



## LIFELONG IMPACT

In 2016 Camp Fire's leading nationwide *Out-of-School-time (OST)* programs were offered at 637 sites across 20 states and helped 18,005 youth develop the critical life skills they need to succeed now. Camp Fire has been serving our area for more than 100 years.

### SIGNIFICANT, POSITIVE, MEASURABLE RESULTS

Research indicates that when youth spend their time in *OST* activities, they fare better developmentally. In a recent study by the Harvard Family Research Project—"The After-School Programs in the 21st Century Report"—found that quality *OST* programs helped students:

- Achieve higher grades
- Attain better school attendance rates
- Become engaged and more interested in learning and achieving their goals
- Demonstrate social competence
- Lead healthier lifestyles
- Choose to volunteer to help others
- Provide sound stewardship of the earth and its resources

*70% of parents in Illinois say afterschool programs help their children gain valuable workforce skills.*  
- National Network of Statewide Afterschool Networks



## AFTERSCHOOL WITH CAMP FIRE

HOW YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR STUDENTS, & THEIR FAMILIES BENEFIT



## CONTACT US

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# WHY CAMP FIRE?

For 107 years, Camp Fire has been a pioneer in youth development.

Our afterschool programs provide a safe, supportive, and quality experience for children grades K-8.

Camp Fire programs are inclusive and open to everyone.

Activities occur in a structured, safe and secure environment where kids not only get homework assistance, but also develop new friendships and learn life skills to help them succeed now, such as personal resilience, self-respect, intellectual curiosity, conflict resolution skills, an appreciation of nature, and healthy eating habits.



## BENEFITS

Research has shown that participating schools have experienced the following benefits from Camp Fire:

### 1. COST EFFECTIVE FOR PARENTS

- a. It offers parents a safe, secure, educational enrichment environment for children after school (*Camp Fire follows all rules and standards for child safety and security*)
- b. Parents have peace of mind and confidence in the supervision of their children by trained, qualified staff
- c. Parents have expanded learning opportunities for their children
- d. Children develop a stronger sense of community

### 2. PROVEN IMPACT

With the support of trained staff delivering research-validated curriculum, the outcomes for participants in Camp Fire Illinois Prairie OST will be measured through post-participation surveys. Outcomes to be measured will be developed and shared with the District. As part of Camp Fire's commitment to program quality, we regularly use the *Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA)* tool, which assesses areas including Safe Environment, Supportive Environment, Interaction, and Engagement. Camp Fire Illinois Prairie follows the recommended program improvement guidelines from Camp Fire National Headquarters, which includes the creation and implementation of a Program Improvement Plan based on the results of the YPQA outcome tool.

## HIGHLY TRAINED, KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF

One of Camp Fire's key differentiators, compared to other afterschool programs, is our top-tier, quality staff. We equip and train our specialists with powerful conversation-starters and robust materials so they can help kids discover what it means to thrive.

82% of youth said adults in Camp Fire help them solve problems instead of telling them what to do.



## THE THRIVE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM:

Programming draws from rigorously vetted resources and individual curricula to best meet the needs of the participants and schools. Students are given a framework to succeed with a daily schedule that provides a quality, well-rounded experience.

A typical three-hour Thrive program is designed to support educational enrichment and maximize youth engagement. Each session includes dedicated homework assistance, quality-tested activities, and STEM-based investigative opportunities. Students are exposed to character and leadership development through The Adventure Trails®, as well as learning about healthy, active lifestyles through Wise Kids® and Wise Kids Outdoors®. Camp Fire's supervised, self-guided recreation allows participants to socialize with each other in a safe, supportive environment. During each daily session a healthy snack is provided.