

# Camp Si-La-Meo

## Name Change FAQ



### Why is Camp Fire Alaska changing the name of Camp Si-La-Meo?

One of Camp Fire National's five interwoven strategic commitments is addressing and ending cultural appropriation. The name of Camp Si-La-Meo was derived from culturally appropriative practices.

### What is cultural appropriation?

Cultural Appropriation refers to a particular power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from the culture of people who have been systemically oppressed by that dominant group.

The adoption of these elements from another culture typically occurs without the consent of the people who belong to that culture and who have been historically marginalized. Acts of appropriation and their implications are not determined by the intent or awareness of those engaged in such acts but are instead shaped by, and in turn shape, the social, economic, and political contexts in which they occur.

Undoing the harm that has been caused by cultural appropriation requires engaging in dialogue with individuals and communities that have been impacted.

### Will Camp Si-La-Meo be the same after the name change?

Same camp, different name. The location and structure of camp will remain the same for families and children to enjoy just as they have in the past!

### How long will it take to decide on a new name?

The name-change process has begun with an internal committee. Throughout the summer, we will be collecting feedback and input from our staff, families, partners, and community members throughout this process, and we will be working with our indigenous partners to ensure that we are approaching this work the best we can.

### Will I get to be part of the re-naming process?

Yes, all are welcome to contribute ideas and feedback. **Please submit any ideas and thoughts you have here.** We will also be holding an in-person gathering in June where all will be welcome to learn more information and share their thoughts. Details TBA.

### What else is Camp Fire doing to acknowledge cultural appropriation?

Camp Fire Alaska has been addressing cultural appropriation within our programming since 2010. [Click here for a timeline.](#)