

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Jacqueline Gibson
Program Director, Heart of the Hawkeye Council
Telephone: 515-274-1501
E-mail: jacqueline@campfireusaia.org

Community Invited to celebrate Camp Fire's Birthday!

Camp Fire USA Turns 100 Years Old and Celebrates Centennial Birthday On March 13

[Des Moines, Iowa — March 5, 2010] – Everyone loves a good birthday party. On March 13, 2010, Camp Fire USA is celebrating its 100th birthday. The community, Camp Fire club members --young and old and their families, are invited to celebrate Camp Fire's birthday by attending a birthday party on Saturday, March 13, 2010. The party will be held at the Camp Fire Service Center, 5615 Hickman Road, Des Moines, Iowa, 50310 from 1-3 pm. Club youth are encouraged to bring 100 pennies as their "birthday present" to the council. This money will help support clubs and other Camp Fire programs in the area. The party will include birthday cake, songs, group games, Camp Fire memorabilia and party favors.

Camp Fire USA was founded by Luther and Charlotte Gulick in Vermont. The organization was known as Camp Fire Girls when it first began in 1910. Camp Fire USA became a coeducational organization in 1975. Camp Fire Girls of America was first recognized as a national group in Washington, D.C. in 1912. This is the same year a council was formed in Des Moines. Club programming began in 1913 with a program called "Blue Birds". The Blue Bird level is now known as the "Starflight" level and serves youth in kindergarten, first, and second grades. The "Adventure" program, was added in 1983 and serves youth in third, fourth, and fifth grades. Club's "Discovery" program, serves grades sixth and seventh was added in 1962. Lastly, a program for High School youth, called "Teens in Action" was added to encourage youth to stay engaged in their community with service learning and community service type projects.

Camp Fire USA's Camp Hantesa, was founded near Boone at Ledges State Park in 1919. Camp Hantesa is a resident camp that also offers year round programming. In 1945, councils from Des Moines and surrounding areas joined to form the Heart of the Hawkeye Council. Presently, there are area clubs in Des Moines, Clarion/Belmond, Tama, Indianola Boone, and Creston.

Camp Fire USA is one of the nation's leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, currently serving 735,000 participants annually. Camp Fire provides all-inclusive, coeducational programs in hundreds of communities across the United States. Camp Fire USA's mission is to build caring, confident youth, and future leaders. By design, Camp Fire's programs (including small group experiences, after school programs, camping and environmental education, child care and service learning) build confidence in younger children and provide hands-on, youth-driven leadership experiences for older youth. For more information, visit www.campfireusaia.org.

###