

CHAPTER VI

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

CAMPING

Overnight hikes of all types are popular with groups of both boys and girls. Hikes may be taken to various points of interest near by. A park, natural camp site as a large cave, island or sandy beach is especially good if an approved supply of drinking water is available. These hikes or camping trips may last from one day to a week depending on age of group, adaptability of camp site, etc. Any number of tests for the point system can be passed during this time on nature lore, wood craft, cookery tests and even swimming and life saving.

If boats and canoes are available, a camping trip of several days can be taken, each night spent in a different place. Over night trips should be planned far enough in advance for thorough investigation of camp sites for supply of drinking water, sanitation, depth, current, etc. of bathing places, frequency of animals and insects and dangers of sharp cliffs, sand bogs, poisonous plants, and other safety hazards. Poison ivy adds little to camping benefits; rattlesnakes even less.

Many schools own lodge sites or such can be arranged for through public subscription, clubs or P. T. A. organizations. Lodges can often be built by manual training classes or Boy Scout organizations and furnished by different groups that spend time at the lodge. Permanent lodges are very desirable for many activities since equipment can remain there from time to time and the aforementioned safety measures can be taken care of as a matter of routine rather than having each leader check on them before each hike or camping session.

Where a building is available, competition in dancing, stunts and tumbling can be carried on during a camping session. Folk dancing festivals may be held as a whole camp activity or as a part of the regular camp program.

Rope hikes are interesting for more advanced hikers and may last from one-half day to several days. A long rope is used in all descents and climbs, each person being required to be in contact with the rope at all times it is in use either by being tied to a loop affixed to the rope or holding to a knot in the rope. This type of hiking is especially useful in rough densely wooded sections.

Bicycle hikes are enjoyable and can be as extensive as equipment and age of cyclers permit. Because of the hazards of auto traffic, it is well to avoid main highways and plan never to be on a wheel after dark.

BOATING AND WATER SPORTS

Safety is a big problem in water sports. No one should be allowed in a canoe who cannot swim. There should be instruction in the sport before a canoe is taken out and the first lessons should be in shallow water. For those unfamiliar with the canoe the point should be emphasized that canoes are not for use in rough water. Students should be cautioned against leaving a capsized canoe and trying to swim to shore in water soaked clothing. After these precautions are observed, canoeing is a fine sport. It fits most satisfactorily into intramurals where there is a point system. Credit can be given for time spent in paddling, miles covered, ability in handling as in righting and