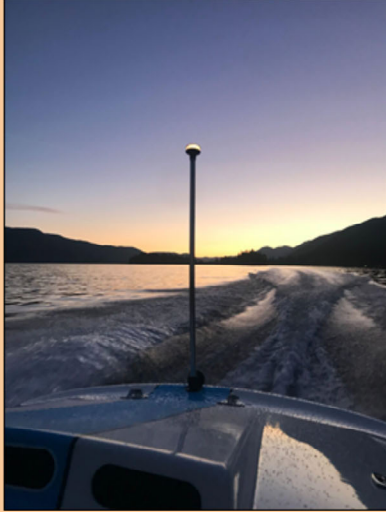


Women Firefighting

Kelsey Banfield - Grade 12



A Little Bit About Me:



To let you guys know a little bit about me, I am a student at stelly's school, I have a brother a mom and a dad. I really enjoy the outdoors and hiking, I have been playing soccer for 12 years. And this picture on the left is my happy place at our cabin on Lake Cowichain.

Why Did I Choose This Topic:

- I enjoy helping others
- Being around the fire hall I noticed there are not many females
- Members of my family are in the Fire Service



I choose to do my capstone on women in fire fighting because well I really enjoy helping those around me and i really value first responders in general, and growing up being around the fire hall i noticed there were not many female in the fire halls which really made me want to dig deeper to find out why.... But most of all.....

Family:



MOM



DAD

Both my parents work in the fire service, so i get to hear all their exciting stories which leads me to questions. My mom is the emergency program specialist at Central Saanich Fire and my dad works as a career firefighter at Oak Bay Fire.

Female Firefighter History:

- The first women firefighter was Molly Williams
 - who was a slave in New York City in about 1815
- During world war II women filled firefighting positions while men went off to service in the war efforts
- In 1964 a civil right was recognized that allowed women to have equal rights as men



So to give you guys some background information on what i'll be talking about....

- The first women who broke history as a firefighter was Molly Williams who was a slave in New York City in about 1815
- AND
- During world war II women filled firefighting positions while men went off to service in the war effort
- In 1964 a civil right was created in place to allow women to have equal rights as men

Female Firefighter Statistics:



- Less than 5% of firefighters are women in Canada
- 20% of all women firefighters hold a career position while the remaining 8% are volunteers
- 4% of firefighters are female on Vancouver Island
- About 150 females are fire chiefs in North America
- In 2019 - 22 of the 600 firefighters in Greater Victoria were women
 - In 2022 these numbers increased to 38 of the 632 firefighters were women

Here are some facts or statistics that really stood out to be in my research project and I thought I would share

- Less than 5% of female are firefighters in Canada
- 20% of all women firefighters hold a career position while the remaining 8% are volunteers
- 4% of firefighters are female on Vancouver Island
- About 150 females are fire chiefs in North America
- In 2019 - 22 of the 600 firefighters in Greater Victoria were women
- In 2022 these numbers increased to 38 of the 632 firefighters were women

What do these women say?

Katherine Humphrys (Kat) - Central Saanich Fire Dept.

I met with Kat and asked 7 questions to get a better understanding from a female in the service

- Started with Central Saanich in 2013
 - Currently a Paid Call Firefighter
- Has been working in Dispatch since 2016



After meeting with Kat for about 35 minutes I got a really good sense of what it was like for a woman in a male dominated industry.

- When we think Fire Service it is not just putting out fires. There are a variety of careers in the fire service from
 - Dispatch, Fire Prevention/Inspections, Emergency Management (Preparedness)
- Everyone has a common goal - helping those in need during their most vulnerable
- Most people in the industry are supportive and understand that everyone has something to learn. Knowing that there is the odd person that will challenge you because you are female
- Advise - Work hard, know your worth, pick your battles, build relationships and stand up for yourself

Emergency and Fire Services should reflect the diversity of our communities



“How do we increase the number of women in fire service”

We are learning that by having diversity it allows for individual strengths to be used. Through the process of this project I have grown to realize that everyone has something to bring to the table through their own personal experiences, education and personality and in the fire service this can make the difference in vulnerable situations.

How do we increase these numbers & welcome more women?



So after talking to kat, I was so curious how we could get more women into these jobs. I came across these.....

Camp Ignite is a 4-day camp that educates and inspires young women to follow their dreams. The camp is open to British Columbia girls in grades 11 and 12 (ages 16 to 18), and gives them an introduction to the world of firefighting.

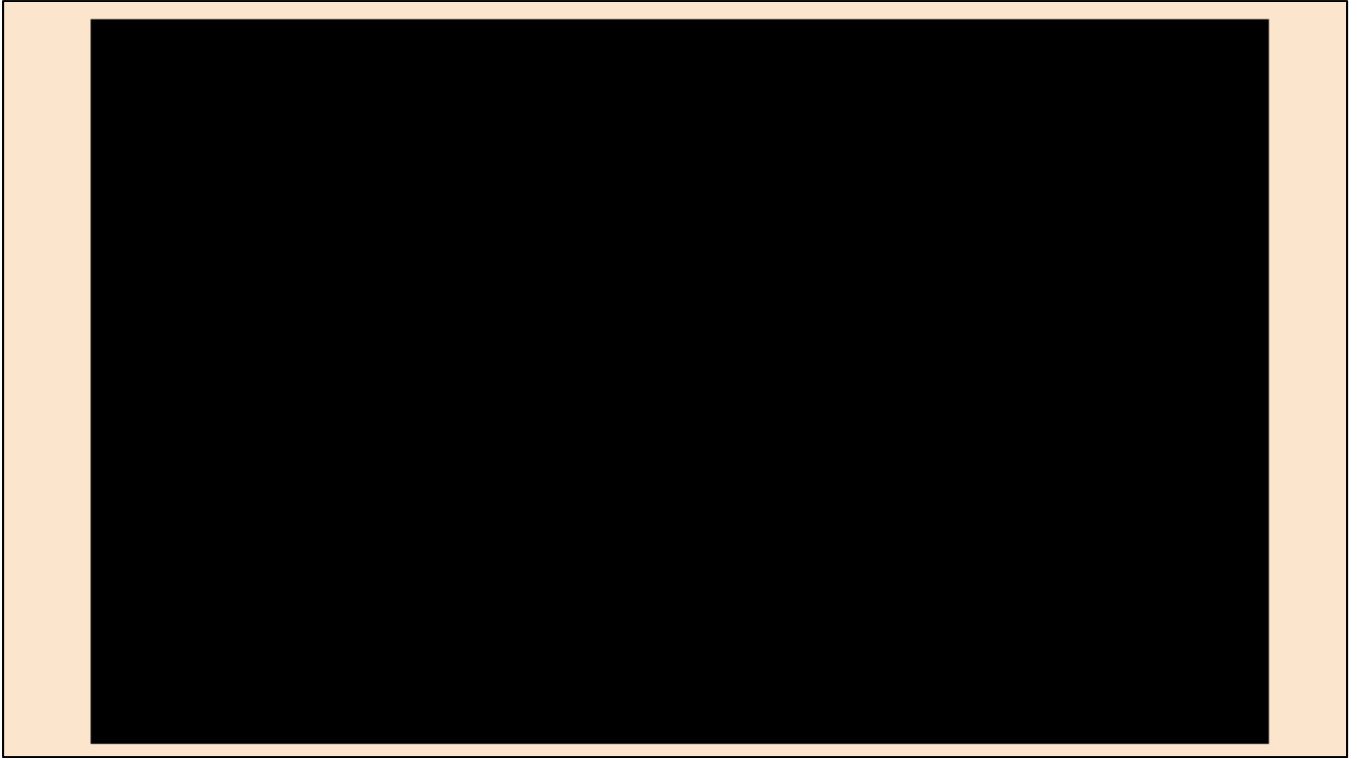
Island ignite is new this year and is being created by one of the board members of camp ignite who wants to bring this wonderful experience to vancouver island, this will be taking place in july!

Mission of these Camps:

- Engage female youth by encouraging and empowering
- Give them a safe comfortable environment surrounded by female firefighters
- Gain hands on experience with the tools associated with firefighting
- Build confidence through team activities
- Gains understanding of the physical and mental part of the job



So the goal and the mission of these camps are to engage female by giving encouraging and empowering them in different hands on situations, giving them a safe space to let themselves free with other women who will support each other, gaining experience and learning about different tools or skills that are associated with firefighter, but most of all to gain confidence within different activities that will motivate youth to shoot for their goals knowing connections made during this camp will support them.



Application Process for Camp Ignite:

Application submission

Vetting by board of directors

Sponsorship from Local Fire Dept.



The image shows a screenshot of a web-based application form titled "Camp Ignite 2022 Participant Application". The form is divided into three main sections: "Applicant Information", "Parent/Guardian Contact Information", and "School Information". Each section contains fields for name, address, phone, email, and other relevant details. A fire department logo is visible in the top right corner of the form.



So the application process started last February. There was an thorough written application required that required reference letters. This was then submitted to the program and the board of directors went through each application and contact references. Once selected the board reached out to the fire department in the community where the applicant lived to see if they would support the applicant by sending them to camp. This included covering the costs, supplying gear and being available prior to if the applicant had questions.

S U C C E S S



In mid 2022 I had the opportunity of applying for this incredible camp and fortunately I was a successful candidate. As I mentioned in the previous slide each applicant is sponsored by their local department and is provided gear to borrow. Because I live in Central Saanich, the Central Saanich Volunteer Fire Department was contacted and agreed to support me in this journey. This was the day I was fitted for my gear by two firefighters (Brennan and Dan)

My Experience

Where - Simon Fraser University Dorms

DAY 1: New Westminister Fire Department

DAY 2: Vancouver Fire Department

DAY 3: Abbotsford Fire Department



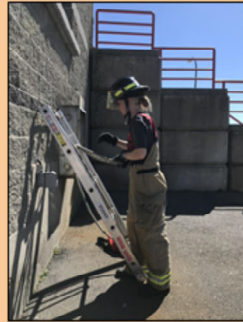
When - August 4 - 7, 2022



My experience was absolutely incredible, I find it difficult to put into words and I get excited everytime I talk about it. It would go back in a heartbeat. Camp ignite was held in Vancouver. We stayed in the SFU townhouses and attended 3 different local fire station on the lower mainland. One per day where we spent 8-10 hours at the station learning different techniques and skills

What Happened at Camp?

- Hazmat
- Repelling
- Wildfire
- Forceable Entry
- Car Fire
- Many more fun activities



So at camp ignite we did many many new, fun and scary things. I could talk about what experiences I had for hours, but in consideration of time Ill only share a few. We did a hazmat area which hazmat means hazardous materials so we got to put on Level A suits which are the highest in protection and require scba masks
We also got to do some repelling which at first i was terrified for, we repelled off this crane which was probably the funnest thing i have ever done
We got to learn about wildfire and the process of making your self a “satfey path” meaning an exit if the fire takes a turn
We also got to do 2 car fire props as if it was a real car fire, and many many more activities those are just a smidge of what i got to do

The Challenges:

NEVER
HAVE I EVER

Objection:
"I don't know anyone."

Sarah Robbins



I didn't know anyone

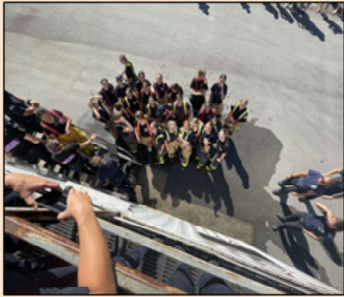
I had no idea what I would be up against

Constantly overthinking things and what would happen if I couldn't do something

4 days in bunker gear during a heat wave doing strenuous activities - SWEATING LOTS

Fear

The Successes:



- Proud of myself for stepping out of my comfort zone
- Gained Confidence
- Gained Knowledge
- Overcame mental boundaries
- Challenged myself
- Learned a potential future career
- Made lifelong friends

<div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 5px;"> C Communication 1. Connect and engage with others 2. Acquire, interpret, and present information 3. Collaborate to plan, carry out, and review constructions and activities 4. Explain/recount and reflect on experiences and accomplishments </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connecting with those around me and being able to work as a team for success to happen ● Critical Thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analyzing information from interview and being able to develop my skill level at camp ● Personal Awareness and Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self determination at camp through different activities and difficult problems ● Social Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contributing to a great environment as well as meeting friends and building relationships
<div style="background-color: #4a86e8; padding: 5px;"> T Creative Thinking 1. Novelty and value 2. Generating ideas 3. Developing ideas </div>	
<div style="background-color: #4a86e8; padding: 5px;"> T Critical Thinking 1. Analyze and critique 2. Question and investigate 3. Develop and design </div>	
<div style="background-color: #76b82a; padding: 5px;"> PS Positive Personal & Cultural Identity 1. Relationship and cultural contexts 2. Personal values and choice 3. Personal strengths and abilities </div>	
<div style="background-color: #76b82a; padding: 5px;"> PS Personal Awareness & Responsibility 1. Self-determination 2. Self-regulation 3. Well-being </div>	
<div style="background-color: #76b82a; padding: 5px;"> PS Social Responsibility 1. Contributing to community and caring for the environment 2. Solving problems in peaceful ways 3. Valuing diversity 4. Building Relationships </div>	

I would say During the process of my capstone and camp ignite I used my core competencies a lot

Communication- I had to use my communication skills in my capstone while connecting with kat to hear her experiences and during camp ignite with my team members to be able to collaborate on ideas and work together

CRIT THINK- I had to analyze what kat was asking during my interview and connect that to my experience at camp to understand the skills involved in fire fighting and critiquing myself in a positive impactful way.

Person awareness- During my time at camp ignite I had to have the self determination to push through certain activities at camp weather it was climbing up a 60 foot ladder or wearing my gear through the heat wave

Social response- At camp ignite I had focus on contributing to a great environment and support everyone to the fullest. I built many relationships with my peers and my leaders and mentores

Life Changing Experiences & Friendship Created

These four days changed my life and I will reflect on them forever. I made so many connections and many friends. I talked to this group of people everyday and connect with them.



These are some of my friends I made
Say who is who and where they are from

FUTURE

When I turn 19 I can and **will** apply to become a Volunteer Firefighter with the Central Saanich Fire Department



One major takeaway i took from camp ignite and this project is how fascinated I am by this new world of firefighting, the thrill of helping people, knowing your always learning new skills and putting yourself into uncomfortable situations that will challenge you everytime..... That is why When I turn 19 I can and will apply to become a Volunteer Firefighter with the Central Saanich Fire Department

THE END



Thank you for listening to my research project and hearing about my awesome experience