

COMMITTEE REPORT ON COMMUNITY RECREATION

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No program of community recreation can be successfully planned and executed without complete and wholehearted cooperation of all agencies, sections, divisions, groups and interests which are concerned with the intellectual or social welfare of all residents of any particular project--both evacuees and appointed personnel. In short, all interest groups on a project should cooperate in the formulation of a program of community recreation whether it be for the summer or for a longer period. We feel it to be false economy of time and effort not to contact and pool the varied resources of community activities, community services, education, clubs, churches, and the like in the formulation and carrying out of a program which attempts to satisfy the needs and interests of a community in regard to recreation.

We feel that the summer activity program should include meaningful experiences in at least three general categories: (1) activities, such as: handicraft, art, music, games, etc.; (2) there should be provision for supplementary work in some of the fundamental skill subjects commonly offered in the school program, such as: English, mathematics, speech, and reading, and (3) vocational training.

The summer activity program should include a large variety of enriching experiences: it should be adapted to the peculiar circumstances of each project with respect to time and location of offering: it should grow out of and be a fruition of the regular program of the schools and of the community activity section: and it should be of value to participants of all age levels in the light of future adaptations which they will be obliged to make. The summer activity program should meet the interests and needs of all age groups from young children to the elderly. This summer program should be, yes must be, an outgrowth of community planning, community interest, and community cooperation.

While embodying the collective thinking of many diverse groups, such a program of activities and experiences must possess unity and coherence. This cannot be obtained unless some individual is delegated to initiate and coordinate the various elements which go to make up the total program. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that nothing but confusion and frustration can result from divided responsibility, diverse interests and loyalties, and multiple objectives. The committee is of the opinion that situations may differ from project to project and that only the Project Director will possess the information necessary to decide who should be empowered and delegated to perform this important task of supervising the summer activity program.

The committee, therefore, wishes to submit for your consideration the following recommendations:

1. Full utilization of a community planning committee should be sought in planning for the summer activity program. Such groups as the DSA, YMCA, YWCA, PTA, Girl Reserves, churches, schools, community activities and all other interested groups should be encouraged to cooperate in the planning for such a program.
2. Such planning should be initiated by the Community Services Director,

or such other person as may be delegated by the Project Director.

3. Responsibility for supervision and conduction of various phases of the program should be delegated to the sections and groups included in the planning committee.
4. The school should be cognizant particularly of such activities as classes or group activities in fundamental skills, vocational experiences, handicraft, music, dramatics, art, clubs, and special emphasis should be given to agriculture, food production and health.
5. Insofar as possible classes, clubs, and other groups used in the summer activity program should be organized on the basis of interests rather than geographical proximity. Among other things this means that teams engaging in connection should be organized in terms of classes, grades, and clubs rather than in terms of geographical areas.
6. The cultures of all societies and peoples of the world should be recognized, and appreciated, not the least of which is a recognition and appreciation of the culture of Japan. Even though in our democracy we strive toward this end, a definite attempt should be made to call attention to and emphasize the more desirable aspects of our American life culture. Such things as American folk dances, songs, drama and literature should be given a prominent place in the summer activity program.

Respectfully submitted:

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