

Concerning Boys

By Herbert Fiddes

HINTS ON CAMPS AND CAMPING.

With the approach of the warmer weather many minds will be turned to the possibility and probability of holding a camp.

It is hard to imagine anything more productive of clean healthy amusement, and good-fellowship than a camp. Whether the camp be under an organized club, or a private concern there are many things the amateur should know, and it is with the idea of being of some practical assistance that these lines are being written.

There should be a responsible leader in all camps for boys, one whom the boys will obey cheerfully.

Starting A Camp.

It is not usually advisable to start a camp in an afternoon or evening; it is better to start in the morning. This will dispense with the necessity of an advance party, and if the camp is being run by a large club, the benefit will be apparent the first night, in having a quiet camp. If a camp is started late in the afternoon or evening, the boys are not tired and not the least inclined to sleep, and discipline becomes difficult to maintain.

Camp Site.

The location of a camp is a very important item. It should be on a site that is high and dry; if possible near a river or lake suitable for swimming, but in close proximity to a good supply of water both for washing and drinking.

Equipment and Stores.

In addition to food and fuel, it is advisable that every boy should have a mattress. A large sack filled with straw, or dry grass will be found suitable. Where possible every boy should also bring a waterproof sheet.

In addition to water buckets for cooking purposes, fire pails should be kept conveniently handy, and should ALWAYS be filled with water.

Lanterns, clock, spades, axes, scrubbing brushes, dish cloths, are things easily overlooked.

Commissariat.

A good cook is a most important requisite, especially where the boys are young.

The following is about the portion per boy per day of some of the staple foods:

Cheese, 1 oz. per boy; butter, 1 oz. per boy; Jam 2 oz. per boy; bread, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 lb per boy; potatoes, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb per boy; uncooked meat, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ lb according to age of boy; tea, $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.; sugar for tea or coffee, 1 oz.

The Cook House should be placed in a sheltered spot, and should have a cover capable of keeping off rain and sun.

It is worth remembering, if the cook is not a professional, that soft water, when possible, should be used for cooking. Hard water takes longer to boil than soft water; it renders vegetables hard. In boiling it makes fresh meat tough.

Fatigues.

The camp, if large, should be divided into squads, each under a responsible head and should be allotted certain days for duty.

Sanitation.

It is of utmost importance that the camp be kept scrupulously clean. Milk and food should on no account be allowed to be thrown on the ground or around the camp.

All meat should be protected from flies.

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