

III.

PROGRAMS IN ACTION

We have been talking about facilities and finances, committees and subcommittees. These are the bases of every sound recreation program. The meat of the program is, of course, in its activities, in its opportunities for *doing*. To find out what teen-agers in a particular community are interested in doing is one of the main purposes of the Youth Recreation Committee's survey. To develop and satisfy those interests is the aim of the program in action. Here are some signposts toward successful youth programs: They try to cater to the interests of minorities as well as those of the majority. They gear activities to seasons and vacations, and this means planning ahead.

Recreation draws young people closer into the life of the community. Part of its job at this time is to satisfy the universal urge of young people to be part of the great national enterprise of war. Good programs offer boys and girls the chance to participate in community war services as well as to play.

Sports and Athletics

In *Atlantic City, New Jersey*, teen-age recreation is built chiefly around a city-wide athletic program. In addition to school facilities, its children have 350 acres of outdoor play space where activities are directed by the superintendent. For its size, Atlantic City has one of the outstanding junior football leagues in the country. Over a thousand 13 to 16 year-olds belong to twelve baseball leagues, and over three hundred 16 to 21 year-olds belong to a single league. Others play softball, badminton, basketball, and touch football. Three basketball leagues of sixty teams of junior boys and girls were organized in 1943.