

IDEAS...

From Here and There

1. Don't announce this contest ahead of time! Conduct a Pocket Census. The winner is the camper who has most and varied objects in his pockets.
2. Is your camp empty in the spring or fall? Why not lease it to schools who have camping programs?
3. Birthdays are big days anywhere for camp-age youngsters. Birthdays away from home can be even more exciting when new friends *and* camp staff remember to celebrate them with cakes and songs.
4. An All-Camp Birthday Party can celebrate everyone's birthday. Twelve tables may be decorated for different months of the year. Campers sit at the tables of their birthdates. Cakes and candles are included. Try making up some original birthday songs!
5. For an exciting change of program, you might try a Camper-Counselor Day. A camper in each cabin is chosen to be the counselor for the day. The counselor takes the camper's place for the day. Other campers might be chosen for the job of camp director, etc. Be careful!
6. A deaf-and-dumb meal or a one-utensil meal gives variety at mealtime. During a deaf-and-dumb meal, no one can speak. For the one-utensil meal, dump forks, spoons, knives in a big box by the door. As campers enter, they draw out a single utensil, with which they must eat their whole meal.
7. Ever try a counselor hunt? During supper the counselors slip out of the dining hall one at a time, unnoticed. Each hides somewhere around camp. At the close of the meal, someone announces that the counselors are missing and the campers must find them. Boundaries are described and some place may be made off limits.
8. A tug-of-war is fun in shallow water or across a small stream. Someone is bound to get wet. Girls even enjoy this.
9. On a Backward Day the daily schedule is reversed, with supper in the morning and breakfast at night. Clothing is worn backward and grace is said at the end of the meal.
10. Girls go for Color Day, Plaid Day, or Stripe Day. This means that every camper must wear something of that color, plaid or stripe in order to get into the dining hall.
11. You might want to try a Gold Rush—finding rocks painted with gold paint—or a pop bottle hunt, a peanut hunt, or a candy bar hunt.
12. An early morning sunrise hike can be an unforgettable experience. Some morning take your cabin group to a nearby mountain or clearing to watch the sun come up. Many city campers have never watched a sunrise.
13. A WHAT'S IT box, with a protruding shirt sleeve into which the campers put their hands and identify objects by feel, teaches via the sense of touch.
14. Peep boxes that say, "Don't look!" or "Beware" intrigue campers and arouse their curiosity.