

Financial Assistance Policies

Camp Fire Central Puget Sound



Camp Fire believes that every child can benefit from attending our programs, and understands that families have varying abilities to pay based on income and other life circumstances. Financial assistance for all of our youth programs is available through an application process. All families who are in need of financial assistance are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

Applicants for summer programs must reside in the state of Washington. We use a sliding scale based on household income and family size to determine minimum eligibility. We also consider extenuating circumstances and other factors, including:

- Qualification for other assistance programs such as SNAP or free/reduced lunches.
- Family circumstances such as loss or incarceration of a family member, divorce/separation, serious illness, job loss, or homelessness.
- Child attending has a disability or is in foster care.
- Child/family identifies as BIPOC or LGBTQIA2S+

For youth who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, or a person of color), specific financial assistance is available through the Equity Action Fund (EAF). BIPOC youth qualify for this funding regardless of financial need and can be requested during the registration process.

Financial Assistance Eligibility Scale

We use a scale based on the Seattle Public School Free/Reduced Lunch scale as well as the King County Livable Wage scale. Use your family size and annual or monthly income to determine how much financial assistance you are eligible for. Please note that this scale is the minimum amount you qualify for; we also consider extenuating circumstances, which could move you up to a higher percentage.

Family Size	Household Income	Minimum Award Eligibility				
		100%	75%	50%	25%	Not Eligible
1	Annual	Up to \$27,000	\$27,001 - \$32,100	\$32,101 - \$37,100	\$37,101 - \$42,200	Over \$42,200
	Monthly	Up to \$2,250	\$2,251 - \$2,670	\$2,671 - \$3,100	\$3,101 - \$3,520	Over \$3,520
2	Annual	Up to \$36,500	\$36,501 - \$44,400	\$44,401 - \$52,300	\$52,301 - \$60,200	Over \$60,200
	Monthly	Up to \$3,040	\$3,041 - \$3,700	\$3,701 - \$4,360	\$4,361 - \$5,020	Over \$5,020
3	Annual	Up to \$46,000	\$46,001 - \$56,700	\$56,701 - \$67,500	\$67,501 - \$78,200	Over \$78,200
	Monthly	Up to \$3,830	\$3,831 - \$4,730	\$4,731 - \$5,620	\$5,621 - \$6,520	Over \$6,520
4	Annual	Up to \$55,500	\$55,501 - \$69,100	\$69,101 - \$82,600	\$82,601 - \$96,200	Over \$96,200
	Monthly	Up to \$4,630	\$4,631 - \$5,750	\$5,751 - \$6,880	\$6,881 - \$8,010	Over \$8,010
5	Annual	Up to \$65,000	\$65,001 - \$81,400	\$81,401 - \$97,800	\$97,801 - \$114,100	Over \$114,100
	Monthly	Up to \$5,420	\$5,421 - \$6,780	\$6,781 - \$8,150	\$8,151 - \$9,510	Over \$9,510
6	Annual	Up to \$74,500	\$74,501 - \$93,700	\$93,701 - \$112,900	\$112,901 - \$132,100	Over \$132,100
	Monthly	Up to \$6,210	\$6,211 - \$7,810	\$7,811 - \$9,410	\$9,411 - \$11,010	Over \$11,010
7	Annual	Up to \$84,000	\$84,001 - \$106,100	\$106,101 - \$128,100	\$128,101 - \$150,100	Over \$150,100
	Monthly	Up to \$7,000	\$7,001 - \$8,840	\$8,841 - \$10,670	\$10,671 - \$12,510	Over \$12,510
8	Annual	Up to \$93,500	\$93,501 - \$118,400	\$118,401 - \$143,200	\$143,201 - \$168,100	Over \$168,100
	Monthly	Up to \$7,790	\$7,791 - \$9,870	\$9,871 - \$11,940	\$11,941 - \$14,010	Over \$14,010

For each additional person add: \$9,500 (Annual) or \$790 (Monthly)

How to Apply

There are three steps to apply for financial assistance – all three steps must be complete for your application to be considered and reviewed.

Step One: Complete the online [Financial Assistance Application Form](#). This form only needs to be completed once per year and covers your entire household. You can complete this form first, or select it during the registration process.

Step Two: Send us supporting documentation to verify your household income and other family circumstances. Examples of supporting documentation and how to submit this is listed below.

Step Three: Register for any Camp Fire youth program, and select “I am applying for financial assistance” during the registration process. You will be prompted to complete the Financial Assistance Application form if you have not already done so. You will also be asked to pay a small deposit, which is refundable if we are unable to award financial assistance.

What if I am on a waitlist?

If the program you are applying for is full, you must get on that program’s waitlist for your application to be considered complete and ready to review.

Supporting Documentation

We require supporting documentation to verify your financial assistance eligibility. The reason for this is to maintain a fair and unbiased decision-making process, as well as to follow best practices for non-profit accounting. The list below gives some recommendations for what kind of documentation to submit, although this is not an exhaustive list.

Proof of Income:

- Current or previous year’s tax return form(s) for your household
- Statement of benefits from an aid organization
- Statement of eligibility for free or reduced school lunches
- Other official document that shows your income and family size

Proof of Extenuating Circumstances:

- Letter from a service provider or professional such as a caseworker, social worker, therapist, etc. with contact information that clearly states the family’s circumstances

Documentation can be submitted by email or mail, and should include:

- Your full name
- Your camper(s) name(s)
- Program you are registering for

By email: Send to info@campfireseattle.org with subject line “Campership Documents”

By mail:

Camp Fire Financial Assistance
2414 SW Andover Street
Suite D-105
Seattle, WA 98106

Application Deadlines

Program	Application Deadline	Award Notification
Camp Sealth Overnight & Day Camp	January 31, 2024 <i>Early application deadline*</i>	By February 28
	March 31, 2024 <i>Final application deadline*</i>	By April 30
All other Day Camps <i>(Carkeek Park, Blyth Park, Hans Jensen)</i>	March 31, 2024	By April 30
Family Camps & Weekend Events	One month before the start of the program	Two weeks before the start of the program
Group Program	There is no deadline; apply at any time during the school year. Financial assistance for Group Program is awarded on a rolling basis throughout the year.	

**Please note that Camp Sealth programs fill quickly and financial assistance is limited. We strongly recommend applying by the January 31 deadline as we cannot guarantee that funds will be available after that point.*

Policies Specific to Each Program

Program	Deposit Amount	Max Award Per Person
Camp Sealth Overnight Camp	\$30 per person	\$960
Camp Sealth Day Camp	\$10 per person	\$440
All other Day Camps <i>(Carkeek Park, Blyth Park, Hans Jensen)</i>	\$10 per person	\$355
	<i>\$0 for teen volunteers only</i>	<i>\$50 for teen volunteers only</i>
Family Camps & Weekend Events	\$10 per person for programs costing more than \$100 per person	Up to cost of the event less the deposit
Group Program	No deposit required	100% of membership fees may be covered in addition to a grant to help cover program supplies

The maximum award for any program is the full cost of the most basic fee, minus the deposit amount. For example, \$960 is the cost of a week of Classic Camp minus the \$30 deposit. The award may be applied to a higher-cost program (such as horse camp), but the family would be responsible for the difference in cost.

The deposit is fully refundable if we are not able to provide a financial assistance award.

Award Restrictions

In order to serve as many families as possible, we limit financial assistance for each individual to one program in each of the above categories per year. The exception is for Camp Sealth summer programs, we allow only one award for either overnight or day camp.

Additionally, because we are a youth-serving organization, we do not offer financial assistance for adult-only programs such as the Campout and Spring Escape. We can offer financial assistance for adults attending a family event with children.

Award Process

For day and overnight camp programs, financial assistance award applications will be reviewed collectively after the application deadline, and families will be notified of their award status within one month of that deadline. For these programs, we do not utilize a first-come, first-served system – all applications received up to the deadline will receive equal consideration regardless of application date. Applications are anonymized and reviewed by a panel of program and administrative staff using a rubric designed to reduce subjectivity and bias. We do this because financial assistance is limited, and we want to provide equitable access to our camp programs to all youth and families.

For family camps, weekend events, and group program, applications are considered on a rolling basis. Financial assistance is typically granted as long as the minimum criteria is met and funds are available for that program.

Once an award decision has been made, you will receive notification of your award status, which will be one of the following:

- Awarded financial assistance of 100%, 75%, 50%, or 25%
- Declined due to not meeting the criteria
- Waitlisted for financial assistance, due to depletion of funds

If you have applied for financial assistance (and completed all 3 steps of the application process) and have not heard from us by the notification deadline, please contact our office.

Registration & Paying Balances

At the time you are notified of your award, the credit will be applied to your account. If the award does not cover the full cost of your program, the remaining balance will show on your account. You may choose to pay the remaining balance immediately, or set up a monthly payment plan. If you were declined, or if you received a partial award and are still not able to pay the remaining balance, contact our office to discuss options.

If you received an award and were waitlisted for a program, the registration team will let you know whether you'll be able to register and how to do that. We do reserve late-registration spaces for financial assistance awardees.

Cancellation & No-Show Policy

The deposit paid is refundable only if we are not able to award financial assistance to your family. Otherwise, once you have accepted an award of financial assistance, the deposit becomes non-refundable.

If you need to cancel for any reason, we ask that you notify our office as soon as possible so that we can reallocate funds and release your spot to another participant. You can cancel anytime before May 1 and receive a full refund of any money paid to that point except the non-refundable deposit. If you cancel after May 1, you will not receive a refund unless it is a medical cancellation, which requires written cancellation and a doctor's note.

If a participant is a no-show (without written cancellation and acknowledgement of the cancellation notice) to a program for which they have received financial assistance, the family will not be eligible to receive financial assistance for the following program year.

Other Sources of Financial Assistance

Some families may be eligible for additional funding that can help cover costs, if you are awarded partial or no financial assistance. These are partners that we regularly work with for scholarships and respite care funding:

- **DDA/DSHS:** Families in Washington State with kids with disabilities may be eligible to receive funding for respite care for day and overnight camp.
- **Gluten Intolerance Group:** Individuals with gluten intolerance or Celiac may qualify for financial assistance to attend our dedicated GIG week at Camp Sealth overnight camp.
- **Treehouse:** Youth in foster care can receive scholarships to attend our camp programs. If you are a foster parent, talk to your caseworker for more information.

Contact Us

Contact our Registration Team with any questions about financial assistance or help with the application process. We can also provide Spanish translation of any forms or information needed.

Kim Roeser

Camp Sealth Office Manager

kimr@campfireseattle.org

206 463 3174 ext. 21

For questions about all Camp Sealth programs

Emma R.P. Sadinsky

Seattle Office Manager

emmarps@campfireseattle.org

206 475 5116

For questions about Seattle-area day camps and group program