

The
Unique Mission
of the
Summer Camp



Foreword

Organized camping for children in America has come of age. The success of camping as a summer program for children was assured from the beginning, but it has taken half a century for the camping experience to become generally accepted as an essential part of a child's education.

Unfortunately, some parents still think of camping only as supervised play in an outdoor setting. It is encouraging, however, to learn that an increasing number of parents now consider camping, as it is done in the better camps, as sound education. Camping at its best is education at its best.

A camp in the woods, whether on a mountain or by a lake or the sea, provides a natural situation for growth of body, mind and soul. The mental processes suffer no inhibitions in the out-of-doors. In the wide open spaces the mind is not confused, the soul is not perplexed. Nature creates an environment that contributes significantly to purposeful living.

Such a camping experience is the birthright of all children. No other experience can equip youth so adequately for the real issues of life. Nowhere else is so much skill, knowledge and inspiration to be gained in a few weeks. Indeed, there is no substitute for camping at its best.

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C. WALTON JOHNSON

Introduction

In this year of 1960 organized camping in America celebrates the Golden Anniversary of The American Camping Association. It is fitting at this particular time that this exposition of the unique mission of camping be added to camping literature, which has also grown extensively with the years. The author, a sincere and dedicated gentleman, not only knows what his mission to young people is but, through the medium of his own camp work, he has devoted the best part of his intellect, talents and energy to accomplishing this mission. To it he has also dedicated his heart.

Parents who read this treatise will better understand what the experience in a nature-oriented camp may contribute to the life equipment of their children. They will be furnished with adequate criteria in selecting and in evaluating a camp. They will sense, perhaps for the first time, the significance and the magnitude of the educative and developmental potential in a good camp.

Counselors who read and study this booklet will understand more clearly the high mission to which they are called, and the supportive role they must essay in its accomplishment with each individual child with whom they come in contact. Here is the inspiration they need.

This monograph should be of real value to camp directors who are searching for a sound philosophy of camping and a way to implement that philosophy. Here is an inspiring account of what can be accomplished for children in a wisely administered summer camp. Herein also, is the encouragement camp directors need to sustain them as they endeavor to do real camping when the trend toward the superficial and popular is hard to resist.

BARBARA ELLEN JOY
Bar Harbor, Maine