

*Summer SS School  
Canaan (outdoor club)*

November 7, 1963

MEMORANDUM To: Major General D. T. Spivey,  
Superintendent

Re: A Suggested Progressive Canoeing Program at Culver.

The following suggestions are made to develop a program in canoeing that will supplement the basic course that was established in the summer of 1963. They also are in addition to the proposed improvements already submitted in the basic canoe program for Woodcraft, 1964.

*Approved by Spivey*

1. A hobby group for winter school based on canoeing, camping, fishing: This could be a nine-month affair, adjusting the activity to the desires of the cadets, the weather, the outside activities that are desirable. These last would include canoe rallies, races, etc.

Basically, the aims would be to make available to cadets the chance to get outdoors, to improve outdoor skills, to learn self-reliance, to cooperate in small groups, to develop interests that will carry over into manhood.

It has been my pleasure to help organize a similar group in another school, where we considered it very successful. With the equipment and facilities already available at Culver we can do a great job with very little expense.

*Package to be sent to Spivey  
via  
Bureau  
of  
Canaan  
activities*

2. A spring canoe race. Last spring a group of boys and I initiated a two-day canoe race in Central Indiana that was a real success. A race of this type presents the rare opportunity for Americans to test themselves against the endurance and skill of others. It also is a challenge to win out over the obstacles of nature.

*can use  
equipment  
available  
wood needs*

The particular plans that I have in mind are rather lengthy for a written discussion. I respectfully request the opportunity to outline them in person.

3. Summer canoe trips on the Tippecanoe. As a part of our regular Woodcraft water program I feel that we should develop, as the top echelon of our canoe training, three-day river trips. The boys would be selected for their mastery of skills, their dependability, and citizenship. Campcraft and nature study knowledge would be employed while new arts such as packing, portaging, "reading the river" would be mastered.

*not yet*

Here again, existing facilities and equipment would be employed in order to gain the maximum usage which is obviously not true with the present program.

Full detailed plans can be submitted to the proper administrators in Woodcraft.

4. Summer Educational Tours: Experience, on a limited scale, has proven to me that the best way

*not yet*

Canoeing at Culver

Page 2

to interest young Americans in their country and its heritage is to show it to them. When they can be induced to slow the frantic pace at which we all live and travel in the manner of our forefathers, the benefits are multiplied.

Briefly, here is my idea: Take about twenty boys, with two leaders, one who is a historian, one a scientist or naturalist, and tour one of the great waterways of the country.

The first tour I would suggest would be the Lake Champlain - Hudson River. This area is steeped in history, literature, heritage. A close examination would be made of places like Plattsburg, Ticonderoga, "Sleepy Hollow," West Point, New York City, etc. The scientific instructor would cover geography, geology, botany, etc.

Travel would be by canoe (with sails available). Living would be by camping with enough "civilized" rest stops to avoid monotony.

This trip could take four weeks. Two other instructors with an equal number boys would be at camp ready to trade places. This would eliminate empty beds at camp.

This is just a rough outline. A target date could be the summer of 1965.

In summary, I make myself available to discuss further, work out plans, and carry out any and all of the above.

*Wm Garrison*  
William Garrison