"Lift High Our Souls"

By L. B. Sharp

Let us bow our heads and lift high our souls —
Oh God,
We have come from many places and camps,
We are of all races and faiths,
We have, among many common interests, a special
concern for our campers and our country and a
deep love of the out-of-doors.
We have come
to deliberate and to share fellowship,
to seek ways to meet our obligations to campers,
parents, and society,
to find more effective means of helping campers be at
home in the woods and open spaces,
to understand and love the land and all its treasured
possessions,
to show concern for and to practice stewardship of Thy
land.
We have come also
to share our interests, gains, and concepts of living
and learning in the open spaces,
to probe more deeply the goals and purposes of
camping,
to find more effective ways of attaining these goals and
purposes.
We ask Thy help and guidance
to find more ways of exploring fully those adventures
indigenous to the camp environment,
to do at camp mostly those things not possible in our
urban or home environment,
to gain as many new first-hand experiences as possible
in the out-of-doors,
to see and feel the innumerable things which books try
to tell and pictures try to portray,
to stand in the path of the last glacier and ponder
its power and its gifts,
to scale the high peaks and hills and become engulfed
in the life story of mountains and valleys,
to take time to be quiet, still, and hear the woodland
symphonies,
to make the forest, with all its beauty and mystery
our friend and teacher,
to bear rain on leaves and canvass,
to sleep under the stars and sky on the trails, on the
open hills, in the fields, and by the streams,
to create with hand and mind,
to find new worth as individuals through living in
small groups in the open,
to come closer to the meaning of time and space,
to explore and sense deeply the splendor of Thy
Creation.
Help us, oh God
to see and understand how the life of man is completely
entwined in myriad of vital connections with the
out-of-doors,
Help us to realize that because of Thy gifts, we may
become better campers, more inspired leaders,
Help us to obtain a fuller and more meaningful and joyous
life in the open spaces.
May Thy grace and wisdom be with us in all of our
deliberations.
Amen

—Dr. Sharp delivered this invocation at the opening ses-
sion of the A.C.A. Region II convention.

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