

Keep
General Recommendations
Evans

Toledo, Ohio
September 2, 1928

Dear Chief:

I want to tell you more of my impressions and criticisms of the summer and plans for next summer than my hurried leavetaking would permit. I am writing this early because I might never get around to it if I waited until I get down to school.

I was very sorry to leave Camp Sequoyah after so enjoyable a summer. I really think our camp is without a peer as far as showing the boys a good time, preserving a truly christian atmosphere and building up health and strength is concerned. Many camps have better plant and equipment, some have better program, but none excel us in camp spirit and such things.

It made me very happy when you said you wanted me back next summer. I really didn't know whether my work had been satisfactory or not. I know that I neglected my duty on several occasions. My general lack of strictness and ambition was due considerably to lack of sleep. I just couldn't sleep well. The last three weeks I didn't average more than 4 or 5 hours sleep a night and that isn't enough to keep going.

I am glad that I am returning next summer for several reasons: first, it looks as though a counsellors services were unsatisfactory if he stays only one year; second, I will have an opportunity to put on a handicraft and Indian lore program of my own making such as I have been thinking about for several years; third, I have really become attached to Camp Sequoyah and its counsellors and campers.

From time to time during the summer I jotted down in my ~~note~~ notebook some suggestions for next summer. Here they are:

1. I think a necessary part of any camp is a camp nature museum. We ought to have a ~~small~~ small building about the size of the handicraft shop or possible one corner of the lodge might do. If some steps were taken toward this, I would be glad to donate to the camp my insect collection of some 400 species, principally butterflies and moths, all identified and labeled, my mineral collection of some 150 varieties and my herbarium of 300 flowers. They are really a burden on my hands and I have been looking for a place to give them away where they would do the most good and be in a safe place. Points could be given for worthy additions to the museum and for systematic work on the collection.
2. We need a handicraft shop about 4 times the size of the present one pictured on page 162 of Griswold's Leather book. Without electric lights a walled building is really too ~~dark~~ dark for a handicraft shop.
3. You ought to keep a closer check on counsellor's activities--equally close from the first day to the last day.
4. Aides and K.P.'s to be separate persons
5. Uniform role-books for instructors would go away with the necessity of weekly attendance reports.
6. Cabin conferences at a specified hour each week, say Monday rest-hour.

The cabin counsellor and his boys sit in the cabin and talk over the past weeks activities and plan for the coming week, with particular emphasis on cabin morale, inspection and honor/emblem work.

7. Life saving classes during regular swimming periods only. Life saving classes in the regular schedule according to section is not at all practical.
8. Scoutcraft classes according to scout rank, instead of section. This will be a hard thing to arrange, but it is the only practical way to do it. Much more could be accomplished if I had all the merit badge scouts in one class, all the second class in one class, etc.
9. Adoption of standard Indian advancement ceremonies like I was telling you about coming home from Brevard.
10. More prompt attendance at swim by counsellors and have them help the boys with strokes and diving.
11. More uniform counting of points in M.&S. contest. This summer points were awarded on things away out of proportion to the difficulty, particularly honoremblem tests.

Enclosed you will find a report on Scoutcraft and Life saving. Seven seems a small number of life savers, but there just weren't enough good swimmers--ten others started and dropped out because they couldn't swim good enough.

Also you will find an outline of projected craftworks for next summer's handicraft program. I have taught all of these except the ones with the asterisk and I expect to learn those this winter. You can look them over and pick out which ones you think will be best considering the investment on each. Leathercraft, metalwork, basketry, Indian costume making and rope-making have the greatest possibilities.

As I have said before it is my belief that every successful camp must have some outstanding activity that they are known for. Most camps in the south have athletics or swimming, but Sequoyah has the facilities for neither of these. Culver and certain western camps are noted for their nature lore. Some are noted for Indian lore, others for handicraft. Sequoyah is noted for its fine spirit and beauty of site, but we should have some more concrete activity. Either nature lore or handicraft would be allright, and I would rather see nature lore have it, but handicraft has a much greater appeal to the boys and would be easier to put over. I believe we can have a handicraft program next summer that is surpassed by few camps in the country--certainly by none in the South--and at a very low cost.

Well, I hope I haven't bored you, but I figured you'd probably have considerable leisure time right now and would welcome something to pass the time. I received the pictures from Howard, but not all that I ordered. I ordered one that was fit on the board--it was one of the first set of counsellor pictures where we were standing in front of cabin 2 in a double row and each of the back row was looking exactly between two in the front row. Howard wrote my name on the back of the first print you had there and said he'd save it for me. It isn't the 10¢ I care about, but I do want the picture for my photo album. Also if you have any of the pictures you took with your little camera the last week that you think I'd like, send me prints and I'll pay you for them--particularly the handicraft exhibit, the camp group and some good pictures of the counsellors.

I hope you got the check fixed up with the Red Cross allright. I leave for Purdue tomorrow so address any further correspondence there. If the rest of the salary checks haven't gone out by this time, I wish to say that I can't do without mine longer than the end of this week.

Best wishes for the guest season and success in next summer's campaign.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond H. Weell

Suggestions - R. H. Twell

Counselors

1. Better "esprit de corps" and more sense of responsibility.
There are a good many ideas for putting this across in "Camping & Character." Lack of "esprit de corps" was quite noticeable this summer particularly among 405 counselors. I believe it would be ~~for~~ practical and reasonable for each ^{senior} counselor to read "Camping and Character." You might have some way of checking up to see just how thoroughly the men have read the Counselor Training Series.
2. More previous planning of program before camp starts.
Each head of department should plan out in detail his whole summer's program. This is hard to get down to during school days, but it doesn't take much time once they get started.
3. More frequent counselors meetings - maybe a half hour every other day immediately following breakfast or lunch.
4. Separate meeting of senior counselors or department heads
5. Require better manners in dining hall - with particular reference to too much boisterous & unportsmanlike yelling and ragging each other. This would not

take place unless it is abetted by counselors.

5. Uniform dress for counselors compulsory. I believe this is imperative, at least for the senior counsellors. I think the outfit you had ^{at} start of the summer would be all right. Grey socks, grey knicker, grey sweater, grey shirt (they should have 2 each) and maroon tie. (One thing tho you'd have to get a little snappier looking pair of knickers. You couldn't get a college man to wear knickers like the ones you showed us. They want to be "plus fours" about like the ones I used to wear and like Gene Rankin wore into town. This was the unanimous opinion of all the counselors only they didn't want to come out and say so.

say so.

Honor emblems

6. Some things optional (like the arrangement in the Culver text), the archery requirement is an example.
7. Substitute some other reading for the aquatics chapter of the Comrades Handbook. That chapter is about 25 years behind times. Fully 75% of the material in it is all wrong. I would suggest, Mills' "Swimming & Water Safety" altho the Boy Scout Handbook would do.

- 8. Some craftwork, Indian lore and camp cookery requirements in 2nd year honor emblem.
- 9. Woodcraft and nature study requirements for 3rd year honor emblem. I think a very stiff series of nature study requirements would be proper and fitting for the 3rd year emblem.
- 10. Some day I think a separate series of requirements for young boys and older boys would be desirable. It is a serious question as to what the younger 3rd year boys are going to do with all those leadership requirements next summer. It is certain that Ken Jew, Harry Philpotts, John Thome and Willie Holt cannot measure up to the same leadership standard that the boys in 1925 did. It might be desirable to have nature study or something else as the keynote ~~for~~ for the 3rd year and save the leadership keynote for the 4th year.

Program

- 11. More dispatch and smoothness of operation all around is necessary.
- 12. Everyone out more promptly for setting up, tell the counsellor about it if his cabin is too slow. Slip

all over in 5 minutes after flag raising. That gives
45-50 minutes for dressing, toilet, making breakfast,
morning watch.

13. Iron clad rule that dining hall door is ~~to~~
locked 2 minutes after soupy and remain
locked for 5 or 10 minutes.
14. Start inspection at first call which will
make the boys stop work ~~early~~ right then. The
inspecting officer will ~~to~~ miss the first few
minutes of his meal in place of a few minutes
at the last. Also, he will be there for announcements.
15. Start life-saving at the first of camp, so that there
will be time for 2 classes during the summer.
16. Better observance of rest hour. At Pinnacde no boy
was allowed to let his feet touch the floor or the
ground from 1:30 to 2:30. The counsellors might
lead to the boys or tell them stories. A continued story
would keep them in the cabins each rest hour.
17. More woodcraft and camp cookery on all hikes.
18. Make swimming more interesting, by having water
pols games (frames for goals would have to be erected),
canoe tilling, several inflated ~~and~~ inner tubes,
watertight barrel, large 3-4 foot watertight tumble
ball and other such things.