounce, toss, or roll a soft ball or toy to one member. When youth receive the ball, ask them to say their name. Ask older youth to share something unique about themselves. Ask that the ball be returned to you. Repeat until everyone is introduced.

Variations: Ask: "What animal would you be?", "What's your favorite holiday?", "What's your favorite color?", "Say your name and an animal that begins with the same letter," etc.

As the group gets more comfortable, have youth create the questions.

Opening

Ask the group to sit in a circle with you.

Get young people's attention by playing "Copy My Rhythm." Create a rhythm by clapping, snapping, knee-slapping, vocal noises, singing, or any other noise. Participants follow the rhythm. This can be done as a repeating rhythm or as a call and response. Mix it up by increasing the difficulty as you go. Once you've modeled this opening, allow participants to lead the rhythm.

When you have everyone's attention, begin the discussion.

Introduce Camp Fire

Staying in the circle, discuss with youth what it means to belong to a Camp Fire club. Ask youth, "What does it mean to belong to a group?"

Explain that Camp Fire is all about having fun and learning by doing! The more we explore with our friends in Camp Fire, the more we will discover about ourselves, our friends, and even the world around us. We will plan projects, adventures, and activities together. You will get to make choices based on your interests. We will help each other out and build a community where everyone feels like they belong. At Camp Fire you can have fun and be yourself!

Camp Fire Logo

Ask a club member to hold up the Camp Fire logo. Explain that it is the symbol for Camp Fire. Explain that a symbol is used to help people easily remember something. Ask youth about other common symbols they might know. Explain that the Camp Fire symbol means "lighting the fire within." Explain that the Camp Fire logo represents a view of a campfire from above. The logo also represents a spark that ignites the fire from within.

In Camp Fire, Sparks are your passions - things you love to do and want to do. At Camp Fire we will explore our Sparks by doing fun activities and trying new things.

Ask youth to think about their Sparks. Give youth time to share with a partner(s), then with the whole group.

Business (Tasks, Tour, and Group Norms)

Explain that there will be some business to take care of at each meeting. Demonstrate by taking attendance and collecting dues (if applicable). Today, they will take a short tour of the meeting area and choose their club guidelines.

Tour: Give youth a quick tour of the meeting area. Share your ground rules about where they can go and what they can do in the meeting area. Describe areas which are off limits. Show them where they can put their belongings. Let them know which restroom facilities they can use. (During Our Club Meeting Plan #2 you will go on a more in-depth safety tour.)

Group Norms: Let youth know that as a group they will create guidelines for how they want to treat each other. Explain that it is important for the group to agree to these guidelines, as they will make the group operate smoothly and make Camp Fire a comfortable and safe place for everyone. You may want to point out how traffic rules keep people safe on the road.

Ask youth to raise their hands and share ideas they think should go on the list. Prompt youth to think about how they want to treat each other and their meeting space. Let this be a brainstorming session. Help the youth to make the final list of guidelines or expectations.

Note that these expectations may need to be adjusted as the group continues. Refer to them as needed by reminding youth that they created and agreed to them. Use positive language (focusing on desired behaviors) and hold adults accountable as well as youth.

Suggested Guidelines:

- **Be respectful:** Listen to others, use kind words, and be inclusive.
- **Take care of our space:** Clean up after ourselves and keep the meeting area neat.
- **Participate and listen actively:** Share your ideas and be involved in activities.

Agree to follow the guidelines.

Main Activity

Start a discussion about how friends work together in a Camp Fire club. Friends depend on each other for help, ideas, and fun!

Explain in the next game(s) they will work together just like in their Camp Fire club.

Note: You may not have time to play all three games at your first meeting. Save what you don't get to for another time. Make sure to wrap up activities with enough time for Reflection and Closing.

Friends Game

1. Divide youth into pairs (See Group Formers in the Starflight or Adventure curriculum guide for tips). Space the pairs around the room. If there is an uneven number, a leader can pair with youth.

2. Tell the group, "Partners are going to perform a task or act out the motion together. An example would be 'Swimming through Jell-O.'" Ask, "How can the two of you get through the Jell-O?"

Tell youth to act out some of the following tasks and motions to continue the game, or ask youth to create their own:

Play baseball with your friend.

- Be very small with your friend.
- Sit on the floor back-to-back, bend your knees, and try to stand up.
- Balance on a log without falling off.
- Put your thumbs together and dance up and down.
- Hold up your left foot and hop with your friend.
- Mirror facial expressions with your friend (smiles, frowns, etc.)

Change partners several times during the game so youth have a chance to work with other club members.

Giggle, Giggle, Giggle Game

Stand in a circle. Have one member throw a scarf in the air. When the scarf is in the air, everyone giggles. As soon as the scarf hits the floor, everyone must stop giggling. Next, have youth wiggle their noses or clap their hands until the scarf touches the floor. Ask youth to decide on actions to perform or sounds to make while the scarf is in the air.

Or

All My Neighbors

Stand in a close circle. Have one person stand in the middle. This person calls out "All my neighbors wearing red." Those people wearing red must hurry to switch places with someone else who is wearing red. The person in the middle tries to find a place in an empty spot. Whoever is left without a spot calls out another identifying factor, like wearing lace-up shoes, loves the color blue, etc.

Note: Give youth a chance to lead the game. Encourage each leader. Explain that being a leader in the game will help them be good leaders in their club.

Camp Fire Recognition Items

Share with youth that Camp Fire club members can earn Emblems or other recognition items as they complete projects. Discuss with youth the method their group would like to use to display recognition items. (Choices might include vests/sashes, banners, record books, backpacks, water bottles, etc. Learn more in the "Recognition and Ceremonies" section of the Club Program Facilitator's Guide.)

Group Mural

Spread a large sheet of paper on the floor. Make markers or other drawing materials available. Ask youth to find a space on the paper to write their names or draw their handprints. Have them draw pictures of their Sparks: things they like to do, games they like to play, what they like to do with their friends, what they do to help someone, what they would like to do with their club, etc.

Encourage older youth to cooperate on their drawings. Be sure to draw something about yourself. This helps youth learn about you as well.

Ask each young person to share what they drew. You may choose to cut apart the mural and let youth take home their sections or you may choose to display it at the next few meetings. Ask youth what they prefer.

Take note of youth's interests. These can help you consider plans for the year.

Reflection

Encourage participants to process their experience, solidify learning, and share takeaways.

What?
What did you learn about someone else today? Ask youth if they remember each other's Sparks.
What excites you about being in a Camp Fire club?
So What?
How did being with your Camp Fire club today make you feel?
Why is it important to make sure everyone follows the club guidelines?
Now What?
What else can we do?
What did you like, what did you not like about today?
How do the things you learned or experienced apply to other aspects of your life?

Look Ahead

Tell youth they will continue working on the Our Club project at their next Camp Fire meeting. Ask what other plans they would like to make for the year.

Closing

To close on a high note, embrace the power of meaningful closing rituals. End with a fun, shared experience that fosters connection, emphasizes community, and leaves everyone feeling positive and uplifted. Your closing ritual could be a friendship circle, a special song sung together, or a poem recited in unison, and you can ask youth what they would like to do as a group. Repetition is key—make it a ritual you repeat at the end of each session, creating a sense of belonging.

Friendship Circle

Use a friendship circle to close the meeting. A friendship circle is a traditional way to close a Camp Fire session and a powerful ritual that strengthens bonds and fosters a sense of camaraderie within the group.

Have the youth stand in a tight circle, cross their **right arm over their left,** and join hands with the person on each side. Explain that a "friendship squeeze" will be passed around the circle carrying a special feeling for everyone to take home. Ask members to gently squeeze the hand of their neighbor to their right, signifying well wishes and positive energy. Encourage participants to focus on the **feeling of connection** as the squeeze travels around the circle, returning to the person who started it.

Our Club Project MEETING PLAN #2

CAMP FIRE TRAILS

Purpose: Youth will continue getting to know one another, take an in-depth safety tour around the program space, learn about leadership roles, and explore the Camp Fire Trail to Knowing Me.

Kid-Friendly Purpose: Today we will find out how we will stay safe at Camp Fire, learn about some jobs we can do in our club, and play some fun games to help us get to know Camp Fire's Trails.

Materials:

- ❒ Construction paper cut into strips (approximately 3 x 8 in.); stapler, tape or glue; and coloring utensils such as pencils, pens, or markers for creating a Friendship Chain.
- ❒ Attendance sheet or other method of tracking (if keeping record).
- ❒ Rope, painter's tape, yarn, chalk, or another way to make a line for the Cross the Line game.

Preparation:

Cut construction paper into strips (approximately 3 x 8 in.).

Greeting

Welcome youth warmly to the program space. Connect with youth by greeting them by name and mentioning something positive that stood out from the previous meeting.

Early Bird

Friendship Chain Preparation: On one side of the strip of construction paper, ask youth to write or draw qualities of friendship that they bring to the group. For example: laughter, leadership, funny, friendly, or kind. Have them write their name on the inside (remember to allow an inch on each end for space to connect the strips). Help youth write if needed. Collect the strips. You will connect the strips and finish the activity during the opening circle.

Firestarter

Side to Side Game

Group youth into partners. Designate someone to be "It." "It" calls out "knee to knee," "elbow to head" or "hand to hand." Partners touch or "air touch" appropriate body parts together (elbow, knee, finger, thumb, foot, wrist, palm, etc.). "It" continues calling out parts and finally says "Side to Side!" When "Side to Side!" is called, everyone changes partners, and whoever is left without a partner becomes "It."

Note: If a young person prefers not to be touched by another member, they can sit and watch the activity OR touch their own elbows, needs, fingers, etc. together.

Opening

Call youth to the opening circle. Tell youth that today they will play games and continue to work on the Our Club project to get to know each other and what it is like to be in a Camp Fire club.

Friendship Chain: Pass their strips of paper back to them and tell them you are going to create a Friendship Chain. Tape, glue, or staple the first strip into a circle, then help youth connect the next strip through the first circle and so on, creating a chain. Display the chain, pointing out how each club member is important to the club just as each link in the chain is important. Explain that in Camp Fire, their club is a way of working together and sharing all their ideas, talents, and personalities.

Business: (Take Attendance, Collect Dues (if applicable), Introduce Job Leaders)

Take attendance and collect dues if applicable.

Club Guidelines: Ask youth if they have thought of any changes that should be made to the club guidelines.

Remind them that the club guidelines will help keep Camp Fire a fun, safe, and welcoming space for everyone.

Job Leaders: Explain that one way a club accomplishes things is with helpers. They can be called officers, job leaders, or another term decided by the club. Everyone will have a chance to have a leadership job during their time at Camp Fire.

Ask youth to brainstorm some jobs they could do to help their club run smoothly. Ask youth how they will decide what jobs will be chosen. Help youth practice group process skills like contributing ideas, taking turns, and active listening.

Examples:

- Supply Leader: helps the adult leaders distribute and collect supplies.
- Clean-up Leader: gets everyone involved in clean-up.
- Attendance Leader: records attendance.
- Snack Leader: helps prepare and clean up snack.
- Closing Leader: starts the song or hand squeeze in the closing of the friendship circle.

Safety Tour

Remind youth about the tour of the meeting facility you took during the first meeting. Explain that you are going to go on a more in-depth tour of the meeting site, inside and out.

- Point out where the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms are located.
- Identify at least two emergency exit routes from the meeting room.
- Identify areas where they must be cautious, like stairs.
- Identify off-limit areas.
- Identify your emergency meeting place outside.
- Practice a fire drill. Practice an earthquake drill. (Adapt as needed based on your area.)

Ask participants if there is anything else they need to know to feel safe in the program space. Set the norm that they are welcomed and encouraged to tell you that they feel physically or emotionally unsafe at any time during the program. Reassure youth that safety is the top priority.

Main Activity

Youth learn about the Five Trails and play games as an introduction to the Trail to Knowing Me.

Learn about the Camp Fire Trails

Explain that Camp Fire activities are found in five trails. The club will do trail activities at each meeting.

Trail to Knowing Me
Trail to Family and Community
Trail to Creativity
Trail to the Environment
Trail to the Future

Learn about the Trail to Knowing Me

Explain that today, youth will play games learn about the Trail to Knowing Me, and they will learn more about the other trails at future meetings.

"On the Trail to Knowing Me we will discover our strengths, build friendships, and learn how to take care of our minds and bodies."

Mirror game (Trail to Knowing Me)

Have youth stand in pairs facing each other, at least a foot apart. One group member pretends to be a mirror and the other member does actions and expressions for the mirror to imitate emotions, such as, fear, happiness, surprise, anger, and so on. Youth can make up their own actions or other youth can call out situations for them to act out. Encourage youth to use both facial expressions and body language.

Choose someone to help you demonstrate the game. Explain that the members who are doing the actions and expressions must do them slowly enough for the mirror to follow. During the game, point out how, as hard as they try, they can't duplicate another person's actions or expressions. Ask how, when, and why they feel certain emotions.

Play the next game as time allows. Otherwise, save it for another meeting.

Cross the Line (Trail to Knowing Me)

Have all participants stand on one side of the program space. Read a statement, and anyone for which the statement is true must step over the line. Discuss the value of differences. Repeat the activity with more statements.

Sample statements: "Cross the line if…"

- You like playing outside.
- You like doing art.
- You like helping others.
- You like playing sports or games.
- You like cooking.
- You know one of your Sparks (passions/interests).

Reflection

Weather Check

Gather youth in a circle. Encourage youth to reflect on their experiences by using the weather as a metaphor to explain their feelings. Have youth say if they thought the day was sunny, cloudy, stormy, windy, and more to explain their emotions during the day's activities.

Use follow-up questions to guide reflection:

What?
What made you feel that way?
So What?
Why are safety rules important at Camp Fire?
Why do you think it is important to get to know the other people in your Camp Fire club?
Why is it important to get to know yourself?
Now What?
Can you think of a safety rule you learned today? How will it keep you safe?
Can you think of someone you didn't know very well before today? What did you learn about them? How can we get to know more about our friends?
What are some things you learned about yourself through today's games and activities?

Look Ahead

Tell youth they will do more activities to learn about Camp Fire's Five Trails at the next meeting. They will also decide on a name for their club.

Closing

Form a friendship circle as described in the first meeting plan or perform a different closing ritual. Have everyone sing "Make New Friends" or another closing song. Have a member start the friendship squeeze, and this time teach youth to turn to the left and swing out of each other's arms to face outside of the circle.

Make New Friends

Make new friends, but keep the old.
One is silver and the other gold.
A circle is round, it has no end.
That's how long I want to be your friend.

Our Club Project MEETING PLAN #3

OUR CLUB NAME

Purpose: Youth will continue getting to know one another, select job leaders, learn safety rules for outdoor activities, choose a name for the club, and introduce the Trail to Family and Community, and The Trail to the Environment.

Kid-friendly Purpose: Today we will continue getting to know one another, select job leaders, learn safety rules for outdoor activities, choose a name for the club, and learn about the Trail to Family and Community and The Trail to the Environment.

Materials:

- ❒ Strips of paper, popsicle sticks, or clothes pins for choosing job leaders.
- ❒ Two small sacks or cans for choosing job leaders.
- ❒ At least two large pieces of paper for a job list and ideas for a club name.
- ❒ Solid-colored paper or paper plates (one for each member), markers or crayons; 12-inch lengths of yarn, and hole punch for the Family Shield activity.

Preparation:

Consider how your club will assign job leaders.

Suggestion: Write each young person's name on a strip of paper, popsicle stick, or clothespin. On the large paper, list the jobs the club decided on at the previous meeting. Feel free to create different job leader titles as they apply to your club. Include the task associated with the titles. Decorate the two cans or sacks if you wish. Label one "Today" and the other "Another Time."

Greeting

Warmly welcome youth to the program space. Cultivate a positive emotional climate with relaxed, respectful interactions and convey a genuine interest in youth's well-being.

Early Bird

Ask youth to create a strip of paper, popsicle stick, or clothespin with their name on it. These items will be used to choose the Job Leaders at each meeting.

Have youth decorate the two cans or sacks if you wish. (Supply stickers or other creative materials.)

Have extra materials related to today's activities available for youth who finish early.

Firestarter

Stretching

Depending on the group, the simple act of standing up and stretching can work wonders for energy and relaxation. Have youth stand up, bend over, and touch their toes (or as close as they can get). Then they slowly roll their bodies up until, ultimately, they are standing tall with hands stretched toward the ceiling. This can be done with sounds or coordinated breathing. Repeat as many times as necessary. If you have a young person with limited mobility, adapt how you implement stretches or do a breathing exercise with the group (breath in, breath out).

Opening

Sit with youth in a circle.

Lead youth in a ritual that supports connection, such as: singing a song together, considering a question of the day, sharing a spark, doing a check-in, or having a snack. Encourage self-awareness and naming of emotions by asking youth to share how they are feeling about their day.

Choose Job Leaders

Consider how your club will choose job leaders. Ask youth for their ideas. Here's one suggestion:

Display the list of jobs. Pull one slip of paper out of the "today container." Explain that this is the job leader for today. Have this young person pull out all names to fill all the jobs on the list, which are needed for today's meeting.

As each name is drawn, it goes into the "another day" container. Ensure youth understand that, next time, the rest of the names will be drawn so everyone has a turn. When the "today" container is empty, all the names will be returned to it and the process will begin again.

Modify the process to fit the needs of your club.

Business (Take Attendance, Club Guidelines)

Have the attendance leader take attendance and go over club guidelines as needed.

Main Activity

Youth learn about the Trail to Family and Community, the Trail to the Environment, take an outdoor safety walk, and choose a club name.

These activities may take more time than you have. Modify as needed to fit the needs of your club or leave what you don't finish for another time.

Learn about the Trail to Family and Community

"On the Trail to Family and Community we will learn how to work as a team, how to be leaders, and how to help in our homes and communities."

Family Shield (Trail to Family and Community)

Introduce the Trail to Family and Community by explaining that everyone has a personal community. Ask, "Who can guess what I mean by 'personal community'?"

A personal community is the group of people who take care of us, who love us, and who we love. For example, your personal community could include family or other supportive grown-ups that you trust such as parents, guardians, siblings, grandparents, mentors, teachers, or coaches.

Today we will explore the Trail to Family and Community by creating a shield to show what makes our families and personal communities unique.

Ask the Supply Leader to pass out paper plates, markers, and yarn. (This activity can be adapted to use blank paper and other art supplies as needed.)

Explain that they can choose symbols or make up any designs for their shield that describe their personal community. For instance, they could choose an animal (lion for bravery or courage, fox for smart), a plant (oak for strength, rose for beauty), or a thing (airplane for well-traveled, fishing pole, soccer ball) that represents how they feel about their family and personal community. Punch two holes along the top edge of the plate and string the yarn to hang on their doorknob or wall at home.

Divide youth into small groups. Have youth share what they created with their group.
Note: The concept of a personal community can be synonymous with family. However, by using this term, we give space for the people in youths' lives who are important to them but who might not fill family roles. By staying open-minded to this concept, all youth can feel included in this activity.
Clean up: Help the Clean-up Leader organize everyone's help so the club can go on to the next activity.

Learn about the Trail to the Environment

Introduce the Trail to the Environment:

"On the Trail to the Environment, we will explore nature and learn about the environment, geography, animals, and more."

Outdoor Safety Walk (Trail to the Environment)

Go outside, weather permitting, if your program space has access to the outdoors. Sit or stand in a circle. Explain the club will be doing some activities outdoors during the meetings, and that, today, the club is going on a walk to learn safety rules for the outdoors and field trips. Before starting, discuss the rules. Suggestions:

- Use the Buddy System. (Walk or stay in pairs.)
- Stay with the group.
- Know what the adults are wearing.
- Leave no trace. (Encourage youth to be responsible stewards of the environment by picking up trash they create and leaving natural objects undisturbed.)

Start on your walk with youth in pairs. Encourage youth to look for things that might need a special safety rule. (Busy streets, driveways, alleys, dogs, painful plants like nettles.) Talk about these rules as you go along.

Frog's Eye (Trail to the Environment)

Set the stage for the Trail to Environment activity. Ask: "What does a frog look like? Where are a frog's eyes? What are a frog's feet like?"

Ask members to crouch with hands and feet on the ground. Ask them to move like a frog. Ask what frogs eat. Ask them to act like a frog—stick out their tongues! Make their tongues roll out like a frog's.

Now tell them that, as frogs, they have just hopped all the way out of their pond to a strange new land. Let the members hop around from place to place and ask them questions from a frog's perspective.

"What can a frog see? Look everywhere. How do trees and buildings look to a frog? Can a frog see more than you can as a person? Are there any dangers for the frog around? Where could a frog hide? How does the grass feel? How does wood or concrete feel? What's warm? What's cold? How many different sounds do you hear? Can you hear any frogs? Can you hear any other animals? Can you hear the wind? Do you smell anything? Can you identify the smells? Can you identify something that smells good to you as a frog? Can you find something that you do not like the smell of?"

Tell youth that, as Camp Fire members, we care about the world around us. This activity helps us become nature detectives, using our senses to explore and understand the environment like a curious frog. By thinking like a frog, we can learn about the different needs of animals and how we can protect their natural habitats.

Consider Snack Time (Optional): Plan time for youth to have snacks. Help the Snack Leader in charge. Invite youth to try new things without any pressure, while also offering options that are comfortable and tasty for them. Plan timing strategically for optimal energy levels. Gather information about participants' dietary restrictions and allergies in advance.

Choose a Club Name

Sit in a circle. Explain that often the first thing people ask when they meet is, "What's your name?" Ask why names are important. Explain that just as each person has a name, so does a Camp Fire club. Tell youth they are going to choose a name for their group. Explain that a name says something about the members of the group. Just as people have first and last names, their group's last name will be "Camp Fire Club." They are choosing a first name now, like Flying Tigers Camp Fire Club. Make sure the names are positive.

Stimulate ideas for the group name by asking questions.

- Ask what they want to do together as a Camp Fire club.
- Compare the group to an animal and ask what kind of animals they like.
- Help them choose descriptive words like happy, friendly, funny, sporty, etc.

Write down their brainstorming ideas as you go along. Have youth choose three or four of the most popular words. Talk about the ideas. Have youth raise their hands to vote for their favorites. (To help the voting process run smoothly, tell youth they can have two votes for the first round, using both votes for one word, or splitting the votes up. As words are eliminated, they are given one vote each. If there is a tie, put both words in a basket and select one. When two or three words are left see if they combine well into a name. For instance, "Raccoons, Sports, Smiling" could be easily combined to create the "Smiling Sporty Raccoons Camp Fire Club."

If it is hard to decide, assure them that they can change the name anytime they want.

This is one way to choose a club name. Allow older youth to determine what process they will use to choose a club name.

Reflection

Think, Pair, Share

This simple exercise can help get a conversation going, especially when young people don't feel comfortable sharing in a large group. Young people review or consider a question. Youth next discuss the question with a partner, then with the rest of the group. For example, tell the full group: "I want you to consider this question: What did you think about this activity? (What was challenging? What went well?) Think about yourself first, then talk to your partner about it, then we'll have a full group discussion."

Ask more questions as time allows, allowing youth to share with new partners:

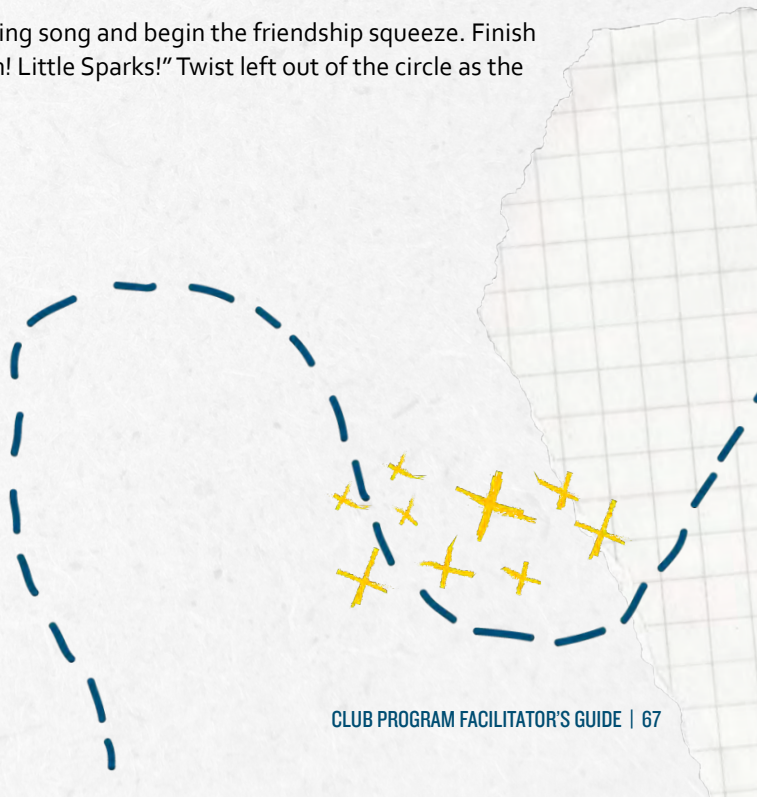
- What makes your family or personal community special?
- How can we contribute to our club, families, or our communities in a positive way?
- How did thinking like a frog make you feel?
- How can we stay safe when we are outdoors?
- What can we do to care for our environment?
- How does our new club name represent us as a group?

Look Ahead

Remind youth that at the next meeting they will continue working on the Our Club Project. Add any additional announcements or reminders you might have.

Closing

Form a friendship circle. Have the Closing Leader start the closing song and begin the friendship squeeze. Finish by giving a cheer with your new club name. For instance: "Yeah! Little Sparks!" Twist left out of the circle as the finish to your closing.



Our Club Project MEETING PLAN #4

OUR CLUB BANNER AND CELEBRATION

Purpose: Youth will learn about the last two Camp Fire Trails: Trail to Creativity and Trail to the Future. They will collaborate to create a club banner and conduct a ceremony to celebrate the conclusion of the Our Club project.

Kid-Friendly Purpose: Today we will get creative and work together to make a banner that represents our club. We will also learn about the last two Trails, "Trail to Creativity" and "Trail to the Future." To mark these exciting new adventures, we'll have a short ceremony—a special way to celebrate being a part of Camp Fire!

Banner

In this activity, young people will work together to create a banner that represents their club, unifying members and fostering a sense of belonging. The banner can be displayed at club meetings, celebrations, and special events.

Banners can be created using a variety of materials such as poster board, fabric, or wood. Choose whichever materials work for your club.

Materials:

- ❒ Materials to create your banner.
- ❒ Blank paper and coloring supplies for the Early Bird drawing activity.
- ❒ A way to display the club name.
- ❒ Job Leader containers and task list.
- ❒ Three candles with holders, matches or a lighter, or battery-operated candles for the closing ceremony. (Optional)
- ❒ Small stones for the Reflection activity.
- ❒ Consider how you will reward youth for the completion of the Our Club Project. Youth will receive their award at the end of the project.

Preparation:

Display the club name on the wall for everyone to see.

Greeting

Warmly welcome youth to the program space. Use positive language, culturally relevant body language, and appropriate touch such as high-fives and fist bumps to connect and build a sense of community with youth. Help youth greet each other as they enter. Encourage affirmations and support among peers.

Early Bird

Ask youth to draw pictures related to their new club name, and/or things they want to do as a club.

Firestarter

Learn about the Trail to the Future

"On the Trail to the Future, we will do activities like sports and games, cooking, and science (STEM) to build skills like sharing, teamwork, and good sportsmanship."

Bounce the Ball (Trail to the Future)

This energizer requires a ball, anything from a tennis ball to a large bouncy ball. (To modify this activity, have youth toss a stuffed animal.) Have participants stand in a circle and bounce the ball to someone else while saying the name of a vegetable. That person must say the name of another vegetable while bouncing the ball to someone else in the circle. This goes on until people can't think of any new vegetables. This game can be repeated by playing with different categories (fruit, animals, things that start with the letter "E", names of cities, etc.).

Opening

Sit with youth in a circle.

Sing song, share a spark, do a check-in, share a snack, or lead youth in another ritual that supports connection. Encourage self-awareness and naming of emotions by asking youth to share how they are feeling about their day.

Business (Select Job Leaders, Take Attendance, Share Recognition Items)

Select the Job Leaders of the day.

Have the Attendance Leader take attendance.

Explain that the project that they have been working on for the last few meetings has helped them learn about Camp Fire and about being a club. It is called the Our Club Project. Talk about the activities your club has completed. What was the most fun? What did they learn?

Remind youth that after each project they complete with their Camp Fire club they will earn rewards or recognition items (such as emblems, stickers, beads, or certificates).

Show youth what recognition items they will earn at the end of the Our Club Project.

Main Activity

Youth learn about the Trail to Creativity and create a club banner.

Learn about the Trail to Creativity

"On the Trail to Creativity, we will explore our creativity and imagination through fun activities like drawing, painting, performing, creative writing, and more."

Create a Banner (Trail to Creativity)

Explain that the club will make a banner as an example of the fun things they can do on the Trail to Creativity. A club banner could be displayed at meetings, parades, celebrations, and other special events. A banner is like a flag. It represents the people who belong to a special group.

Remind participants of the club name the members came up with last meeting. Discuss what kinds of images come to mind when thinking about your club name. For instance, if the club name is "The Little Sparks Camp Fire Club," you may want to cut out the shape of a spark for each club member.

Remember to try to keep the symbol design simple.

Have youth work together to decide how they will decorate their banner. Will they create one design together or will each young person create their own unique contribution?

Help youth to brainstorm what steps they will need to take to create their banner from start to finish.

Working as a group can be challenging for some young people. Coach youth through conflicts by talking through their emotions and help youth arrive at a consensus.

Banner Adaptations

- Create individual banners where youth can display their recognition items.
- Use the group banner to display Emblems your group earns as a club.

Remember, the group's banner can be changed or updated later.

Clean-up: Ask the Clean-up Leader to organize everyone to help in the clean-up process.

Reflection

This meeting plan concludes the Our Club Project with a closing ceremony. Reflection will take place during the closing ceremony.

Look Ahead

Involve youth in planning their next club meeting(s). Work with youth to choose projects based on their wants, needs, and interests. Help youth to choose a Trail from one of the Five Trails. Explain that to complete a Trail, they will do all activities within a Project.

Closing

Explain to youth that their club will have a ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Our Club Project.

Closing Ceremony

Ceremony Opening: Arrange three candles on a small table. Help youth light the candles. *Traditionally, a blue candle represents Work, a red candle represents Health, and a white candle represents Love.*

Make a circle with the youth.

In this meeting, **Reflection** is incorporated into the closing ceremony. Try the Stone Reflection below or another reflection strategy to close the meeting and celebrate the completion of the Our Club project.

Stone Reflection: Each participant is asked to choose a small stone. Tell youth this stone represents the contributions that their presence provided to the group. As the facilitator, you can set the tone for a quiet reflective experience.

1. **Set the Tone:** Find a comfortable position and close your eyes for a few moments. Take a few deep breaths in and out. Let's focus on our time together in Camp Fire.
2. **Connect to the Stone:** Hold the stone in your hand. Imagine this stone represents all the things you brought to our group – your ideas, your friendship, your helpfulness.
3. **Reflect on Contributions:** Think about how you participated during the Our Club project. What ideas did you share? How did you help someone? Did you listen well to others? How do you think your presence and being a part of our club has made a difference in our group?
4. **Sharing and Leaving the Stone:** When you are ready, you can come to the center of the circle and share a few words about how you contributed. Then, place the stone in the center as a reminder of your part in our journey together.

   Encourage a safe space for sharing and respect for everyone's contributions. Offer prompts like "I felt…" or "I was…" to help youth express themselves.

Conclude the reflection by thanking youth for their contributions. Tell youth you are proud of their efforts and accomplishments.

Say something special about what each has done or learned in the past few weeks, and invite youth to share what they've noticed as well. Congratulate them on starting their Camp Fire journey. Describe their future in Camp Fire as something to look forward to.

Walk around the circle and give each member an award or recognition item.

Friendship Circle

Form a friendship circle. Have the Closing Leader start the closing song and begin the friendship squeeze. Finish by giving a cheer with your new club name. Twist left out of the circle as the finish to your closing.

Camp Fire

Light the fire within