

CAMPING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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Definitions:

Aims point the way – give general direction. They are ideals and may or need not be measured. They can be and should be clearly stated in the camp program.

Objectives are specific and definite marks, measurements or mile posts along the way. They can, because of their definiteness, be measured. Objectives in reality constitute the planned happenings in a camp program. They can and should be measured.

We need to re – think, direct, re – direct, modify, change and enrich our camp programs so that in the end there is a richer social development for all who have been camping together – each individual.

We need to state our own goals – for each camp. There must be a set of objectives and a procedure which will cause and help us to reach the goals set.

Aims and objectives should be stated in terms of the type of camp in question. Camps need not and should not, in fact, be the same. They are each very different and therefore, their aims and objectives, and in particular the procedures should and do vary. Each should visualize his own course. In the end we all should arrive at the common purpose of effecting personality growth in each company. The success and value of camping should be measured in terms of the benefits to Mary or Johnny; that is, each individual camper.

If, then, our end result is thought of in terms of the personality development of each camper, let us briefly consider some of the urges, satisfactions, and essentials for bringing about this development of self.

It is desirable that the camper –

1. Have opportunity for good social surroundings.
2. Be given care of something – some animal or pet.
3. Gets some approval which he desires – approval of self – to know that he has pleased and to what extent.
4. Have friends – make friends – keep friends. He should be worthy of these however.
5. Have the right amount of affection. It should be given only at times when it is needed and has a place in his development. He should be worthy of the affection.
6. Have some specific responsibility, duties to perform, something to keep in order, in addition to his personal equipment – responsibility for others – we must increasingly divide responsibilities – more campers more responsibilities, even though they be small.
7. Have some control, influence or power – a chance to direct something – power should be divided and control given. However, so that no one gets it all or undue proportion of it.
8. Have a feeling of real membership – that spirit of belonging. Camp is more than an organization, it is a family and the camper needs that feeling of family membership.
9. Have competition – in proper amounts and under certain circumstances. Competition against the commander's own records and accomplishments is most desirable. Things should be so arranged that the camper will win a good share of the time.
10. Have sufficient food, quality and amount served attractively – nutritional requirements provided. He should have a part to do in planning and preparing and cooking what he eats.
11. Have chance to succeed at something. To make and do things and carry them through to successful conclusion. Not to start too many things and finish none.
12. Have a generous amount of adventure. Adventure is the key stone of camping. A live camp program should have an abundance of it.

13. Have risks and meet hazards and danger – this is a debatable matter, nevertheless, it plays an important part in the camper's development.
14. Have ample opportunity to discover things, not in the academic way but real discovery – find out things for himself and report back. As a result of exploration he makes a discovery.
15. Spend a very large part of his time out in the woods.
16. Be on his own as much of his time as possible – camp organization should be set up so that this actually happens as much as possible.
17. Have a chance for peace and quiet – to think things out for himself. Spiritual values are keystones in building the individual.
18. Be happy.

Objectives

These are only a few of important items in the development of each camper. Each camp should make its own list. These may serve as a guide or a springboard to a better analysis of the campers needs.

If these goals are to be realized, some specific steps should be taken to bring them to realization. A few might be stated thus;

1. Camp should be organized on the basis of the individual and not on the basis of a large group.
2. Camp should not be too large. The day for size of camps in terms of hundreds should be gone. How determine the size of a camp? – I feel that when you have more campers than every member of the staff can know well in a very short period of time, the camp is too large. It should be broken up into smaller units.
3. Groups should be small. How small depends upon various circumstances. The size should be so that the best in each is discovered and his real self is brought out.

4. The camp should have some definite plan for the development of leadership of campers and of the staff.
5. There should be less and less regimentation – bell ringing – lining up – censorship of mail, etc., etc., or any routine which cannot be thoroughly justified on the basis of carefully thought out goals.
6. Staff should be selected, trained and supervised in keeping with goals and objectives. The number should be adequate and the quality and training superior.
7. The program should be suited to the environment, each phase with its aim and objective clearly stated and re-stated each year.