

WHY Camp To Belong?

Sibling Separation

- There are almost 600,000 children in foster care across the United States.
- 65-85% of children entering the foster care system have at least one sibling.
- 30% of children in foster care have four siblings or more.
- 75% of siblings are separated from at least one sibling when placed in foster care.

WHAT: Camp to Belong, a nationally-recognized 5- day camp reunites brothers and sisters age 8-20 separated because they are not living with their biological families. Children's Administration has pledged money for **25** camper spots for "any youth between the ages of 8 and 20, who is living separately from a sibling or siblings in out of home care (i.e. foster care, guardianship, adoption, etc) and at one point was a part of the public child welfare system." Children and youth have had great experiences at this camp and it is a wonderful chance for brothers and sisters to spend time together in a summer camp setting.

WHEN: June 18-23, 2007

WHERE: Lake Couer d'Alene in Idaho.

We expect more than 25 siblings will want to attend. A committee including social workers, foster parents and others will review the pre-applications and decide which children will attend camp. The committee will especially be prioritizing children who have the most infrequent contact with their siblings, but all those who apply will be considered.

While the camp includes hiking and camp fires, there is also a focus on establishing relationships and educating children/youth about the importance of staying connected with their siblings. Other highlights:

- For youth 14 and older-a day trip to a college campus with classes on career planning and
- A Sibling Birthday Event.

Travel is included in the cost. Buses are located at strategic locations to transport children to camp. For more information contact: Bob Partlow, CA HQ's at 360-902-8063 or at pbob300@dshs.wa.gov.

