

A group team building activities is to find a way to get the entire council across the creek on a cargo net.



# WHAT'S SUMMER WITHOUT SUMMER CAMPS?

**Martin E. Fortin, Jr.**

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## PRINCIPAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

*Creating a Culture, Engaging Communities, Improving Instruction, Closing the Gap*

I attended leadership camp at the Cispus Learning Center in July of 1970. It was truly an unforgettable learning experience that shaped my future career choice as an educator. As a teacher, I returned many times with students, or for adult science courses.

When the opportunity came in 1991 to return and work at Cispus, I did not hesitate to apply. As a result of my 28 years of working for AWSP, I have grown professionally in many ways. I still feel the wonder of leadership camp as I work with the Mt. Baker leadership camp each summer.

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“ When I am asked about leadership camp, a million things come to mind. I've attended camp for two years and have had the privilege to meet more than 100 other students from around the state. In just seven days, you learn things like how to run an assembly, how to lead a large group activity or event, how to create successful committees, and really just how to put yourself out there to the world. Leadership camp has helped me become a driven, motivated leader, and taught me to be myself, no matter the circumstance. Leadership camp helps you understand the value of students' opinions in your school and how to create a culture staff and students want to be in. From working with the staff to getting to know our peers, I learned everyone matters in a school environment. At camp, you learn the importance of compassion for the students around you. The lessons I learned helped my

Executive Council understand the need to help those around us. We have provided meals, clothes, and money to our students' families. Leadership camp has opened doors and taught us values we use every day. I will be able to utilize all the things I learned at camp throughout my life.”

**Tawnya Rose**  
Kiona-Benton City HS

“ I have been given the rare opportunity to attend summer leadership camp for two years. For me, this camp has inspired me to be the best leader I can be. It has inspired me to be exposed to all perspectives of leadership and that everyone, no matter the circumstance, can be a leader. This camp has granted me a new form of confidence and has taught me how to apply my natural strengths back at my home high school. All thanks to this camp and the confidence I have gained, I have been able to successfully manage and plan various school wide events that have made a difference at my home high school”

**Sarah Stewart**  
Richland HS

“ Leadership camp is utter magic. Sunshine not only beams on us, but also through us, around us, and between us. Every kid at the camp had a smile on their face because of one feeling: they



A camp-wide goal is to get every delegate on stage sometime during the week.

felt like they belong. By the end of the first day at camp I knew the people here and the feeling I felt was something that needed to be at my school, Southridge High. As Southridge's slogan is, "Home of the Suns," it seemed only fitting to fill our halls with the sunshine we felt from camp. Walking onto leadership camp soil, I knew no one besides my friends, but the upbeat energy surrounding all of us led to friendliness, positivity, and ultimate happiness, even between strangers. Every kid at this camp always had a place to belong and that was made very clear by the camp's leaders. This upbeat energy is something I, along with my fellow school leaders, strive to bring to Southridge every day. Some efforts made by Southridge leadership to make sure every student feels that they belong are constant notes of encouragement and daily greeting as they walk in. Everybody deserves to feel like they have a place to belong in this world. Although this is a seemingly instinctive idea, creating an environment to appease every student's need to belong is not an easy task. But with the help of leadership camp, teen leaders are equipped with the most important lesson a leader can learn: how to use your happiness to make others feel welcome.

**Emilie Shipley**  
Southridge HS



Camps extensively use the Cispus Challenge Course to enhance team development.

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“ My life has been heavily influenced by leadership classes, students and teachers. But never in my life have I been touched by more souls than when I stepped off the bus onto Cispus Learning Center grounds to attend Mt. Baker Leadership Camp. Every single person you see has your best interests in mind. Their hearts get filled by making others smile, so all you see when you look around is laughter and friendships forming. Friendships are made from across the state. I keep in contact with my cabin and we all message each other to seek help with life issues, spiritual battles, or just common high school/ASB problems. Being given the ability to exchange ideas, purposes, and “whys” is the most beautiful gift. I’ve never felt more needed, wanted, or appreciated than when I am surrounded by 300 caring, amazing people at leadership camp. Mt. Baker Leadership camp has truly given me a second chance at life. Through my short 16 years on this earth, I’ve felt lonely, unwanted and useless, but once I see my camp friends or remember the JC and SCs, all is alright. I walk through each day with an open heart and a positive view on my school because of my camp experience. The days I’ve spent at Mt. Baker have been the best days of my life.

**Elena Breiner**  
*Bonney Lake HS*

“ The environment and the people are two of the most notable pieces that make camp “Leadership Camp.” A place where everyone feels accepted, a place where barriers that people build for themselves seem much easier to lower. My first year Junior Counselor told me something that changed the way I look at life. She told me that I’m a fire, that I



A long held tradition is to challenge each group to develop a popular song tune with new lyrics that show what they have learned at camp and perform it at Song Fest.

shouldn’t be ashamed to say what I want to say and be who I want to be. My second year JC told me something that made me look at myself differently. He told me that being myself unapologetically is something that inspires people around me to be who they are, too. Since camp, I strive to be true to myself so I can encourage others to be happy with themselves. I compliment people every day so people at CHS can have the jolts of happiness and joy that people at Cispus made me feel.

**Isac Cantu Gonzalez**  
*2-year delegate,  
Chiawana HS*

In 1970, AWSP’s Student Leadership program hosted four leadership camps at the Cispus Learning Center. In 2019, we will host 16 camps between our two sites — Cispus and Chewelah Peak. By these student testimonials, I have been assured that the experience of camp is still life-changing for individuals and the schools that send them. Since 1955, the vision of the school principals in Washington state to develop student leaders at camp has been unwavering. I am proud to be a part of the premier student leadership program in the United States.



The spirit is always high when the entire group of delegates gather in the auditorium for presentations.