

The Magic Of Camp Life

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Thousands of boys and girls go to camp every summer and the numbers are still increasing. Camping is being recommended as an integral part of the school curriculum. What is the magic in camping that accounts for this rapid growth?

Out of all the educational opportunities available in our present day camping stands as one of our highest. Factors supporting this statement is due to the camp setting itself, the interaction of group living, and the alert leadership offered by educators and the camping movement. Because of these rich educational opportunities, one should wonder why camping is not available to a broader scope of our youth. A keen look at camping objectives will make one realize that a camp experience, immaterial if it is private, institutional, church affiliated, expensive, free of cost, can make life enriched tremendously.

1. Camping seeks to develop a variety of satisfying skills. With the variety of skills encompassed in a camp program, such as sports, camp crafts, water crafts, nature lore, etc., the young person can enhance a particular familiar skill and open vistas to new skill areas.

2. The development of strong, wholesome bodies and minds is an inescapable aim in camping. With regular routine, balanced meals, adequate rest, positive supervision, abundant bodily activity, in a co-

operative understanding atmosphere, camping increases mental and physical vigor.

3. The most important skill of all is an inherent product of camping—the propensity of social living. The personal adjustments that campers have to make because of the intimacy of close living is a crucial “must” in order to be ready for our demanding society. Camping develops pathways that lead to the understanding of others, such as persons of different races, economic levels, religions, etc.

4. The characteristic that our schools are premised upon—faith in democratic living, is solidified in camp life. The participation with others for the welfare of the immediate group and camp family, can be democracy of the highest order. Faith in democracy can grow only through happy satisfying personal participation.

5. The realization and appreciation of God visualized through nature are developed via camp setting. The mystery, the marvel, the order and the magnitude can be felt in the out-of-doors.

6. Safety is a primary achievement of a camping exposure. This responsibility rests upon every member of the camp community therefore, it becomes part and parcel of the individual's perspective.

7. Camping is fun, plus. It is this atmosphere which makes for a needed change of pace from the academic rigors faced by our young people today.