

Dear Committee Members,

Dr. La Tonya M. Goffney once said, “You are not responsible for how your students come to you, you can’t control their zip code or the challenges they face at home. However, you are responsible for how your students leave you.” Camp Fire Minnesota has had almost a 100 year history of changing campers from all socio-economic backgrounds who have entered their doors. They have concerned themselves with how their campers enter their door and how they leave.

The mission of Camp Fire Minnesota is to expose children of all ages to the great outdoors, to try new things, create an inclusive community, to find who they are, and more importantly to have a growth mindset. Within the span of one week, campers run around Camp Fire’s 100 acres of land, building these skills through traditional camp activities (canoeing, building campfires, archery, rock climbing etc.). The campers take these lessons that they have learned, and apply it to their daily lives. I am one of those campers. I came to Camp Fire Minnesota back in 2012, as a shy and insecure 13 year old. Through my first summer, I fell in love with the camp activities, working with kids, and rekindling my passion for soccer. Through my experiences, I decided I wanted to pursue a career in education. I recently graduated with a degree in secondary education, with a minor in Spanish and interscholastic coaching. I am now a high school teacher, and a soccer coach. My dream career came true, and I owe it to Camp Fire Minnesota for allowing me to become the confident man I am today.

We have been successful over the past 100 years seeing that mission come to fruition , and we are looking forward to 100 more. With the expansion of our budget, we will be able to do so. Considering the impact that we have had over the near century that the camp has existed and

offering the opportunity to change many more youth lives, this camp has the ability to change our future leaders.

Sincerely,

Lalo Edmondson