

## LOVE THAT CAMPER

If I am able to speak to my campers with the eloquence of men and angels, but have not love for the individual camper, I become as sounding brass and clanging cymbal. And if I have the give to understanding life, and know all the mysteries of psychology, and have all knowledge of youth behavior and all faith in my ability as a leader, but have not love for the campers in my group I am not worthy of being their leader. If I give of my time in unlimited measures, and if I continually sacrifice that they may find enjoyment in numerous activities, but in so doing if I am not let in the spirit of love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love is patient with the mistakes of youth, is sympathetic with their problems. Love keepeth me from envying the success of other camps. Love gives satisfaction other than that found in large numbers. Because it seeketh not its own, it giveth power for me to be true to my campers. It giveth patience in the time of discouragement. It giveth pleasure only when I give my best. It beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, and endureth all things for the sake of my campers.

Love never faileth as a force to make my work productive. If I depend upon scientific knowledge, my efforts will lack breadth and depth. For now we thing only in part, and we know in part, and we have outgrown the viewpoints of childhood. The words, the thoughts, the feelings that we have today will be changed by the experiences of tomorrow. But in all this changing there abideth faith in the work I am doing with the campers, hope in its productiveness in Christian character, and love of youth as they are and for what it is possible for them to become. Faith, hope, love - these three abide, but the greatest of these is love.

Source - unknown