

OUTDOOR EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

NATIONAL CAMP
AND
POLE BRIDGE CAMP
Matamoras, Pa.

369 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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Executive Director

I N V O C A T I O N

L. B. Sharp

Opening General Session
Region II Convention
American Camping Assn.
Washington, D. C.
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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 we have 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 to 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 hear rain on leaves and canvas
- to sleep under the stars and sky on the Appalachian and other 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 myriads 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