



CAMP FIRE BOYS AND GIRLS

ANNUAL REPORT 1998 - 99

A NON-STOP ADVENTURE INTO THE NEXT CENTURY



Child care programs provide children with enriching educational experiences — opportunities that help them grow into healthy, caring and responsible adults.

CHILDREN HAVE FUN AND LEARN IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Cheryl Feuge remembers those days all too well, when she would be bombarded with loud protests from the back seat of the car: "I don't want to go to the baby-sitter's! It's boooooooooorrrrring!" But not anymore. Her children's tune has changed, thanks to the school-age child care program operated by Alaska Council of Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Anchorage.

"We love it — my kids come home happy. They used to come home crying," Cheryl says.

Now, on the way home from school, Sarah and Kyle, in the second and first grades, share stories of the adventures they've had that day at Camp Fire. During the summer, they swim, bike, canoe, hike, build campfires and roast marshmallows. During the school year, they do arts and crafts, play games and enjoy special speakers. Most importantly, participating in Camp Fire's child care programs means they are being nurtured by trained, caring adults and learning while having fun.

"I like going to Camp Fire because we do fun stuff. I like doing things outside," Sarah says. "We play games like checkers and do crafts like make snowflakes out of paper."

Cheryl and her husband, Roger, were drawn to Camp Fire's school-age child care program because it was convenient, affordable and well thought of by other children and parents. "They keep the kids busy and learning new skills," Cheryl says, "like how to play with other children, share, cooperate and receive directions from other adults."

The Anchorage school-age child care program is a marvelous example of how Camp Fire fulfills the Search Institute's developmental asset cluster of "constructive use of time." Instead of allowing kids to languish during the hours before and after school, this and other programs provide children with enriching educational experiences — opportunities that help them grow into healthy, caring and responsible adults.



KYLE AND SARAH FEUGE

Wherever Camp Fire Boys and Girls' child care programs are found, there are children learning and having fun. During what might otherwise be unproductive hours before and after school, children in Camp Fire programs participate in service-learning projects, self-reliance courses and exciting activities. Every year, our innovative programs provide approximately 24,000 children with safe, supportive environments where they develop new skills, make new friends, and enjoy positive relationships with adult role models.