



Addressing cultural appropriation in Camp Fire Columbia's history has been on our mind, and a subject of discussion and action for some time. Here at Camp Fire Columbia, we actively focus on thoughtful changes to end cultural appropriation and acknowledge the harm that appropriation has caused throughout history. **This work coincides with another part of Camp Fire's strategic priorities: To address and end cultural appropriation.** As we explore cultural appropriation in our practices we will continue to work with Indigenous communities to determine and acknowledge harm, create a road map for needed change, and work with national to assess cultural appropriation using the tools and guidance of a task force, in which we are a part of.

"I'm reminded of the story my daughter told me when she was elementary-aged and when she saw others appropriating Native American culture – 'It feels like they're making fun of me, mommy. It's not their traditions, they are doing it all wrong, and that feels hurtful.'"

To help better understand this work and goal let's look at what cultural appropriation is.

Cultural Appropriation refers to a particular power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from the culture of people who have been systemically oppressed by that dominant group. The adoption of these elements from another culture typically occurs without the consent of the people who belong to that culture and who have been historically marginalized.

Acts of appropriation and their implications are not determined by the intent or awareness of those engaged in such acts but are instead shaped by, and in turn shape, the social, economic, and political contexts in which they occur. Undoing the harm that has been caused by cultural appropriation requires engaging in dialogue with individuals and communities that have been impacted.

Steps we at Camp Fire Columbia are taking to address and end cultural appropriation:

- Redesigning our summer camp, Camp Namanu's logo. In the creation of the new logo, we are moving away from a design that mimics the Native American aesthetic. We brought on a committee of alum, staff and community members to work with a graphic designer and are engaging youth in focus groups to ensure the new logo serves those it is meant for-current and future campers!
- In 2018, we ended the use of ceremonial gowns, which the entire Camp Fire network is now moving away from using.
- Renaming buildings that hold appropriative language. Words associated with past Camp Fire traditions were often made to sound as if they were Native American words. Names and language can still hold powerful meaning when created by our community instead of appropriating those of other cultures.

We recognize that Indigenous communities historically have not received any social or financial benefit from Camp Fire's use of Native American symbols, imagery, language, rituals and ceremonies. Only Camp Fire and participating youth have benefited, and we are rectifying that.

As you take in and learn this knowledge here are helpful questions that can be used to ask and assess cultural appropriation in your own life:

- Culturally appropriative language: Do the words or language potentially take or draw from a culture's intellectual property, traditional knowledge, or cultural expressions?
- Culturally appropriative images and iconography: Does the image or symbol potentially take or draw from a culture's intellectual property, traditional knowledge, and cultural expressions?
- Stereotypes and myths: Is an element from a culture depicted in a stereotypical or one-dimensional way or perpetuates a myth?
- Culturally appropriative traditions and rituals: Does the original ritual, tradition, or image potentially hold sacred meaning?
- Context: Is the ritual, tradition, or image used out of context from its original meaning or purpose?
- Other: Is there language or are there images that are non-inclusive or biased toward a particular group of people?

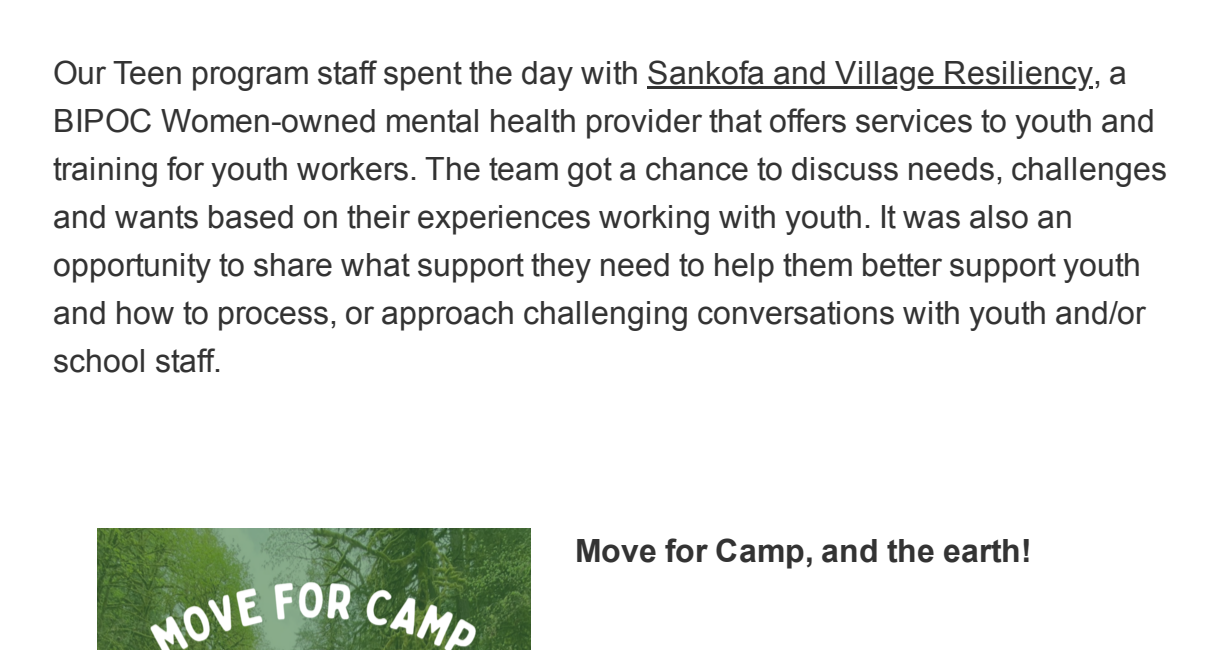
[Read more about Camp Fire National's task force and their time spent auditing and developing recommendations for changes and next steps to ending cultural appropriation at Camp Fire.](#)

[Learn more on cultural appropriation at NDN Collective, an Indigenous-led organization "committed to creating a world that is more just and equitable for all people and the planet."](#)

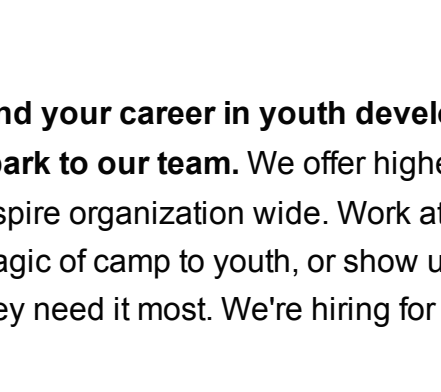
Program Updates

Huge thanks to all who showed up and joined us for our annual event - Spark! Together, we raised over \$120,000. Your support helps us continue to show up for youth of all ages in life-changing ways. If you missed the event you're in luck because it's still available online to view or give support! Catch a little sneak peek below.

Visit here: avstream.me/spark22



Our Teen program staff spent the day with [Sankofa and Village Resiliency](#), a BIPOC Women-owned mental health provider that offers services to youth and training for youth workers. The team got a chance to discuss needs, challenges and wants based on their experiences working with youth. It was also an opportunity to share what support they need to help them better support youth and how to process, or approach challenging conversations with youth and/or school staff.



Move for Camp, and the earth!
Grab some fresh air, get some healthy movement in and celebrate this wonderful planet we call home! Join us next week for Move for Camp in celebration of Earth Week. Choose how you move, where and when you move and how far you move! All proceeds of the event will go toward native plant and tree restoration at Camp Namanu. To register for this year's event click [HERE](#).

Find your career in youth development! Bring your energy, skills and spark to our team. We offer higher wages, and more opportunities to grow and inspire organization wide. Work at Camp Namanu this summer and bring the magic of camp to youth, or show up for families and youth in our schools when they need it most. We're hiring for seasonal, full-time and part-time positions!

[WORK WITH US!](#)

Memorial Day weekend at Camp Namanu! The Riverside Band will play Saturday, May 28th in the early evening at camp. Bring a picnic and the whole family for a day full of spring weather and fun. Select cabin rentals will also be made available. [Purchase your ticket HERE](#).



Fun Activities!



Book of the month: Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids by Cynthia Leitch Smith
A collection of intersecting stories with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and Native pride.

To win this book reply to this email and share with us what family means to you!

Activity of the month: Let's write a book!



Events

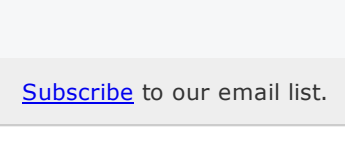
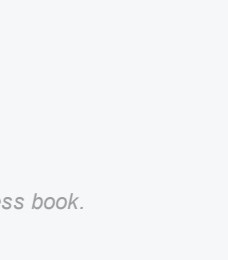
- Oregon Ag Fest.** April 23 - 24. Free for Children 12 & under and parking at the Skamania Lodge Fairgrounds in Salem, 2330 17th St NE 97301. This two-day event, is aimed to help families better understand where their food, fiber and flora come from, and is a unique learning experience, where hands-on exhibits make learning about Oregon's vast agricultural industry educational and entertaining. Learn more and buy tickets at oragfest.com
- Skamania Lodge Easter Egg Hunt.** Sunday, April 17 at 8 am at Skamania Lodge, 1131 SW Skamania Lodge Way, Stevenson, WA 98648. The Easter Bunny has hidden 5000 candy-filled Easter Eggs and 25 Golden Eggs on our lawn. This annual favorite is FREE and open to the public. Stay for our Easter Champagne Brunch and create lasting memories with your family. (Brunch prices: \$48 Adults, \$28 Kids 8-12, \$13 Kids 3-7. Make a Reservation for Brunch: 509-427-2508



Friends of Namanu Corner

Save the dates and register! More details to come.
[July 7 - 9 Friends of Namanu Retreat](#) at Camp Namanu
[September 8 - 11 Friends of Namanu Homecoming](#) at Camp Namanu

Join our [Friends of Namanu Facebook page](#) or follow [Friends of Namanu \(@friendsofnamanu\) on Instagram](#) for news, photos, trivia, giveaways and so much more!



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