



COUNCIL

To Explorers of Daniel Boone Council, their Camp Shikellamy near Reading, Pennsylvania, is a base from which to operate their own activities. Each week of the six-week season follows from various Explorer units mix hiking, camping, social, service projects, and vocational tours in the proportion they want and then run them.

Let's see how an adventuresome week is fashioned at Camp Shikellamy.

Planning Session

On Sunday evening after a camp-wide opening campfire, all Explorers are invited to an Exploring program "learn and plan" session in the dining hall. There the camp Explorer Advisor, a full-time staff member, explains how the Exploring program is adapted to the camp facilities.

It's pointed out that the Explorers can take part in all or part of the week's activities selected by their unit.

This is done so that some Explorers may pursue their merit badge interests or work on unit projects if they wish. Then, the group launches into selecting some of the features available from among the following suggested ideas.

CONSERVATION. Tree planting, lining streams to prevent undercutting, maintenance of an assigned area on the nearby Appalachian Trail, repairing the burro corral, or any other



CAMP AS EXPLORER BASE

special projects suggested by the camp directors are considered.

HIKING. Explorers vote on how long they feel their proposed trail hike should last, the departure time, menus, and arrival back at camp.

INDUSTRIAL TOURS. Within forty miles of the camp, the following tours are suggested: Hershey Chocolate Factory, Price Battery Corporation, a fish hatchery, and a large dairy farm.

SOCIALIZING. With close cooperation of a YWCA camp fifteen miles away, hay rides, square dances, and doggie roast coed campfires are easy to arrange.

After this list of available features has been gone over, Explorers suggest additional ideas of their own.

Activities

After all the suggestions are given, several major projects or activities are voted on. The camp program director then begins to coordinate the camp facilities, camp-needed trucks, tools, menus, and the like. Now, after the stage is set, a look at how planning is put into action will give us an idea why Camp Shikellamy is a going concern as far as Explorers are concerned.

TRAIL HIKING. On Monday afternoon the Explorer staging area is teeming with busy Explorers. They're learning to pack burros and "break them in" by taking them around the camp. There's also a session on hiking methods and trail cooking. After these preliminaries the Explorers pick up chow at the camp kitchen, check out all the equipment they'll need, and select crews for tenting and cooking arrangements.

On Tuesday, after a hearty breakfast at the dining hall, the Explorers are off on their trail hike. While they're out they complete their requirements for the Cooking merit badge and parts of the Camping merit badge. On arriving at a prearranged site, Explorers are

confronted with a field problem of finding a food cache before preparing supper. Using a compass, topographical maps and trail signs, they must find the cache while tenting and cooking crews begin their assignments.

BARBECUE. On Wednesday they're back at camp with a rugged hike under their belts and a glow of expectation about some socializing. They've voted on a barbecue and square dance. The few fortunate fellows on the barbecue committee meet with the girls from the YWCA camp to complete the arrangements. And that evening sees Explorers and their dates eating to their heart's content and after the repast joining in the square dance.

INDUSTRIAL TOUR. Thursday there's a stir because the fellows are anxious to visit a few of the nearby factories to find out something of the various kinds of skills and jobs that go into a chocolate bar, or a car battery, or a bottle of milk. So off they go, on a well-timed schedule, to drop in at the Hershey Chocolate Factory, the Price Battery Corporation, and a large dairy. It's a full, interesting day, and a change of pace from the previous day's adventures.

CAMP PROJECTS. Friday the camp projects committee gets things in motion for the tree-planting job, under the supervision of the camp ranger, and for repairing the corral.

SATURDAY CRITIQUE. Before the Explorer camp concludes on Saturday, a rehash session is held. The secretary presents the weekly log to the camp director. Suggestions are made to the camp Explorer Advisor to pass on to succeeding groups. The Advisor emphasizes that the Explorers have taken part in a program that can happen in their own units.

Well, that's only one week's program at and from Daniel Boone Council's camp. Each succeeding week the program is a bit different, because different Explorers are on the scene to run their own show. And why shouldn't they — it's their camp. *END*