

## Camp Fire Our Group Project

All levels of Starflight and Adventure



### Trail to Family and Community.

**Purpose:** To develop children's understanding of Camp Fire and begin to establish a cohesive group.

#### Meeting Plans:

Getting to Know You  
Camp Fire Banner

#### Youth Outcomes

Know one's role in a group situation  
Establishes personal friendships and intimate relationships  
Knows how to engage in conversation with adults

#### Requirements for Earning a Recognition Item

Choose an item from the Camp Fire Online Store to present to Starflight children upon completion of the project. Often youth receive the Camp Fire Identification emblem as their recognition item.

#### Tips for Group Leaders

- ❑ This is a great way to introduce Camp Fire to your Starflight or Adventure group.
- ❑ There may be more activities in the meeting plan than you can do. However, it's better to be over-prepared than to not have enough to do. If the children really enjoy an activity, or it takes longer than you expected, carry over an activity to the following meeting.
- ❑ You can choose to present the Camp Fire identification emblem to each child at the beginning of the first meeting.
- ❑ When new children join the group, invite other children to explain about the group. Link up the new children to members who can make sure all of their questions are answered and that they understand what Camp Fire is all about.
- ❑ Mix and match the activities as needed. They are geared for children of various ages. Feel free to modify them to better meet the needs of older children.
- ❑ Additional resources can be found in the Camp Fire Leader Guide, or *Starflight* and *Adventure* Project books.

## **Meeting Plan: Getting to Know You**

### **Project: Our Group**

**Level:** All Starflight and Adventure levels

**Purpose:** Create a sense of belonging to a group

### **Preparation**

Have a copy of the Camp Fire logo in color available as a reference for youth. Make nametags for the children or have them make their own at the meeting. For younger children, attach a piece of yarn so the name tag can be put on over the head.

### **Materials:**

Index cards or pieces of paper for name tags

Beach or sponge ball

Camp Fire logo (included at the end of the project)

Large sheet of paper

Markers

Scissors

Scarf

Camp Fire vest with identification emblem, and recognition items and other recognition display items, such as the add-an-emblem design featured on the Camp Fire Online Store, trail certificates

**Opening:** Give each child a name tag. Welcome group members and introduce yourself. Play a get-acquainted ball game. Ask members to stand in a circle. Gently throw or roll a ball to one member. As that child gets the ball, ask the child to say his or her name. With older children, also ask them to share something unique about them. Ask that the ball be returned to you. Repeat until each child is introduced.

### **Activities:**

Sit in a circle with the children to discuss what a Camp Fire group is. Camp Fire helps both boys and girls learn new things in a fun way. It also is fun to do things together and for others. Talk about how the group will work together, plan things, share ideas and grow as leaders. Ask children if they have been in a Camp Fire group before. Ask what it means to belong to a group. Compare their ideas to what their Camp Fire group will do.

**Business:** Explain there will be some business to take care of at each meeting. Demonstrate by calling roll and collecting dues from each member.

### **Friends Game**

Talk about how friends work together in Camp Fire. Friends depend on each other for help, ideas and fun. Divide the children into pairs. Space the pairs around the room. If there is an uneven number, a leader can pair with the extra child.

Explain that when given a direction, the partners perform the task or act out the action together. As an example, demonstrate “swimming through gelatin”. Ask one of the children to help you think of different ways to get through the gelatin.

Give some of the following directions to start the game:

- Play baseball with your friend.
- Be very small with your friend.
- Sit on the floor back to back, bend knees, hook arms 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.

Change partners several times during the game so children have a chance to work with each other.

### **Tour of Meeting Area**

Give the children 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 where the children put their belongings. Let them know which bathroom facilities they can use. Point out exit doors and emergency exit routes. Identify an emergency meeting place outside in case there is a fire.

### **Camp Fire Logo and Colors**

Ask a child to hold up the Camp Fire USA logo. Explain that it is the symbol for Camp Fire. Explain that a symbol is used to help people easily remember something. Ask about symbols they have seen at home, school, or in their neighborhood, such as the “golden arches.” Talk about other common symbols.

The Camp Fire logo builds from the original, traditional flame and is a view of a campfire from above. The brand mark is meant to not only look like a campfire, but to also represent a spark that ignites the fire from within. The mark is energetic and youthful, yet appeals to adults and influential audiences. Like a well-built campfire, the overlapping paths signify the unique youth and families that help fuel our organization.



### **Giggle, Giggle Game** (for young children)

Stand in a circle. Have one child throw a scarf in the air. As long as the scarf is in the air, everyone giggles. As soon as the scarf hits the floor, everyone stops giggling. The next time, have the children wiggle their noses or clap their hands. Have them stop when the scarf touches the ground.

Give several children a chance to lead the game. Explain that being a leader in a game will help them be a good leader in their group.

### **Camp Fire Recognition**

Show the group the uniform vest with identification emblem and recognition items sewn on. Explain to children that as they participate in Camp Fire activities they earn awards to display on a vest, add-an-emblem design or other items of clothing

### **Group Mural**

Spread a large sheet of paper on the floor. Give each child colored markers or other drawing materials. Ask the children to find a space on the paper and write their names or draw their handprint. Have them draw pictures of things they like to do. Ask what games they like to play, what they do with their friends, what they do to help someone. Encourage older children to work together on their drawings. Ask each child to talk about what they drew. Pay attention to what they mention, as you can use the information about their interests when planning future meetings. Cut apart the mural and let the children take home their section. Be sure to draw something about yourself. This helps the children become better acquainted with you.

### **Playback: Points to Remember**

What does the Camp Fire logo mean to you?

What are the colors of the logo?

What did you learn about being a friend?

### **Closing**

Use a friendship circle to close the meeting. Have the children stand in a circle and cross their right arms over their left arms and join hands with the person on each side. Explain that a friendship squeeze will be passes around the circle. Ask a child to gently squeeze the hand of the neighbor as a sign of good wishes. Pass the good wishes (the gentle squeeze) around the circle. Say something nice about the meeting today. Wish them a safe and happy week.

## **Meeting Plan**

Camp Fire Banner

**Project:** Our Group

**Level:** All Starflight and Adventure levels

**Purpose:** Introduce Camp Fire Trails

### **Materials:**

Several large pieces of paper for officer's jobs and group rules

Poster board or cardboard for puzzle

Red and blue markers

Small US flag and holder

Materials to make a Camp Fire banner

### **Preparation**

Trace the Camp Fire logo onto poster board or cardboard. Color and cut out around outside edge. Cut the symbol into pieces to make a puzzle. Make the number of pieces equal to the number of children in the group. You will need to redo the puzzle as you add members.

### **Opening:**

Welcome children. Stand in a semicircle around a small table. Ask two children to each hold a flag. Then ask each child to bring the flag into the circle or to the table. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Put the flags in holders for the rest of the meeting.

Sit in a circle. Show the Camp Fire logo puzzle. Remind the children of the logo's meaning. Take apart the puzzle and give each person a piece. As they are putting it together, explain how each person is important to the group just as each piece of the puzzle is important. Explain that in Camp Fire their group is a way to put all their good ideas together. If someone is absent, have another child add their piece to the puzzle. This shows that the missing person is still important to the group.

Make a poster of simple meeting rules (children will have the chance to add to the list). Rules might include,

- One person talks at a time
- Ask a leader when you need to leave the room
- Be quiet when asked
- Take turns
- Respect other people and ideas

Think about appropriate consequences of breaking the rules, keeping in mind a reasonable expectation of what children can be expected to do.

**Activities:**

Camp Fire has an energizing new Promise statement that clearly defines who we are and what we're all about.

**Our Promise**

Young people want to shape the world.

Camp Fire provides the opportunity

To find their spark,

Lift their voice, and

Discover who they are.

In Camp Fire, it begins, now.

*Light the fire within*

Camp Fire youth can learn to recite the Camp Fire Wish.

**Camp Fire Wish**

To have fun

To learn to make things

To remember to finish what I begin

To keep my temper most of the time

To learn about nature and living outdoors

To have adventures with people, places, and things

To make friends

**Business:** Call roll and collect dues (if applicable). Explain that every group has rules that allow everyone to participate in a safe and positive way. Ask what rules they have at home, at school or while playing games. Show your list of rules or just talk about reach one. Demonstrate a quiet sign by raising one hand into the air. When others see a hand in the air, they stop talking and put their hand up, until everyone is quiet. Ask if the children want to add any new rules. Talk about what would happen if rules are broken. Emphasize that if they are considerate of others and follow the rules, their meetings will be fun and productive.

**Officers:** Explain that one way a group accomplishes things is with helpers. They can be called officers or leaders. Everyone will have a chance to have a leadership job during their time with Camp Fire. Here are some examples:

- Flag leader carries the flag
- Pledge leader starts the Pledge of Allegiance
- Supply leader helps the adults distribute and collect supplies
- Cleanup leader gets everyone involved in clean up
- Roll leader checks to be certain that everyone is present
- Dues leader collects dues

- Refreshment leader helps prepare and clean up refreshments
- Squeeze leader starts the squeeze in the closing friendship circle.

Older children will have more traditional officer roles such as president and secretary. These are described in the *Adventure* level 3 and 4 record books.

### **Trails**

Explain that Camp Fire activities are found in five trails:

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

Play a game from the Trail to the Future from any of the level project books.

### **Group Name**

Sit in a circle. Explain that 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 do Camp Fire groups. Tell the children 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 group." They are choosing a first name, like Flying Tigers Camp Fire Group.

Stimulate ideas for the group name by asking questions. Ask what they want to do together. Compare the group to animals and ask what kind of animals they are like. Write down three or four popular ideas for everyone to see. Talk about the ideas. Have the children talk about which names they like the best. Try to make a group decision that everyone can accept. If it's hard to make a decision, assure them that they can change the name at a later time.

### **Camp Fire Watchword**

Introduce Camp Fire's watchword, Wohelo. Explain that this word is used as a greeting or at the end of a message or letter to a friend. Explain that it is a word created by the first two letters of three separate words, work, health and love. Ask the youth to think about why these three words were chosen for Camp Fire. And, why do they think they have remained Camp Fire's watchword for over 100 years.

Group Banner (this can be done at the next meeting if running out of time)

Present the materials you have brought to make a group banner. Decide who will print the group name on the banner and how the group wants to decorate it. Tracing letters on construction paper is a good way to do it. To hang the banner, make two holes at the top and thread yarn through the holes.

Explain to children that the banner will be in their room during group meetings. Point out that the banner is special because each person contributed to it. The banner tells everyone they are a group and proud of it.

**Playback:** Points to Remember

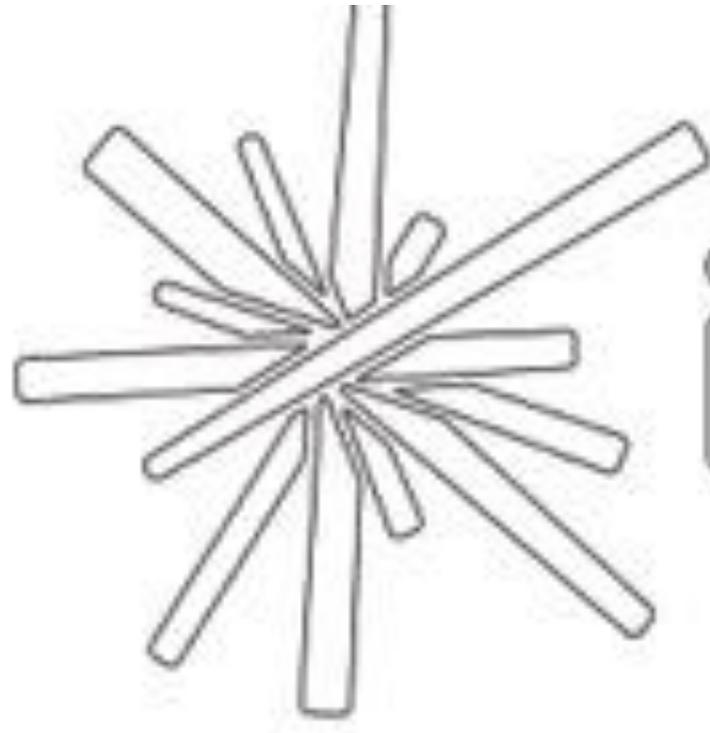
Why are rules important in a group?

What kind of jobs do officers or leaders have?

What do they like about the ideas for the group name? What special meaning does the group name have.

**Closing**

Form a friendship circle to close the meeting. Begin by repeating the Camp Fire Wish. Have the children stand in a circle and cross their right arms over their left arms and join hands with the person on each side. Explain that a friendship squeeze will be passed around the circle. Ask a child to gently squeeze the hand of the neighbor as a sign of good wishes. Pass the good wishes (the gentle squeeze) around the circle. Say something nice about the meeting today. Wish them a safe and happy week.



Camp Fire