

## NOTES ON DAY CAMPING

Summer is the time when children should be outdoors exploring shady woods, looking for wild flowers, observing birds and animals, catching tadpoles and watching frogs.

It is the time for hikes, smelling pine needles and roasting hot-dogs on a green stick; the time for dressing up like an Indian, whittling a stick or dangling hot feet in cool water.

Some children are fortunate and experience these pleasures during the summer at a cottage or at camp. But what of those who stay behind in the humid city or town? Must they miss these opportunities? No. Day camping brings all of them within the means of every child.

### WHAT IS DAY CAMPING?

Day camping is an organized group experience in outdoor living on a day-by-day basis and under trained leadership. As the name implies, children travel to the camp each day for a period of two or more weeks. Special sleep-outs, usually one to a camp period, provide the only occasion for spending the night at the site.

The programme is nature-centred and requires a natural setting of wooded areas, hills and streams.

Day camping is:

- an outdoor programme for small groups
- an opportunity to develop camping skills
- an introduction to camping at minimum cost

Day camping is NOT:

- a playground programme transplanted outside city limits
- a vacation club or a stay-at-home club
- a building-centred programme

What Can Day Camping Do for a Child?

Many urban children have little chance to learn first hand an appreciation of nature. Day camping provides this stimulating experience. With good leaders and the companionship of other children, the great out-of-doors takes on new meaning.

Some of the objectives of day camping are to:

- teach respect for the rights of others through group living
- encourage a love for nature; an understanding of the laws of nature
- develop camping skills and an aptitude for resident camping
- provide fun and adventure