

Administration: Who should operate the Community recreation program?

In any community you will have at least 3 - and perhaps 4 civic groups vitally interested in their responsibility for recreation.

1. Schools and school boards

have control of indoor facilities, to a large degree - gym., craft shops, etc. Remember that the board of education is not the owner, but rather the trustee of school properties. The taxpayers are the owners, and the teachers are responsible to the taxpayers.

2. Traditional emphasis upon leadership

a system is no more effective than that which the teacher employs and that which the superintendent of schools employs. What is true of education is also true of recreation - you cannot have it without good leadership.

schools should be expected to take a definite responsibility in the development of a community recreation program.

3. Park boards - have control over most outdoor facilities - parks, softball diamonds, playgrounds, etc.

4. City governing body - the power for a community recreation movement must start with the city governing body.

The citizens express themselves through organized activities and service clubs - PTA, Kiwanis, University Women's Association, etc.

Community recreation should not depend upon handouts for its existence but should have a definite place in the city's tax budget.

Diversified program - must have a wide range of activities for all the people.

Full-time trained leadership - program cannot attain success under part-time volunteer leadership.

Best program in Kansas is being carried out in Wichita at the present time. Supported under Board of Park Commissioners. Program in summer time - playgrounds, swimming pools - neighborhood playgrounds - art museum - wading pools - downtown arts and crafts center open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. for adults (ceramics, weaving, building crafts, etc.) Program has been somewhat neglected in fall, winter and spring because school board claimed they were taking care of intramural activities for children during school months. There is now a swing over to after-school programs.