"FRIENDSHIP BUILDS A BETTER WORLD"

Thirty-fifth Anniversary International Camp

BARREE, PENNSYLVANIA

June 29 - July 16, 1947

U.S.A.
Alice Zannos
Greece

Monique Schenker
Switzerland

Ingeborg Kindem
Norway

Yvonne Mosely
Canada

Amparo Molina
Colombia

Alicia McCarthy
Trinidad

From photographs by
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Reni News Service
Burket
CAMPING ALL OVER THE WORLD

"Vi gå över daggstänkta berg, berg, berg,
Som lånat av smaragderna sina färg, färg, färg,
Och sorger ha vi inga, våra glada visor klinda
När vi gå över daggstänkta berg, berg, berg."

—O. Thunman

(Swedish hiking song taken from the song book of Sveriges Flickors Scoutförbund.)

Discussion Leader: CATHERINE HAMMETT

Participants in Panel: TERESA TIBONA, ANA MARIA BRULL, BIRGIT LEIJERSTAM.

MARIA TERESA ESCODA of the Philippine Islands reported on this discussion.

Since camping varies with each country, methods were outlined by delegates of countries where camping is just beginning; where it is comparatively new; and where it is fully established and accepted as a form of recreation.

Where Camping Is Just Beginning

Very little camping has ever been done on the Philippine Islands. The customs and sheltered life led by Philippine girls make everything but the simplest camping impossible. As a result, no activities that will take girls away from home overnight are undertaken. Girls are permitted to go on day hikes only.

Since time is so limited on these excursions, activities are very concentrated. Each patrol has its own duties. Most needed are equipment, trained campers, and established camp sites.

Where Camping Is New

Camping has only recently begun in Cuba. It progressed from day hikes to weekends at private homes, and finally to camping for longer periods of time in the out-of-doors. There are no established camps, however.

Most groups going on camping trips do not use tents. They camp near a small village where they can get supplies. Campers always wear their uniforms and have formal colors every day.

Where Camping Is Fully Established

In Sweden, where camping is well established, there are various kinds of camps:

Day camps (hikes) for patrols.
Weekend camps—many troops have cottages to which they can go over weekends.
Summer camps—usually by troop or district, lasting from seven to fourteen days.
Trip camps—groups often go hiking in the mountains, averaging eighteen miles a day and stopping overnight at hostels. Canoe trips are also popular, since Sweden has many rivers and lakes.
Winter camps.

Troops carry their own small tents and equipment with them and the girls sleep on the ground. Special training camps are held for patrol and troop leaders.

In Norway, mother camps have been started where leaders who are mothers may come with their children. England often has rallies so that troops can camp together and get acquainted.

International camping was discussed and a tentative list of requirements was suggested as follows:

1. Be able to speak a language in common with troops to be visited.
2. Study the customs, history, civilization, and government of the country to be visited.
3. Have a knowledge of own country in order to teach typical songs, dances, games.
4. Be able to organize a campfire.
5. Know all about the structure of Scouting, the World Association, and so forth.
6. Know what supplies to take.
7. Know how to cook for a troop and be sure to know the available foods.
8. Have personal contact with the camp being visited—by letters to be written to the members of the troop.
9. Campers should be at least fourteen years of age.
10. Campers should be in good physical condition and should know how to take care of themselves.
11. Have advance preparation for the kind of physical activities required.
12. If the visiting troop’s country has a national costume, take one along.
13. Know travel etiquette in general. Take only necessities.
14. The group should not be any larger than sixteen girls.

Recommendation

The group recommended to the World Bureau: “that we have a set of standards for any troop of girls who want to go abroad to follow, so that they will be prepared for international camping.”
Campfires were always a high point in the day. One girl, expressing the opinion of many, said, "The things I liked best here have been campfires. The very interesting talks of our several fine speakers really were grand, and the more informal campfires, at which the Girl Guides entertained, were more than enjoyable. Early evening is so beautiful here and that, combined with the fact that at each of these meetings we found ourselves thinking on a more serious level, made the campfires seem almost perfect."

The last campfire was planned and carried out entirely by the camp council. Each unit contributed to the program and favorite songs were sung. Ana Maria Brull of Cuba was Master of Ceremonies. At the end, Roberta Silver of Greater New York was elected to express the feelings of the campers about the entire camp. She said in part:

“When we arrived at Camp Barree, we found the raw materials for world friendship. We all had our Scout ideals and the desire to make a better world. We had the trimmings, too—our own individual customs and manners. These were blended together through community living, through discussions, and by working and playing together. We tried to create a basis for future action. We know that future action is necessary, because, to us, countries across the sea are no longer just names in geography books, but the homes of our friends. The names of minority groups are just labels given to some of our friends.

“It is upon the real friendships that we have made here that we must base our future action. Here we have tried to understand each other's problems. We must continue to do this. We can't afford to forget. We must carry back to others what we feel, because our understanding alone cannot build a better world. Because we realize this, we are going to spread our feelings to other members of our communities, to our nations, and finally throughout the world.”

As the fire was raked into embers, each camper lighted a candle from the dying flames, placed it in a little wooden boat she had made, and launched it on the lake with a special wish. Judith Nine-Curt of Puerto Rico wrote: "The ceremony of the candles was most beautiful. To me it was extremely symbolical. The lake, rather dark, was the world in which we are to push our lights, with their glow of all the high things we have gotten in these past days. Our surroundings lighten, and the light extends over the lake, pushing away the darkness. Some of the lights went out with the first push, as maybe some of the girls' best intentions will die out at the start, but there was a continuous supply of lights, and the new ones made up for the lost ones."
After the encampment was over, the guests visited Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York. In each city, they were entertained in the homes of Senior Girl Scouts and also spent a few days at a Girl Scout camp near each community.

In Washington, the majority of the delegates from the United States of America accompanied the guests. The tour took them to the following places: the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, Lee Mansion, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institute, and the Pan American Building. They were guests at a reception given at the Army and Navy Country Club, and later participated in a rally of all Senior Girl Scouts and leaders of the National Capitol Area. They made a tour of the Congress and learned its ways of work.

In Philadelphia, the guests visited the Franklin Institute, Independence Hall, Betsy Ross's house, other historic sites, and attended a special planetarium show and a concert at the Robin Hood Dell.

In New York, the guests took a trip to the United Nations, the Empire State Building, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Rockefeller Center, a broadcasting studio, and an Automat.