

August 2011

Welcome to the Camp Fire USA program at Nativity of Mary School. Camp Fire has a long history and presence at Nativity for the past 30+ years.

Camp Fire is a national youth development organization for boys and girls of all ages whose mission is to build caring, confident youth and future leaders. It was founded in 1910 as the Camp Fire Girls. Boys first joined in the mid-1970's and the name was changed to Camp Fire Boys and Girls in 1993. Then in 2001 the name was again changed to Camp Fire USA. Although Camp Fire includes boys, due to the strong Cub and Boy Scouting programs here at Nativity, our clubs rarely have boys but they are always welcome! In fact, Camp Fire encourages family memberships so that the whole family can participate in the fun events and activities. More information can be found at the National website: [www.campfireusa.org](http://www.campfireusa.org)

Here at Nativity we follow the "Classic Club" curriculum which is a small group program, usually grouped by grade levels. Youth participate in a variety of activities and projects in five areas called trails:

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

All the clubs in the metro area are grouped into "Circles" (Nativity clubs are in Osage Circle), and all are part of the Heartland Programs Division of Camp Fire USA.

Even though the annual registration process usually occurs at the beginning of the school year, kids are welcome to join and new clubs are able to get started at any time throughout the year. Youth can begin at any grade level without having been involved at the younger levels. They earn recognition items such as emblems and beads to acknowledge their efforts and accomplishments. Current membership fees to the council are \$10/youth, \$15/adult or \$45/family of 4 or more annually plus club emblem & dues fees to the club leader.

As in all youth development organizations, we rely on parent or adult volunteers to serve as leaders for the clubs. Heartland Programs and Innovation Center provides all leader training and support to its volunteers and members. We are always looking for parent volunteers to start clubs if there isn't one, or to assist an existing club. And current leaders always appreciate any time or materials that families are willing to donate! Meeting times and frequency are set at the convenience of the leaders and members. Curriculum is available but may be modified or substitutions made depending on the interest of the club. It's very flexible!

If your child and family are interested in joining as a club member or a volunteer leader or assistant, please contact Kathy Bishop at 550-1906 or [kwickbish@comcast.net](mailto:kwickbish@comcast.net) for more information.