

W. P. A. Recreation for Girls and Women in Kansas
Edgar Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt is the Kansas State Director of W. P. A. Recreation and this is part of a paper given by Mr. Schmidt at the Kansas Health and Physical Education Convention held at McPherson.

AIMS OF THE W.P.A. RECREATION PROGRAM

1. To provide worthwhile employment for unemployed needy persons who are qualified by training or background to organize and direct approved recreational activities.
2. To provide recreational opportunities, under supervision, for all of the people, all ages, in a year-round program.
3. To supplement existing or proposed programs of recreation in the community, especially by extending the program to groups not being served.
4. To serve as a demonstration program, to show the usefulness of recreational work and to stimulate communities to institute or expand it as a regular service of the community itself on a permanent basis.
5. To train persons to efficiently conduct activities which conform to the community desires and needs.
6. To use the program as an experimental laboratory for the devising of new activities and new techniques for leadership in the program.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

1. To provide opportunities for the development and practice of new skills in leisure time pursuits.
2. To promote social intercourse and foster cooperative living in the community.
3. To provide opportunities for appreciative and creative expression.
4. To provide for and promote the exercising and innate human curiosity.
5. To increase the opportunities for participation in leisure time pursuits.
6. To assist in coordination within the community by the pooling of resources and efforts of all agencies.
7. To develop a consciousness on the part of the people for the need of guidance in a recreation program for the building of happy, well-balanced citizens.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The program operates on a State-wide basis under the sponsorship of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in cooperation with local co-sponsors located in the community in which the project operates. These local co-sponsors include public schools, welfare agencies, park boards, city commissions, civic clubs, and others who are interested in the program. We have encouraged the establishment of local advisory or planning committees which we find to be of assistance in:

1. Determining community recreation deficiencies.
2. Determining community resources.
3. Relating project activities to community needs.
4. Planning program content.
5. Developing leadership training.
6. Developing community participation.
7. Integrating project activity into a long-time community recreation plan.

Persons qualified for recreation work may be assigned to communities upon their request within the employment limitations. They must first receive the approval of the community through the co-sponsors and the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee consists of persons serving without pay and who are interested in the leisure time problems, and are willing to devote some of their time to the planning and functioning of the program.

In each county or city sponsoring this work, the leaders work under the supervision of a county or city supervisor. Added to this we have a District Training Staff in the State Office who conduct periodical training conferences in the local and district-wide areas.