

I BELIEVE IN CAMPING

Fred V. Rogers

I BELIEVE . . . that all children should have an opportunity to live in the out-of-doors: to cook out, sleep out, “pioneer and conquer” the wilderness: to catch, clean, cook and eat a fish: to sit with pals around a fire as night closes in: to defy the elements: to paddle a canoe: to vision tomorrow from the top of a mountain and hear the sounds and symphony of the woods. To know what it means to live comfortably in a group, and feel the glow of friendship and fellowship: to be wanted and needed, and share, cooperate and give as well as receive: to experience living in a democratic community, and be included in the plans and be one of the planners; to have a chance to work and see the fruits of labor; to successfully conquer frustration from failure and feel pride from personal success.

I BELIEVE . . . that youth should know more about his natural surroundings and the inter-relationship of all living things; see wild life in its natural habitat; wonder at the marvels of Gods creation and find fun in the simple way of life; live in an atmosphere free from pressures and tensions; climb a tree and build a tree house hut or fort.

I BELIEVE . . a child should know good communication and relationship with an adult who can be idealized, admired and respected; who has the time to be helpful, patient and understanding; who will help him find excellence in skill and confidence through accomplishment; who recognizes him as an individual in a world of conformists; who will grant the freedom to experiment, to make decisions—for who can resolve big problems without experience in solving little ones?

I BELIEVE . . that happy, carefree days are a heritage of youth, as is the right to worship; and that through normal growth and such association will come lasting faith in one’s self, country and God. **I BELIEVE .** that a camp provides the unique setting, the ideal locale for all these things to be accomplished—and that all are possible in a good camp program—so, **I BELIEVE IN CAMPING.**