

"Encourage Parents to Visit Camp

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By : L. B. Sharp

It is surprising to find that many camp directors would rather not have parents visit camp, and take every tactful means to discourage them. They maintain that it disturbs the camp program, causes homesickness, interferes with activities, monopolizes the time of the director, and that parents make unwarranted criticisms of the camp.

Camp Life has raised another interesting and important question for consideration. I want to join the side which is in favor of parents visiting camp and go further, to say that it is our duty to urge them to come.

The various objections raised may to a large extent be true, but that does not answer the question. We must not forget that the children who have been turned over to our care belong to the parents. They have a right to know how their children are being cared for in camp as in other situations. Parents not only have the right to know this, but have no moral right to send their children to a camp without first-hand knowledge of conditions. The parent may have confidence in the director, but that is not sufficient. He should have equal confidence in the particular counselor who has charge of his boy or girl.

Going to camp may be regarded as a valuable weaning process for the camper, giving him a real opportunity to be himself and to do for himself without any parental anxiety or cumbersome assistance. In many cases, however, it is the parents who are in need of weaning. When this type of parent visits camp, there is quite likely to be some homesickness. With the camp-trained parent this is not true, but, instead, something of a real camp spirit is injected into the life of the camper which helps rather than hinders.

With adequate organization of camp routine and activity, the time of the director need not be monopolized by visitors. If given a chance, a reception committee of campers perhaps can tell a more intimate story of what is happening than anyone else, and will enjoy doing it. The counselor should be able to tell nearly everything that need be told about