1942

A Brief Statement to the Parents of American Boys and Girls, 1942 (?)

Maine Development Commission

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/decd_docs

Recommended Citation
http://digitalmaine.com/decd_docs/50

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Economic and Community Development at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Economic and Community Development Documents by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.
A Brief Statement to the Parents of American Boys and Girls

BY THE

MAINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

STATE HOUSE

AUGUSTA, MAINE

MAY 25, 1942
A Brief Statement to the Parents of American Boys and Girls

Americans today are living under high tension. The easy, pleasant existence of peacetime is gone until the inevitable day when we shall have won the war. Try as we may, it is impossible to keep our children free of this strain. The impact of the war's many disruptions hits them hardest of all because they cannot fully understand the implications of the changes that have come into everybody's lives.

This being true, we believe that this summer, more than ever before, is the time to send your children to Maine boys' and girls' camps. Here the child will be close to the heart of nature where war seems far away. He will revert to his happy, carefree existence of prewar days.

England's first thought, when it was struck by war, was to get its children away from congested areas. They were sent to the country and to the hills where they would be far away from military objectives. This procedure has been proved extremely wise for, despite repeated attacks on the island, English children have been safe in their retreats.

The areas where Maine boys' and girls' camps are located are far safer than even the safest of these English places where children were sent. Most of them are on beautiful wooded lake shores. They are all, even our seashore camps, far away from any military objective. It would be virtually impossible to think of a place where they would be safer.

The part that Maine has played in the development of the boys' and girls' camp movement has been a noteworthy one. Its camps have maintained a preeminent position through the years.

Ever since the first boys' and girls' camp was founded in Maine, officials of the state, and citizens as a whole, have taken a great interest in the movement. Nothing has been left undone to provide for the safety, health and recreation of children attending these camps. The unqualified success of the camps and the remarkable progress of children attending them have been matters of deep gratification in Maine.

Maine boys' and girls' camps are conducted by men and women who are nationally prominent school and college educators. Each summer they come to Maine to devote themselves to the development of American youth. They surround themselves with the best counselors and other assistants it is possible to obtain.
Following are six reasons why your child will be safe, healthy and happy in a Maine camp this year:

1. There will be no safer place in the world than a Maine camp for your child this summer. Maine camps are far removed from military objectives and yet most of them are only a day’s ride from your home. You can visit your child frequently if you wish. You can even spend the entire summer in an adult camp or at a hotel just a few miles from the camp where your child will be.

2. Your child’s health will be jealously guarded. The State Legislature in 1927 provided for the licensing of all camps in the state. Supervision of inspection is delegated to the Division of Sanitary Engineering of the Maine Bureau of Health. Each year experts from this department visit every camp and make careful investigation of the source of the water supply. Each camp must have its drinking water analyzed before the start of the season. The protection of bathing beaches and other sanitary measures are established. Close attention is also paid to housing. Adequate air space and ventilation of cabins, proper screening of dining rooms and kitchens, the sanitary storing of foods and the careful disposal of waste material — these, and many more precautions, are taken by all camps. The impressive health record established by Maine camps through the years speaks well for the complete understanding and eager cooperation by camp directors and state health and safety agencies.

3. Your child will be happy in Maine. He, or she, will be given every opportunity to enjoy to the fullest the joys of living close to nature. Camp craft, nature lore, water sports, the development of hobbies and allied activities make the days only too short for these campers. Directors and counselors take pride in the progress of the children in their camps and leave no stone unturned to bring out the best in each girl and boy. The child is taught tolerance and self-reliance. They are taught to do things for themselves and take great pride in their ability to learn.

4. Fresh Maine foods contribute greatly to the children’s health while in camp. Pasteurized milk from nearby farms is available to all Maine camps. Fresh vegetables and dairy products are brought to the camp daily so that they may be enjoyed in all their natural goodness. Drinking water, as has been said, is tested rigidly and is pure.

5. Maine’s climate is ideal for growing boys and girls. Maine summer days are just pleasantly warm and nights are cool enough to induce restful sleep. The waters of the many lakes are of just the right temperature for bathing and all other water sports, experts say.
During recent years Maine has received much favorable notice as a haven for those who suffer from hay fever. Many regions in the state are singularly free of the pollens that cause this troublesome condition.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Weather Bureau, in its annual meteorological report, has this to say about the climate of Maine:

"Maine has the most healthful climate in the United States and equals any in the world, not only in the summer but also, contrary to popular belief, in the winter. Sunshine averages close to 60 per cent for the year and monthly averages vary little during the changes of seasons. Frequently the winter has more sunny days than the summer. It is a fact that southern Maine has more actual hours of sunshine during the summer months of June, July, August and September than the famous winter resorts of Florida, Georgia, Texas and California have during the winter months of November, December, January and February."

6. Camping—An Education for Democracy. Today's campers are too young to be of any substantial help in this war and we should keep the war hysteria away from them as much as possible. It is our duty to prepare them for the peace that is to come— a peace which will not only include our own democracy but some plan of international co-operation. This means the desire and ability to cooperate on a basis far beyond anything we have ever conceived of in the past. Training children to work together, play together, plan together, is the unique function of the camps. It is the one phase of education which can only be carried out in a place where children are living together twenty-four hours a day. We can talk about democracy in the schools, but at camp it is lived—it becomes part of the child. It is our job to carry on the war to its successful conclusion but it is just as important to prepare our children to carry through the idealism for which the war is being fought. Camps are making a very effective contribution towards reaching this goal.