



Fall 2018

The Torch

Your investment inspires bright futures!



Asked what he loves most about Camp Sealth, Evan says: "It's a place where I can be free, where I can be myself. I can just have fun."

Camp Sealth: 'A place where I can be free, where I can be myself'

Evan Margason's parents first took him camping when he was a baby. His dad taught him how to pitch a tent, tie knots, all the things you need to know to hold your own in the woods. When Evan's mom started researching overnight camps a few years ago, she could tell Camp Sealth was a place where her outdoorsy boy would feel at home while making new friends. She signed him up, and Evan raved about his experience as soon as he got back from first week of camp.

"He said, 'I want to come back every summer! I want to be a counselor here!' He felt like he belonged," his mom, Gena Margason, recalls.



Parent Gena Margason credits Camp Sealth with helping her son through the heart-wrenching loss of his father just this summer.

Evan returned to Camp Sealth for the third straight summer this year. It gave him a chance to break away from a time of great difficulty for his family. Evan's father died in June after a grueling two-year battle with throat cancer. "Camp Sealth offered Evan a mental break from our family's heart-wrenching loss," Gena says. "It was such a gift."

Evan, 13, is an outgoing kid, an only child who has an easy time forging new friendships. He spent two weeks at Camp Sealth this July. His favorite things: boating off Vashon Island, gazing at a clear night sky speckled with bright stars, watching sunsets bounce off the waters of Puget Sound, and making s'mores on the beach, and his counselor, Rango.

RECORD BREAKING ATTENDANCE



This summer, we welcomed a record-breaking 2,300 campers at Camp Sealth while 1,654 children and teens joined us at our Day Camps across the area! Learn about the many kids who got to attend because of you and your gifts to our campership fund on page 4.



Longtime Camp Fire group gives back with gratitude



Members of the Camp Fire Group the Fugafripins are all smiles during a weekend retreat at Camp Sealth during their first year together in 2006.

Join us to celebrate the Spirit & S'mores of Camp Fire

We're doing something exciting this fall. And we're doing it for you. We're hosting a new event, mixing things up to make our main fundraiser of the year welcoming to all generations and all types of Camp Fire friends — more fun and interactive than ever.

If there's just one thing you do to support Camp Fire this year, **please join us at Spirit and S'mores on October 26, 6 to 9 p.m. at Herban Feast's Sodo Park.**

Set in a beautifully rustic century-old building, this Camp Fire-centric cocktail party replaces the annual breakfasts and game nights we've hosted for years. Come and enjoy lawn games and other fun activities, tasty appetizers, signature cocktails, lots of Camp Fire spirit, and all the s'mores you can eat.

When you support Camp Fire, you make summer camp possible for hundreds of kids whose families can't afford it. You help us maintain and upgrade our historic cabins and other facilities. You give more teens in our year-round programs life-changing opportunities to build confidence and leadership while giving back to their communities.



Thank you for all you do to support Camp fire.

Hope to see you at Spirit & S'mores!

Rick Taylor
Executive Director

They started meeting as a Camp Fire Starflight group when they were kindergartners. As they moved up to become an Adventure group, they came up with a one-of-a-kind name that weaves together the things they love most about Camp Fire: fun, games, camping, and friends.

This summer, 12 years after their Camp Fire journey began, six members of the Fugafripins (pronounced foo-gah-free-pins)

Get your Spirit & S'mores tickets today!

WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 6 TO 9 P.M.

WHERE: Herban Feast's Sodo Park
3200 1st Ave S., Seattle

TICKETS: \$75 per person

DETAILS: Enjoy lawn games, a photo booth, a rousing raise-the-paddle, and more. Your ticket includes two cocktails, delicious appetizers, and all the s'mores you can eat!

All proceeds support Camp Fire programs, maintaining and upgrading Camp Sealth facilities, and camperships that cover tuition for low-income children.

Your investment in Camp Fire is an investment in future lead

organized a special ceremony at Camp Sealth to celebrate their achievements and how significantly Camp Fire has shaped them as nature-loving, service-minded people.

"I've learned a lot about leadership," Jannika Frothingham recalls. "I've learned to support my friends, even when we're all exhausted. I've learned outdoor skills, problem-solving and consensus. And I've learned how to share those things with others."

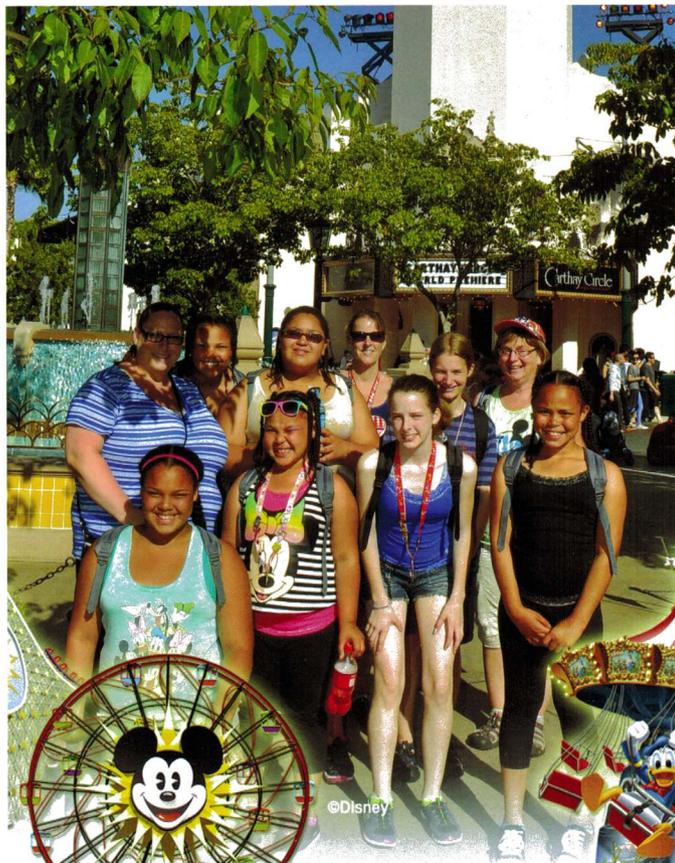
Jannika and fellow Fugafripins Alana Benedict, Dalijah and Taijah Boldien, Ellie Richmond, and Hannah Qualls lit candles for members who had earned their prestigious WoHeLo awards.

They launched dream boats on Puget Sound and announced they'd be donating \$1,000 from their 2018 candy sale revenues to Camp Fire. Their hope, Jannika said, is to help us restock Camp Sealth supplies, such as a new horseback saddle, a parachute for camp games, and tie irons for campfire cookouts.

They wrapped up with a friendship circle as they've done at the end of their many group meetings.

"It was such an amazing event," says Camp Fire Board Member Lisa Luchau. "It truly showed how they've grown to be such caring, confident leaders through their time with Camp Fire."

Learn more about Camp Fire groups at campfireseattle.org under PROGRAMS.



Camp Fire Group, The FuGaFriPins, together since elementary school, recently flew to Disneyland for a couple of days of fun in the sun with Mickey and the gang!

Celebrating one amazing volunteer's 50 years of service



Fun fact: Miss Marty has earned so many service pins, there isn't quite room for all of them on the Camp Fire tie she wore when accepting a plaque honoring her 50 years of service.

One of Martha Mercer's many young friends could hardly believe it when he learned she was celebrating 50 years of service with Camp Fire.

"How could you do that?! I didn't even think you were 50 years old!" the boy exclaimed.

Martha (aka Miss Marty) started out as a Blue Bird in the 1960s, joined other Camp Fire groups when her family moved from Washington to Texas and back. She and her three siblings spent summers at a Camp Fire day camp, where her mom volunteered as a "story lady." Martha later stepped up to become a day camp aide, then a counselor. She led two Camp Fire groups (one for each of her sons), served as a day camp site director, registrar, and other roles — so many it's hard to list them all.

What's kept her involved all these years? Camp Fire's tradition of encouraging all children to have fun and be themselves in their own unique ways.

Learn about volunteering at campfireseattle.org under GET INVOLVED.

You Sent Kids in Need to Camp!

More than 660 generous donors like **you**, have helped us raise \$20,152.64 in camperships this year allowing us to bring 126 kids in need to camp!

DONATE

Help us build our campership fund for next summer by making a donation today.

Campfireseattle.org/donate



Long-time Camp Fire donors (from left to right) Cheryl Hamamoto, Susan Finneran, Mary Robinson, Jennifer Tada, Vicki Zambrano and Leslie Rice are all smiles at their annual scrapbooking party that benefits Camp Fire.

Loyal Camp Fire donors give through scrapbooking getaways

It started out as an auction prize: a weekend-long scrapbooking party at a cabin near Camano Island. As a thank you to the host, Camp Fire Board Member Susan Finneran, everyone who attended gave generously to Camp Fire. They had such a great time creating scrapbooks of summer vacations, their kids, and other fond memories, they made a tradition of it — giving thousands of dollars to Camp Fire over the many years they've gotten together. Longtime donor Jennifer Tada, also a former Camp Fire board member, has attended the scrapbooking getaways year after year.

"Jennifer is such a caring, generous and dedicated Camp Fire donor," Susan says. "It is her support over many years along with donors like her that have ensured Camp Fire continues and thrives."

Have an idea for an event or questions about hosting a fundraiser for Camp Fire? We'd love to hear from you! Please contact Marketing & Development Director Kristen Cook at KristenC@campfireseattle.org or 206-826-8931.

**MAKE A DONATION AND
CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE!**



About Camp Fire Central Puget Sound

Camp Fire Central Puget Sound ignites a passion for nature, a commitment to service and a drive to succeed in 5,000 children and teens every year. Your support is critical to our success. We invite you to learn more and get involved!

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