

## THE EMPOWERMENT CIRCLE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is THE EMPOWERMENT CIRCLE?**

THE EMPOWERMENT CIRCLE is an annual membership program intended to provide individuals and families, corporations, and businesses an avenue to provide yearly financial support for Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp.

### **What is the purpose of the program?**

The purpose of the membership program is to assure continuous, ongoing, and sustainable support for the operational needs of the camp. It is intended to provide a predictable year-to-year annual level of financial support for essential camp operational needs.

### **What does camp operational needs mean?**

The funds received through the membership program are considered unrestricted allowing them to be used for the basic camp needs required to operate each year. Examples of such expenses are utility expense, regular maintenance of facilities, our fire alarm inspection and membership in the American Camp Association. These camp expenses occur regardless of the programs being offered at the time.

### **How much do some of these expenses cost?**

Many of these expenses are relatively fixed and recur every year. They range from small, such as routine vehicle maintenance, to large, such as electricity and snow removal. For specific examples of these costs, please refer to the list in the document titled "How your Empowerment Circle Membership Helps Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp".

### **Who can become members?**

Anyone. Annual memberships are solicited from individuals/families, corporations, and businesses at various financial levels. Each financial level entitles the member to certain benefits during that year of membership.

### **What is the membership year?**

The membership (and benefit) year is January 1 through December 31.

### **Can I apply my other contributions to my membership?**

While we greatly appreciate donations to the annual auction, Walk, Roll, or Stroll, other special events and appeals, and in-kind donations, annual memberships are separate from any other contributions made to the camp.

### **When can I purchase a membership?**

Memberships may be purchased at any time. However, the annual membership drive will generally occur in the fall (typically October/November) for membership during the following calendar year. While memberships may be purchased at any time, since they are active for a specific year, any time-related benefits already past are no longer available in that year.

### **How will I know my membership has been activated?**

Membership purchases will be acknowledged promptly with a "thank you" letter and/or an email for the full membership amount and an indication of the payment plan selected by the member. Members can indicate a multi-year commitment in the form of an automatic renewal option.

### **What are the payment plan options for my membership?**

The following payment options are available:

1. One-time payment of the full amount by cash, check, or credit card.
2. Quarterly payments\* on the first business day of each quarter of the membership year by credit card authorization (or electronic debit at a future date). The payments will be dated the first business day of January, April, July, and October of the membership year.

*Example:* For a \$1,200 Forest membership, you are authorizing a credit card charge of \$300 the first business day of each quarter.

3. Monthly payments\* on the first business day of each month of the membership year by credit card authorization (or electronic debit at a future date). *Example:* For a \$1,200 Forest membership, you are authorizing a credit card charge of \$100 the first business day of each month.

\*If the membership is purchased for the current year, and a payment plan option is selected, each quarterly or monthly payment will be adjusted to an amount required to fully cover the membership by the last payment, (*Example –* For a membership purchased in June with the quarterly payment option selected, the July and October payments will be one-half the total membership cost so that it will be fully paid after the last payment).

If you selected an automatic membership renewal, the payment plan option originally chosen will be applied unless changed by the member. A reminder letter and/or email will be sent to each member in the fall indicating a deadline for renewal and/or changes to your plan so that the renewal can be processed in December. That will give you ample opportunity to increase your membership level and/or change payment plans.

### **What are the membership benefits?**

Please see the membership level description sheets for the specific benefits associated with each level. Each financial level entitles the member to certain benefits during that year of membership. Benefits may change from year to year as the camp adds new features or programs. Memberships may be purchased at any time, but since they are active for a specific year, any time-related benefits already past are no longer available in that year.

### **When and how can I access my membership benefits?**

Generally, you can indicate your membership level on any form you fill out for an event (for example, the annual auction) to receive the benefit, usually a discount on a purchase. If a benefit you exercise has a significant monetary value, you will be informed of that amount for tax purposes when the benefit is exercised.

### **Will I receive a reminder that my membership must be renewed?**

Yes. A reminder letter and/or email will be sent to each member in the fall indicating that a membership renewal is due for the next year. That will give you ample opportunity to increase your membership level and/or change payment plans as desired.

### **What are my options for continuing or renewing my membership?**

You have several options for your yearly membership. You can renew your membership at your current level or you are encouraged to consider moving up to the next membership level. If you have chosen an automatic renewal or multi-year membership, you will have the opportunity to opt out of those plans. And, if you do not take action by the renewal deadline, while we would not like to see you discontinue membership, we will deactivate your participation in the empowerment circle.

### **Can I purchase a membership for someone else (as a gift, etc.) or multiple memberships?**

Yes. You can put a membership in anyone's name you desire and they will receive the membership information and benefits. However, you will need to specify who should receive the membership renewal information in the fall – you or the recipient. Memberships may be ideal for someone other than you as a gift, honorarium, or memorial.

### **Who can I contact about memberships?**

You can contact the Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp office for membership information. The office is located at 10725 SW Barbur Boulevard, Suite 50, Portland, OR 97219. The office telephone number is 503-452-7416.