



## Camp Fire USA™

Since its founding in 1914, the Camp Fire USA First Texas Council has been building caring, confident youth and future leaders in Fort Worth.

From the early days of Blue Birds and Camp Fire Girls, the organization has grown into one of the largest councils in the U.S., with coeducational programs that include camping, child development, environmental education, truancy prevention, after school and summer programs and child care training and advocacy. Camp Fire USA First Texas Council serves Tarrant, Denton, Parker, Johnson, Hood and Wise Counties.



**Today's kids. Tomorrow's leaders.**





## Camp Fire's goal is for all children and youth to be:

- Ready to learn when they start school;
- Caring, confident and developing leadership skills;
- Respectful of the outdoor environment; and
- Actively involved with their families and other adults.

Camp Fire fulfills its mission through services and programs within the Outdoor, Work/Family, and Group Services Divisions. The Outdoor Division connects youth with the environment through camp and other outdoor programs. Work/Family Division programs improve the quality of child care by providing child care professional development and parenting resources. In the Group Services Division, youth development takes place in small groups with involvement from staff and family members.

## OUTDOOR DIVISION

### Resident Camp

Since 1934, children have been developing leadership skills while learning to appreciate nature at El Tesoro, Camp Fire's 223-acre resident camp outside Granbury, Texas. El Tesoro offers a variety of challenging and fun activities, from hiking, canoeing and horseback riding to swimming, arts and a challenge course. The traditional overnight camp experience helps boys and girls age 6-16 gain self-confidence and independence while they learn new skills. As part of El Tesoro's inclusion program, each summer children with mild physical and cognitive disabilities are mainstreamed into cabin groups and camp activities.

### Family Camping

Throughout the year, Camp Fire offers camping opportunities that allow families to reconnect and enjoy time together away from the frenzied pace of everyday life. Parents and children can choose from a variety of traditional camp and outdoor education activities, or can explore the beauty of Camp El Tesoro on their own. Camp Fire's Family Camping weekends are scheduled throughout the year, and include special weekends such as Mom & Me and Dad & Me.

### Outdoor Education

Camp Fire's Outdoor Education program allows students to see past classroom walls and learn to understand and appreciate the environment through the experiential "laboratory" of Camp El Tesoro. The Treasures of El Tesoro outdoor education curriculum includes units on birds, wildflowers, fossils and trees and supports the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The outdoor education program is available to public, private and home school groups, as well as community and senior groups.

### Day Camp

Camptivity, Camp Fire's day camp program, is specially designed to engage youth in positive summer activities while meeting the child care needs of working parents. Boys and girls can enjoy swimming, games, outdoor sports and field trips at locations in Fort Worth and Azle, Texas. Campers entering sixth through eighth grades participate in the Youth Adventure Program, which includes community service projects to help expand their leadership, teamwork and communication skills. Camp Fire also offers ET Day Camp, as well as a specialty Horse Day Camp at Camp El Tesoro outside Granbury, Texas.

### Community Use of El Tesoro

Through Camp Fire's community use program, corporations, churches, non-profit organizations and community groups are able to enjoy Camp El Tesoro as a rustic setting for day or overnight retreats and meetings. Program staff can arrange customized recreational and outdoor education activities for groups, including the unique team-building experience of El Tesoro's challenge course. A camp favorite, the course is comprised of high and low elements that include a 50-foot climbing wall and 300-foot zip line.



### Grief Camp

Camp Fire's El Tesoro de la Vida is a week-long summer resident camp for children who have experienced the death of a loved one. Founded in 1988, the program incorporates activities which help boys and girls through the natural grieving process, combined with traditional camp activities, like canoeing, horseback riding and archery. Licensed professional counselors lead daily group sessions that allow children to share their experiences with others like themselves.

## GROUP SERVICES DIVISION

### After School

Camp Fire offers safe, fun programs after school for students at sites throughout Fort Worth, Aledo and surrounding communities in Texas. After school programs provide an extended day of enrichment, quality care, homework assistance and developmental activities for students. Program staff coordinates service-learning opportunities as a means of contributing positively to the local communities, and of developing young minds and moral characters.

### Truancy Prevention

Camp Fire's Step-Up program works with area high school students to improve school completion rates. The year-round intervention program helps at-risk students remain actively engaged in school, graduate, and prepare for a promising future. Staff provides individualized attention to students and also offers small-group classes at local high schools to help them identify and resolve the issues that are causing them to be truant. The program engages parents and helps strengthen family connections through home visits.

### Spring/Summer/Winter Break Program

During school breaks, all-day Camp Fire programs for school age youth are offered in the Fort Worth and Aledo area. Youth participants experience fun field trips, activities, and visits to our nature/camp centers that offer enrichment and extended educational opportunities. As with the after school program, Camp Fire staff facilitates service-learning opportunities to help youth understand the importance of giving back to the community.

### Child Development

The Camp Fire Child Development Center (CDC) for children age six weeks through Pre-K was developed in 1993 as a community model for early learning environments.



Teachers use the High/Scope curriculum in combination with Camp Fire's family-centered child development philosophy as an educational framework that guides teaching and learning. Teachers nurture social-emotional competencies as well as

the cognitive abilities and physical skills of each child in their care while responding to their individual interests and needs. The program includes additional enrichment classes such as soccer, cheerleading, fun fitness programs and music. Each summer, the CDC offers an expanded program which accepts children up to age seven.

## WORK/FAMILY DIVISION

### Child Care Training

As a leader in early education and advocacy, Camp Fire provides professional training to equip child care providers who work with our youngest children. Camp Fire offers classroom training and workshops throughout the region, as well as online/self-study training that allows child care professionals to earn continuing education credits to meet state licensing requirements.

### School Readiness

Through its Kindergarten Readiness and Connect4Success programs, Camp Fire provides professional training, mentoring and resources to improve the learning environment of young children in child care centers and family child care homes. By enhancing the quality of early care and education, children are better prepared to succeed in school.

### Child Care Credential Programs

Camp Fire's professional development and leadership training includes credential programs that go above and beyond minimum requirements for child care providers and directors. Camp Fire's Early Childhood Management Institute (ECMI) for child care directors is one of the few copyrighted child care administrator's credential programs in the U.S. The Child Development Associate (CDA) is a 120 hour, 40 week nationally-recognized credential program for child care providers.



### Child Care Resource & Referral

Camp Fire USA First Texas Council is one of only seven Resource and Referral (CCR&R) services in the state of Texas. As the CCR&R for the region, Camp Fire assists families with locating child care through its database of more than 2,000 regulated child care programs, day camps, summer camps and programs for children with special needs.

### Child Care Network

Camp Fire has developed the Child Care Network, a program that works with employers to provide access to customized child care solutions for their employees. For employer partners, Camp Fire Child Care Resource & Referral specialists work with each parent to identify their child care needs and match them with licensed providers which have been assessed using nationally-recognized standards. Camp Fire also identifies resources to help employees address other work-life issues, including respite care, tutoring, and summer care.



## FUNDING INFORMATION

Camp Fire USA First Texas Council is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Funding is provided through grants and contributions from foundations, as well as individuals and corporations. Annual fundraising events include:

*Celebration of Champions*

*El Tesoro de la Vida Benefit Dinner*

*Absolutely Incredible Kid  
Scholarship Luncheon*

*An Artists' Christmas*

*Camp Fire USA Paint Out*



## Camp Fire USA

Camp Fire USA First Texas Council  
2700 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76137-4699

**817-831-2111**

**Info@CampFireFW.org**

**CampFireFW.org**

