

# Summer camp experience has value

By **MORTON TENER**

Why I send my kid to camp!

A camp experience is fun, plus it includes many facilities and activities that have universal appeal and values such as a quiet rural setting, activities such as swimming, boating, nature, hiking, athletics, arts and crafts, drama, etc.

It also means no homework and no need to compete academically, no interference from parents and teachers and choice of preferred activities. The main motive is to have fun but also to provide many experiences that are not available

in their ordinary every day routine of living.

There are also valuable personal growth factors camp can provide that young people can benefit tremendously. In the typical family of today, the child has limited opportunity to make personal decisions. Too often, it is the parent who assumes this role. Therefore, the child is deprived of not only making decisions, but not being able to assume the responsibility of adjusting to the consequences. In camp a child is one of a group of his own age. He learns how to take his share of responsibility in

cabin tasks and activity participation. His counselor is a combination of counselor, boss, teacher, and friend.

The camper lives with other "equals" and also shares some of the responsibility of group's welfare and enjoyment. He does not have special privileges and learns how to share. Campers learn democracy not as a definition stated in a book, but as a result of sharing with others around a camp fire, on a trail or in a cabin bull session.

Another tremendous benefit in addition to the development of social skills are the physical

skills which are part of the camp activities program. Unfortunately, today our children are raised by appliances — TV, video games, computers, etc. Camps can meet the challenge of filling leisure time productively. A camp experience offers values, experiences, and friendships that could last a lifetime and that will produce successful and productive adults.

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