



Camp Fire USA
RIVER BEND COUNCIL



2011 Annual Report





Our Mission

Build caring, confident youth and future leaders.

I like the independence and confidence that she gains from her camp experience.

- Parent

I like that he can safely grow and learn new things in and around nature that he would not normally be able to do at home.

- Parent

Our Council

River Bend Council is creating new experiences for the youth of our community. Of programs are co-ed, youth-oriented, and inclusive. Our kids develop the self-reliance and confidence that comes from exploration and creation. We teach youth about community and how they can make the world a better place. For over 90 years, River Bend Camp Fire has given thousands of kids an opportunity to grow.

National

Camp Fire USA is one of the nation's leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, currently serving nearly 750,000 children and youth annually. Camp Fire USA, with national headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., provides all-inclusive, coeducational programs in hundreds of communities across the United States. Founded in 1910, Camp Fire USA's outcome-based programs include youth leadership, self-reliance, after school groups, camping, environmental education and child care.

*Today's kids.
Tomorrow's leaders.*

President's Report

It was a very exciting year for the River Bend Council! We made numerous strategic changes aimed at getting the council out of debt and giving us a programming package that would not only fit our council but also give us sustainability.

Our first step in this process was to sell one of our unused lots on Birch Lake. This allowed us to erase our growing debt, develop a cash reserve, and invest for future capital projects. We also transitioned our Executive Director position to encompass the role of Camp Director at Tannadoonah.

These were major changes to the way we operate, but they were necessary to ensure that we were operating efficiently while being able to use our funds in the areas that matter most to all of us: our programming. These changes had the desired effect, and combined with a strong summer at camp, proved to be even better than originally planned. We ended the year significantly in the black, which is going to allow us to make additional capital improvements this year.

As we move forward this year and beyond, we will continue to make strategic changes necessary to ensure the continued success and future of our organization. This year was proof that although the changes may be big, sometimes they are necessary to achieve results.

A special thank you this year to Marty McKiernan who has been a big part of our council for the past few years, serving both on the Board of Directors and also as our Executive Director. His hard work and passion helped shape the current structure of our organization. He came up with a plan that, although it removed him from the Executive Director role, gave our council the best chance for short and long term success. We look forward to him continuing to work with and advise our council.

I want to thank everybody who contributed and believed in us over the years. Your support has helped keep our council strong, and it has allowed us to do what is most important to all of us: aid in the development of youth. Thank you.

Bret Robertson

President, Board of Directors

2011 Board of Directors*

President	Bret Robertson
Vice President	Maureen Koscielski
Treasurer	Brenda Engel
Secretary	Joe Lyphout

Members-at-Large:

Joe Bellina, Glenn Geiser, Tony Laskowski, Patti Russwurm, Audra Sieradzki, Neil Waechter

* As of December 31, 2011

Council Staff

Executive Director (January-July)	Martin McKiernan
Executive Director (July-December)	Amber Grundy, Ph.D.
Camp Tannadoonah Director	Amber Grundy, Ph.D.
Club Program Director	Peggy Laskowski
Office Manager (June-August)	Dawn Brooks
Accountant	Stacy Koebel-Harder



Executive Director's Report

The 2011 calendar year brought us many successes and celebrations for our council!

In the spring we began to tackle some long neglected projects at Camp Tannadoonah, including some new roofs, new screen doors on cabins, fixing erosion problems, replacing mattresses for all the camper beds in camp, painting the waterfront pier, and many other projects large and small!

We also received a renewal of our United Way funding for camperships in the spring, and learned that our funding for the next fiscal year had increased from \$5,000 to \$14,000. Camp Fire was one of the only local agencies to receive an increase this year.

Our Club program began to grow this year, increasing from three to six active clubs in just a few months, with three other groups in the process of forming at year-end. We held many fun Club events this year, including the annual Fun Run and Fun Fair, spring and fall camping weekends, outdoor training, service days, a Harvest Party, and a Craft Workshop.

The summer brought us record numbers of campers at Camp Tannadoonah, and we finished the year with 647 total campers for the summer. There were three different weeks during the summer when we had over 100 campers! We were able provide over \$25,000 in campership funds, distributed among 92 campers.

In July, the council held its 3rd annual Hog Roast at Camp Tannadoonah. During this year's Hog Roast we unveiled the new Legend Tree to honor individuals and families who have made major contributions to the council over the years. In the inaugural ceremony, we honored four Legends: Donald Harman, the Laskowski Family, the Laura B. DeRhodes Family, and the Morris Family.

In the fall we held our second Silent Auction in conjunction with the Birch Lake Yacht Club Fall Dinner. The 2011 event included many wonderful items donated by individuals and businesses, and raised nearly \$8,000 for the council.

We ended the year in a strong financial position, with a balanced budget and a positive net income for the second year in a row! We are proud of the many changes we have made over the past year, and are looking forward to another successful year in 2012.

Amber M. Grundy, Ph.D.
Executive Director





I love the freedom they have, the variety of activities offered and the overall environment.

- Parent

Camp Tannadoonah

Our resident camp is a traditional overnight camp, set in a wooded area along the shores of beautiful Birch Lake in southwestern Michigan. Camping activities for boys and girls include sailing, swimming, archery, nature, drama, sports, games, and lots of outdoor enjoyment.

Director's Note

Camp 2011 was one of our best years yet! We added some brand new program options this year, including waterskiing, yoga, an art program, and guitar lessons, all of which were very popular. Camp attendance hit a 20-year high with nearly 650 campers, and Harry Potter Week set a new Tannadoonah record with 120 campers! We provided 92 full or partial camperships, and had a 59% camper retention rate from 2010.

	2010	2011	Change
Total Campers	571	647	+13%
Unique Campers	457	483	+6%
Campership Awards	\$23,703	\$25,767	+9%

We were happy to make some great improvements to the facilities this year, too. We purchased 100 new vinyl mattresses for camper beds, replaced two roofs, and repainted the waterfront pier!

Camp Fire Club

8 Leaders

40 Youth

6 Club Groups

The Club group program brings families and communities together in youth development, service projects and fun family events. Clubs meet monthly or bi-monthly with their volunteer leaders, as well as doing service projects and monthly activities arranged by the council.

Director's Note

Our Camp Fire Club program grew this fall from three active groups to six!

Our club groups were very service oriented in 2011. Club members and their leaders volunteered at many places and events, including Zoo Boo at Potawatomi Zoo, the Goodwill Industries' Doll Project, Saint Francis Covent, the Northern Indiana Pack a Back Pack Program, Camp Fire's annual Fun Run and Fun Fair, work days at Camp Tannadoonah, and Valentines for Vets at the Fort Wayne Veteran's Hospital,

Club youth, leaders, and families also participated in monthly activities such as Spring and Fall Group Camping at Tannadoonah, a Harvest Party, Craft Workshop, Bowling, a Hat Workshop, outdoor training, and the Rum Village Hike. This year we also made all of these club events open to campers who attended Camp Tannadooah.

I am always very proud of the excitement and hard work the club youth show when giving service for our community and the council. For instance, during the 2011 trip to the Food Bank, the youth bagged up 900 bags of food for school children in need.

Peggy Laskowski

Club Program Director



Camp Fire USA River Bend Council

Balance Sheet, December 31, 2011

ASSETS

Cash

Petty Cash	\$	50.00
Checking		87,747.34
Investments		100,000.00
Accounts Receivable		4,225.00

Fixed Assets		120,558.47
--------------	--	------------

TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>312,580.81</u>
---------------------	-----------	--------------------------

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable		-1,620.43
Unearned Revenue		5,818.50

Payroll Liabilities		110.00
Accrued Retirement Benefit		20.00

Total Liabilities	\$	4,328.07
-------------------	----	----------

Retained Earnings		23,043.95
-------------------	--	-----------

Opening Balance Equity		10,488.70
------------------------	--	-----------

Net Income		274,720.09
------------	--	------------

Total Equity	\$	<u>308,252.74</u>
--------------	----	-------------------

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	<u>312,580.81</u>
-------------------------------------	-----------	--------------------------



River Bend Council, Inc.
905 E. Jefferson Blvd. Suite D
Mishawaka, IN 46545

574.234.4145
info@tannadoonah.org
tannadoonah.org