

STEPPING UP

Camp Fire Alaska alum joins the national board.

As if finishing up her last year of college isn't enough, Nicole Pate, has taken on an additional role that includes a seat at the table on Camp Fire's national board. We recently had a chance to ask Nicole about this role and about how her experience both as a participant and as staff with Camp Fire Alaska inspired her.

You recently joined the National Board for Camp Fire. Tell us about your role?

My role as a member of the National Board for Camp Fire is to be an active participant during all National Board meetings as the Chair for the Youth Advisory Cabinet. My job is to provide a report as to what YAC is up to and make sure there is a steady line of communication between the youth board and the National Board. As the YAC Chair my role is to facilitate monthly phone calls between all of the youth members and to work on raising youth voice.

What made you want to stay involved with Camp Fire over the years, even after you aged out of the program?

Camp Fire has had such a positive impact on my life as a youth, young adult and program leader. I love Camp Fire's mission and wanted a way to continue to promote that mission in my adult life. I also felt that becoming involved on the national level with Camp Fire would provide me with a different experience than I had ever had before and something that not many youth get to experience.

How do you think going to Camp Fire as a child positively impacted you?

Going to Camp Fire as a child provided me with a safe space to find my interests, make friends, grow as a leader and pursue my passions. The biggest reason I loved Camp Fire growing up was because of the positive role models I had. They



Nicole helping little swimmer at Camp Si-La-Meo in 2018.

always made sure I felt welcomed every day, was included in every conversation and felt apart of the team. The role models I had in my Camp Fire programs were the reason that I wanted to become a counselor and work with youth to provide them with the same experiences.

What is your favorite memory of Camp Fire?

My favorite memory of Camp Fire is from last summer (2018) when I worked with my group of caterpillars (5 year olds) and we would go for nature walks around Alaska Pacific University. I loved how they would always get so excited about every pretty flower they saw, which was every flower including dandelions. They always would say hello to every dog that passed by and they genuinely all seemed to find peace from nature. Because of this, I constantly try to remind myself of the peacefulness I experienced with this group of kiddos and how much fun we had on our weekly nature walks.

If you could tell current Camp Fire youth one thing, what would that be?

I would tell them to never stop following their dreams. There is always a way to accomplish your goals and find ways to incorporate your passions into your current life. My biggest passion is children and even after I was no longer able to work directly with children, I've still found ways to interact with youth and continue to pursue that passion. ✨

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Camp Fire
ALASKA



Donor Impact Report



FALL 2019

Every child will have the opportunity to discover the best in themselves and others in a fun, safe learning environment.

#HELLOSUMMER

The magic starts with YOU!

It's in their laughter and the smile on their faces. Camp magic can't be explained, but when you see it, you know it. Every year hundreds of youth load into the bus, head down the Seward Highway, and arrive at Camp K on the shores of Kenai Lake to make memories that will last a lifetime—memories that are filled with camp magic.

For many of those kids, this is the first time they've experienced the Alaskan outdoors up close. You see, for some kids, the trip down the Turnagain Arm is the first time they've left Anchorage. Camp K is a special place, but maybe even more so for the kids who get to experience it thanks to the generosity of our donors. This summer, 42 kids received scholarships to attend Camp K. They got to sing camp songs, hike, kayak, make new friends, and most importantly they got to learn more about themselves. Time at camp is full of new and exciting adventures that help youth discover their SPARK—what makes them light up and get excited. Over the years, those sparks turn into ideas, passion, hobbies and careers. Those sparks shape the future.

We've now moved into fall, and Camp K is closed for the year, but the magic is still alive. The sparks that were lit are just the start of what happens when kids



Camp magic in action during a session at Camp K on Kenai Lake.

get the opportunity to experience something new. Some experiences shape you more than others, and for those 42 kids, a week at Camp K provided a magical experience that changed their lives.

That magic started with you. ✨

GIVING THANKS

Dear Friends,

Winter will be in full swing soon, but as this season of gratitude unfolds, I want to take a look back to what was a unique summer here at Camp Fire.

Like most summers, this one began with all the hustle and bustle of summer program start-up that we are used to. We had youth and campers registered, staff were getting trained and supplies were purchased for all of our summer programs. We were all anticipating another summer of outdoor fun!

What we didn't know was just how this summer's fire season would impact us specifically. The Swan Lake Fire brought dense smoke into Camp K and we were forced to cancel one full session of camp and shorten another. Thankfully, we were able to partner with the Boy Scouts of Alaska to host a camp session at their Camp Gorsuch so that one full session of Camp Fire campers could still experience the magic they have come to know thanks to our amazing staff, our supportive community partners, and you.

As I reflect back on this summer, I am so grateful for the support of individuals like yourself who care about Camp Fire's mission and work. When our environment brings uncertainty and hardships to overcome, I know that our supporters and donors will lend a hand and provide the consistent generosity we need to move forward. Thank you for caring about Camp Fire Alaska's youth. As our future evolves, I find great comfort knowing that you will be there with us to help steward us through both the successes and challenges that come with our work.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Barbara Dubovich
Camp Fire CEO

“I am so grateful for the support of individuals like yourself who care about Camp Fire's mission and work.”



A group of campers getting ready for a night of Camp K fun.

KEEPING THE FLAME ALIVE

Fire Tender's Society

It's one thing to start a fire, but to keep it burning you have to tend to it. That's what the **Fire Tender's Society** represents for Camp Fire Alaska.

These donors have generously supported Alaska's youth over the years and ensure that our programs are accessible and affordable. In recognition of their longtime support and generosity, the Fire Tender's Society was launched in 2019 to include donors who have made lifetime contributions totaling more than \$100,000. **Thank you for your commitment and generosity!** ✧

BP

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Lives You Have Touched

Summer 2019 by the numbers

✧ 28 Rural Communities

✧ 42 Camp K Scholarships

✧ 3,142 Rural Alaska Program Youth

✧ 47 Si-La-Meo Scholarships

✧ 24,126 Meals served, Rural Alaska Program

✧ 128 Operation Purple Campers

RURAL ALASKA SPOTLIGHT

Community Connection: Elder Meal Program

This past summer, the Rural Alaska Program began delivering meals to Elders. The Elder Meal Program was born when a diabetes specialist from Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) strongly advocated for the restructuring of our meal delivery to include—and prioritize—serving Elders. This small adjustment would dramatically realign Camp Fire programming to the traditional values observed within the communities we serve.

The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) immediately leaned in to provide the financial backing needed to launch the program. Within six months, our pilot meal program rolled out.

The result wasn't perfect—it was human, and it was spectacular. The meal program started as regular meals within program space, but rapidly changed to a meal delivery program. Camp Fire staff and youth would pack up meals and go door-to-door, delivering meals and visiting Elders.

Unexpected, wonderful things began to happen. Program space evolved, as more Elders and adults visited these gathering places to teach youth and staff about traditional activities, subsistence living, cultural histories, and more. ✧



1,958 Elder Meals Served in 2019
Youth knocked on doors and got excited about connecting with their own grandparents.

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