



NOTICE TO READER:  
THE MATERIAL REPRODUCED IN THIS COPY  
MAY BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT.  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

## AFTER TAPS

*... the time when directors, leaders, and counselors recall the successes and failures of the day, plan to make tomorrow a better day, and think about the opportunities — seized and missed — of this wonderful thing called camping.*

# "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 hear rain on leaves and canvas,  
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 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

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