

CAMP REPORT 1979 ADULT CAMP

The overall impression of the 1979 season is one of success. Camp was a combination of beautiful weather, dedicated personnel and fantastic campers. Many of the problems of the past two years were eliminated through careful screening and selection of both staff and campers. As it turned out, the chemistry was close to perfect resulting in a very happy, coordinated group of people providing a warm, loving camping experience for people who really appreciated every effort that was made to create a worthwhile experience.

I. PERSONNEL

A. Administrative Staff

The administrative staff functioned well as it is currently set up. The Administrative aide-secretary position was expanded to include purchasing. Because of the expertise of the person in this position, I feel real strength and efficiency as well as flexibility was added to that position. I recommend this position be maintained.

Since the caretaker was not used for food pick-up, except for milk, food was delivered to camp by a friend. Miscellaneous program items were also brought up by our "delivery agent". Gas was paid out of budget for this service which saved us many miles and much staff time. Many hours were eliminated from the caretaker's time and he was able to stay within his 40 hour week.

Our program director was not able to utilize head counselors in program areas since we ended up without head counselors who were free to do program work. The male head counselor was tied to cabin responsibilities both sessions because we were one counselor short and he had to fill that responsibility. I did not replace the woman head counselor after the original one resigned to be married. I recommend we do at-tempt to have head counselors act in a dual capacity in the future. The program director needs assistance beyond that provided by other program people.

Our outing program was held to a minimum because of fire danger. The man and woman hired for the outing positions had counselor as well as outing written into their contracts and therefore filled in as counselors. Both made outstanding contributions to both the counseling and program areas. I recommend that staff hired for specific program areas have both the program area and/or counselor written into their contract and that they fully understand and appreciate the need for flexibility especially in program areas that might be affected by weather or other circumstances beyond our control.

The waterfront staff functioned very efficiently. We must continue to hire highly qualified, mature individuals to head this area. We must also hire many WSL's in order to keep the various waterfront activities supervised. In view of the large number of adult campers interested in boating and fishing, I would like to recommend

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that we hire a person whose duties are to keep fishing equipment organized and operating, to get bait and to run fishing trips. This person would also assist in a cabin but it as primary counselor.

B. Nursing

Our two nurses functioned very efficiently. Both had emergency training, first aid, and CPR. I would recommend that we continue to hire people highly trained in these areas as well as having their R.N. We also benefit from nurses with common sense and a real ability to work with all kinds of people. It would be most beneficial if we could afford a physical therapist on staff.

C. Food Service

Food service functioned efficiently. It continues to be a job that requires many hours. Having mature individuals who worked efficiently had its pluses. This is an excellent practical experience for upper division foods and nutrition people. I would like to continue the standard in this most important area and raise the salary for kitchen helpers. They truly earn their money. Housing the kitchen personnel together helps add to group rapport. Any problems in the kitchen this past summer seemed to stem from efficient people finding it difficult to take orders from a perfectionist who is so dedicated to her job that few outside interests can lure her from the kitchen. Experience vs. book larnin'! Hah! The joys of camp kitchens. At least the food was fantastic and that and the saving of dollars make up for a lot of hassle - I think!?

D. Counseling Staff

Our staff ratio was better than in the past but it seems we are always short men. We definitely need four full time counselors in each wheelchair cabin and two full time counselors in all of the other cabins. Our aid ratio was too low third session. Although most of the M.R. adults are ambulatory, they need a great deal of supervision. We requested aides from many of the nursing homes but they did not cooperate very well third session. During the fourth session, we asked each person who needed a personal attendant to bring one. For the most part these folks did bring attendants so our ratio was very good. We were thus able to give the campers a more flexible program. There is a real advantage to an aide knowing the camper and what the camper needs before coming to camp. I recommend we continue to send personal letters to those campers who require personal attendants requesting that they provide their own attendant. I also recommend that we continue to recruit aides from high schools and perhaps contact special groups, i.e., Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, Boy Scouts, etc.

The counseling staff will continue to be recruited from professional programs

in colleges and universities. Trained, interested, caring personnel make all the difference in giving the campers the best total camp experience possible.

I recommend that we develop a salary schedule for our staff so that we have a means of rewarding returning counselors.

II. CAMPER SELECTION AND IN-CAMP ORGANIZATION

This past season's campers were screened with all the knowledge and experience gained during the previous two seasons. I am keenly aware of the need to select campers who can truly benefit from the experience. To meet this goal means selecting M.R. campers who function at a fairly high level and who are self help in terms of personal hygiene and dressing. Campers who are multiple handicapped were requested to bring an aid to assist with self help. The nurse assisted in final screening since she would be responsible for meeting the health needs of the campers. Even with careful screening we had two campers who were inappropriate and were sent home. Agencies need to be impressed with the importance of giving complete and correct information on camper applications.

The physically handicapped were also carefully screened. Those who needed assistance were asked to bring a personal attendant. This was handled through the Easter Seal office and was a great help. We need to work on our camper information so that it is clear from the first communication what is expected in terms of campers and personal attendants. It would help to have a meeting with other agencies and clarify our philosophy for camper selection.

Campers were assigned to cabins on the basis of age and handicap.

At check in, campers were given cabin assignments and name tags and met by a representative from the camper's cabin. Campers went immediately to the health cottage for check-in before going to the cabin. The name and telephone number of the person picking up the camper at the end of the session was taken by the registration counselors. As counselors helped campers unpack, they were asked to inventory camper belongings. This helps in final packing but also assists us in providing for camper's needs if they are lacking bedding, tooth brushes, clothing, etc. Many of the nursing homes bag bedding all in one bag or two for all of their campers. I recommend Easter Seal develops a list of items to bring to camp and that this list be in the form of a check list to be included with the final mailing. The list should be packed with the camper's belongings when the camper is sent to camp. Once the campers are organized in their cabins, various activities and a happy hour sing-along are provided to help campers ease into the camp setting and get acquainted.