

Chapter III

HOW TO TRAIN VOLUNTEERS

Extent of
Training
Needed

Recreation affords opportunities for volunteer service requiring varying degrees of professional capacity, technical skills of a wide variety, and varying types and degrees of training.

Where the recreation task for the volunteer involves group organization or leadership only those volunteers should be sought who have had the same background of training and experience that would be required of the employed professional. Where partial experience or training can be found the training program should emphasize the supplementary training needed to fit the individual to the task. For example, a manual training or art instructor in the public schools may have the necessary technical background and formal teaching skills, but may need to learn the methods involved in organizing a group and in conducting an activity in a manner adapted to voluntary attendance groups.

Sources of
Training
Personnel

The planning and organization of this special training can be carried out more readily in those communities with organized community recreation services with experience in training professional staffs, and with resources to use and supervise the volunteers when trained. Staff members of these agencies supplemented by capable training personnel from their national organizations, educational institutions, and sources with which they are familiar can organize and conduct a training program in general accord with professional standards.