

CAMP FIRE USA LEARNING LAB FOR STUDENTS

INTRODUCTION

Camp Fire USA is a neighborhood- based youth serving agency. The agency provides after school programs for low- income children that reside in seventeen neighborhood locations; 14 schools and 3 homeless shelters. The target population is kindergarten through high school. Children served in these programs are highly diverse with a high percentage being Latino.

RATIONALE

As a youth serving agency based on a social work model, we are increasingly concerned about: the lack of applicants who are interested in youth work as a profession, the lack of trained or committed individuals who enter the youth service profession, the lack of minority applicants and the competition that we experience in acquiring applicants due to the tight labor market in our community. We also recognize that opportunities to develop practice skills in the profession is limited to the junior or senior of college

PROPOSAL

Camp Fire proposes to serve as a learning lab for undergraduate or graduate students from local universities. Although, we are a social work based organization, we believe that we can provide opportunities for students from other disciplines such as education, psychology, and recreational therapy or information services in addition to social work. Learning lab participants will need to commit to no less than once a week for a minimum of 6 weeks at a designated Camp Fire Program. Participants will be supervised by a trained Camp Fire staff member and will work in partnership with other direct service staff in providing programs for youth who attend either the after school or homeless shelter programs. Programs meet during the week in late afternoon or in the evening. If students are able to receive course credit, Camp Fire will provide the required educational supervision and meet the educational requirements of the affiliated college or university. We are currently exploring funding sources to offer a stipend to each student who participates in the program.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Opportunities to learn more about a youth serving agency
- Opportunities to work with school age youth in a small group or individual basis
- Opportunities to gain knowledge of different cultures
- Opportunities to develop practice skills in their chosen profession
- Opportunities to learn more about child development

BENEFITS TO THE AGENCY

- Opportunities to expand our work with area colleges and universities
- Opportunities to develop skills for individuals who want to work with youth
- Opportunities to provide more individual attention to the children that we serve

For more information contact Penny Parker @ 397-5809 or penny@campfireomaha.org.

**CAMP FIRE USA COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS
HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY, INDIAN HILL ELEMENTARY, LIBERTY
ELEMENTARY**

“Wish List” Worksheet for Service-Learning Projects
UNO Service-Learning Academy

Project Description	Possible Academic Discipline(s) for Partnership	Projected Start Date or other time considerations	Please Prioritize this project: 1=very important, 2=moderately important, 3=less important or can be done another way.
<p>Camp Fire USA manages 3 after school community learning centers at Highland, Indian Hill and Liberty Elementary. The Community Learning Center provides after school programs for students and families to develop academic, enrichment and recreational programs in a safe and nurturing environment, along with other services to help students meet local and state academic standards. The objectives of the community learning centers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will have increased math skill proficiency. • Participants will have increased reading skill proficiency. • Participants demonstrate appropriate social skills in including respect for self, peers and adults as defined in the “Character Counts” program. • Participants will increase abilities to set and accomplish personal goals related to leadership, responsibility and skill level as they participate in academic, enrichment and recreational activities. 	<p>Education: direct service opportunities, development of lesson plans on math, reading and science as well as physical education</p>	<p>Oct-Jan Jan-May</p>	<p>1=Very important</p>
	<p>Fine Arts: music, dance, visual arts programs</p>	<p>Oct-Jan Jan-May</p>	<p>1=very important</p>

	Engineering: design projects	Oct-Jan Jan-May	2=moderately important
	Social Work: Family Community Nights, community collaborations	Oct-Jan- Jan-May	1=very important
	Technology: IT projects for kids	Oct-Jan Jan-Oct	2=moderately important
	Business: Teaching kids about entrepreneur skills	Oct-Jan Jan-May	2=moderately important
	Multicultural: cultural awareness, history and specific activities	Oct-Jan Jan-May	2=moderately important
	Guidance: leadership and social development	Oct-Jan Jan-May	2=moderately important

**CAMP FIRE USA
TEEN ADVISORY BOARD
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

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<p>Camp Fire USA established a teen advisory board in January of this year. The board meets monthly to work on leadership development, mentoring of younger Camp Fire youth, public relations and fundraising. The board is planning a leadership academy for the week of April 3-7 for 50 Camp Fire youth. The academy will focus on career development and will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Many of the youth served in Camp Fire are minority youth with many being the first generation to go to college. Many come from households where parents speak only Spanish. Camp Fire is working with all teens on post secondary education and employment.</p>	<p>Marketing/Public Relations: all PR materials Social Work/Sociology: Conference evaluation Career Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment from UNO departments for presentations on a variety of careers • Job shadowing of community professionals • Interviewing; practice interviews in areas of interest 	<p>October</p>	<p>1= very important</p>
	<p>* There are numerous opportunities for a variety of disciplines to be involved in all aspects of the conference.</p>		