



Alberta Region

Camp fyrefly changes lives. Be a champion of change.

Camp fyrefly is a transformational summer experience for sexual and gender minority (SGM) and allied youth. At camp, kids who have grappled with bullying, fear, depression, isolation and shame are able to find their true identity and be themselves without judgment. They thrive on the understanding and acceptance of their fellow campers. They leave Camp fyrefly more confident, vibrant and resilient, equipped to be leaders and champions of social change in their communities.

WHAT IS CAMP FYREFLY?

- It is a four-day residential-style summer leadership retreat for SGM and allied youth.
- Programming focuses on leadership, individual development, socialization and resiliency.
- Using an arts-based approach, fyrefly is packed with dance, drama, music, writing and visual art, empowerment and reflection exercises and much more.
- The camp is offered in Edmonton, Calgary and Saskatchewan (sessions alternate between Regina and Saskatoon).



MARISSA'S STORY

By the age of four, transgender youth Marissa had already had suicidal thoughts. "I said, 'I want to die so I can go to heaven and talk to God. I need to tell him he put me in the wrong body.'" But at 22, she discovered her salvation. For Marissa, Camp fyrefly offered a life-changing opportunity to meet other young people who understood her pain and accepted her for who she really is. Her moment of truth came onstage at the Camp fyrefly talent show where she expressed her true self. Now, Marissa does what she can to inspire others, sharing her story with hundreds of young people through fyrefly in Schools.

"When I was introducing my piece, I said, 'I'm Marissa and I was born a boy.' The feeling of saying that out loud was incredible. A lifetime of keeping secrets, and that was the first time I had ever said that."



DID YOU KNOW?

- Based at the University of Alberta, Camp fyrefly is the largest youth leadership camp of its kind in Canada. It's also the only one in the world operated by a major research university.
- More than 1,000 youth have attended Camp fyrefly since its launch in 2004.
- In 2013, fyrefly in Schools provided 155 workshops, reaching more than 4,000 students.
- Camp fyrefly and fyrefly in Schools in Calgary are operated in partnership with the Calgary Sexual Health Centre.

Contact us to discuss other giving options:

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WHAT IS fyREFLY IN SCHOOLS?

- A spinoff of Camp fyrefly, this in-school learning initiative aims to help reduce discrimination against SGM youth, increase awareness of the impacts of homophobia and transphobia, and create safe and inclusive school environments for all students.
- Designed for junior and senior high school students, workshops follow a peer-to-peer mentorship model. They are student-centred, activity-based and focus on personal and social development and comprehensive health.
- fyrefly in Schools is free and available upon request to all junior and senior high schools in the Edmonton and Calgary regions.

HELP US CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE

Demand for our programs is growing exponentially faster than our funding sources. With your support we can continue to grow our existing programs, expand across Canada and reach out to more youth in need.

\$300

will cover the cost of food and accommodation for one Camp fyrefly camper.

\$500

will provide youth leaders with training to mentor young people participating in fyrefly programs.

\$1,000

will fund the complete camp experience — accommodation, food, workshops and activities — for one Camp fyrefly participant.

Knowing you have profoundly changed a young person's life for the better is a feeling beyond compare.

For more information on our programs or to make a secure online donation, visit ismss.ualberta.ca and click "GIVE NOW."