

# New guidelines adopted for Camp Fire Girls

Today's Camp Fire Girls have come a long way since their founding in 1910.

They have adapted to a changing society, responding to needs which their turn-of-the-century counterparts could not have foreseen.

The first Camp Fire Girls devoted most of their time to the study of Indian lore, outdoor exercise and camping.

When I was young, the image of Camp Fire Girls was that of a small girl roasting a hot dog at a campfire," recalled Sally Hoffer, the organization's Pontiac district director.

"We are trying to change the old image of the little camper. Today's emphasis is on helping girls become well rounded individuals who can work with others and yet have the freedom to develop their own special interests," said Ms. Hoffer, an attractive young woman who might easily be mistaken for one of the senior Camp Fire Girls.

**THE PROGRAM**, open to any girl between the ages of 6 and 18, is divided into four levels.

Beginning with the Blue Birds, grades one through three, girls learn how to work in small groups sharing activities such as singing, simple craft projects and basic cooking skills.

The shift in outdoor experiences is from knot tying and campfire cook-outs to environmental concerns. Projects employ sense-awareness trips, such as discovering outdoor surroundings through sound, scent and touch while being led through the woods with eyes closed.

Girls in grades four through six comprise the second level, Adventurers. At this stage, they are encouraged to plan projects and make decisions within the group.

**THEY EARN** beads for ceremonial jackets by doing individual activities in the home, such as taking care of pets, working on science projects or keeping their rooms neat.

"Parental support is needed at all levels of Camp Fire Girls," said Ms. Hoffer. "Leaders invite mothers and fathers to become involved with the groups by providing craft ideas, transportation or weekly treats for meetings."

Discovery Club is geared to girls of junior high school age. At this level girls develop special interest projects in ecology, horsemanship, religion or any area of their choosing.

They also take part in discussion groups, exchanging ideas on issues of politics, social change and personal growth.

Camp Fire Girls of high school age belong to the Horizon Club. Here community involvement is emphasized.

**LOCAL HORIZON** Club members work in nursing homes, at the Clinton Valley Center, as guides at Meadow



Camp Fire Girls learn to work together in Avon Park ecology project

Brook Hall, or in other community service programs.

These girls also participate in regional meetings with other Horizon Clubs and attend outings to various attractions within Michigan. Recently they visited the Tulip Festival in Holland and the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

In the Rochester area, Camp Fire Girls at all levels combine their efforts in working for Neighborhood House, a community service project. The girls spend time collecting canned food and clothing which the program distributes to residents in need."

They also serve on a coordinating unit which takes calls from people whose homes may have burned out, and puts them in touch with those who can fill their needs.

"The whole nature of the Camp Fire Girls program is groups working together and planning activities under

the guidance of an interested leader," explained Ms. Hoffer.

"THERE NO longer exists a rigid guideline to which the girls must adhere.

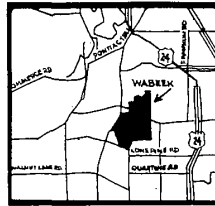
"Wotelo, derived from the words work, health, and love, remains the watchword of the Camp Fire Girls," said Ms. Hoffer, "despite the many changes in Camp Fire Girls throughout the years."

It was originated by the group's founders, Dr. and Mrs. Luther Gullick, authorities in child health, recreation and education.

They felt that Camp Fire Girls would fulfill a need to prepare young women for the business of living in a new kind of world.

Girls interested in becoming members are asked to call the Pontiac Area Council at 338-4038.

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Rochester Blue Bird develops environmental awareness in outdoor group experiences

### Births announced

Mr. and Mrs. David W. Samanen of Lansing, formerly of Birmingham, announce the birth of a son, Jeffrey James on June 27.

Mrs. Mabel Marsh of Troy is the maternal grandmother. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Martin Samanen of Beverly Hills.

MR. AND MRS. Alan Vonderahe of Basking Ridge, N.J., announce the birth of a son, Kurt Markham, on July 20.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Owens of Franklin. Mrs. Vonderahe is the former Marilyn Owens.



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