

File

Outing - Courier de Bois

3 February, 1965

Sir:

In connection with our recent conversation and after visiting with Joe Nold, I have put together some thoughts on a summer program for Culver similar to Outward Bound. Some of these you will recognize as your own ideas handed back to you.

I have classified these thoughts under the following headings:

Philosophy of program
The Program
Facilities
Personnel
Future extension
My own training in '65

A. Philosophy of program

1. Outward Bound may feel that we can't or won't meet their standards and therefore refuse to sanction us.

If we were a part of Outward Bound we would have to follow their program. We may feel that we could develop our own program to fit our own facilities, needs, and goals.

Obviously, the Outward Bound tag would be a fine status symbol, but not essential. We can simply adopt the parts of their program that we like best.

2. If possible, we should consider having 3/4ths of our prospects scholarship boys who need help. We should definitely cut across racial and ethnic groups.
3. Our program should stress heavily a do-it-yourself philosophy. We should aim at teaching self-reliance, teamwork, American ideals, the pioneer spirit of striking out into the unknown, middle-class culture.

Whenever possible we should stress American history and heritage.

We should work toward physical and mental toughness by stressing man's struggle against nature rather than each other. The weak should be taught to do their best and the strong to help the weak. (Is this too socialistic?)

An important goal would be to send the boys back to their community with a clearer understanding of the ideals of the American way of life.

4. An immediate goal would be to develop leadership for future programs from the needy group.

B. Program

1. Training period

a. Skills in canoeing (including rescue), group camping, cooking,

individual camping and survival, survival swimming, rope, camp crafts (ax work, fires, etc.), rappelling and rock climbing, rope course, would fall into this period.

b. Physical conditioning would be an important part.

2. Practice period

a. All the above would be employed in group trips on our rivers and trails plus individual survival trials.

3. Service (here is where we would depart from O.B.)

a. Advance camps could be built at selected sites along the Tippecanoe, Yellow, Wabash, and Sugar Creek. These would consist of a log cabin with stone fireplace built to be vandal proof. They could be used for future summer groups, Woodcraft, Winter Outing Club, faculty families, etc.

C. Facilities and Equipment

1. Beacon Park would make an ideal base camp for the training period.

2. Advance cabins could be constructed as outlined above.

3. Equipment

a. Canoes

(1) We would need ten 2 man canoes. The ones on hand would be fine. If they would not be available, I would recommend 15' standard weight Grumans.

(2) Two war canoes would be fine for longer trips, supplies, etc.

b. Fourteen "mountain" tents.

c. Six "mountain" cook sets.

d. Twelve Duluth packs (best combination for carrying, portaging, canoeing)

e. Six Hudson Bay axes with sheaths.

f. Three camp saws.

g. Odds and ends of mess kits, buckets, etc.

h. I have some equipment to contribute. (Two canoes, pack boxes, pack saddle).

i. Twenty-four ponchos. (Could be rented to the boys.)

j. A trailer to move short canoes. This could be a good do-it project.

D. Personnel

DIRECTOR

Cook for Base Camp

Instructor

Instructor

Squad
Leader

Three boys in each squad

Instructors should be skilled in as many activities as possible. They should be very strong in empathy.

Squad leaders (need a better name) should be O.B. or Culver boys-or both.

E. Extension

Our first year should be a pilot program to work the bugs out.

Our nights should be raised as soon as practical to not only involve more boys, but extend our operations.

The major historical-cultural-historical-camping trip should be aimed at rich lodes like the Hudson River, Potomac, St. Lawrence Seaway, Ohio-Mississippi.

F. My training.

It looks as though I will be doing the following this summer:

Taking the Leadership course at O.B.

Planning, organizing, running an advance camp. The specific purpose will be to build a ski lodge in the Rockies. The personnel set-up will be exactly like that shown in the sketch above.

Note: All of the above is just a "Virginia Plan." I feel that there are some sound ideas here. With your and General Spivey's backing it can be a real success.

Wm. B. Garrison

File under

February 15, 1965

Article I: Title

1. The name of this organization shall be Courier De Bois.

Article II: Purposes

1. To enjoy the benefits of outdoor living.
2. To advance and stimulate interest in outdoor activities.
3. To offer individual challenges, both physical and mental.

Article III: Activities

1. Organized canoeing, hiking, camping, fishing, survival training.

Article IV: Membership

1. Membership in this organization will be open to all persons enrolled at Culver Military Academy who meet the following requirements:
 - a. Be maintaining satisfactory standards both academically and in citizenship.
 - b. Pass the required swimming and water safety tests as specified by the organization.
 - c. To be a candidate for membership, an applicant must be sponsored by a member in good standing.
 - d. Where the number of candidates to be taken on an outing must be limited, the members will meet to screen those sponsored.
 - e. A candidate must accompany the organization on specified outings. After such outings the candidate will be judged by members in good standing who have actually observed the candidate on an outing. A three-fourths affirmative vote constitutes membership.
 - f. Dismissal will be based upon violation of the rules or constitution of the organization. A three-fourths vote of a quorum will constitute dismissal.

Article V: Rules for Members

1. No smoking during club activities.
2. Culver's standards of conduct will be complied with on all occasions.