

in the paper are not on-the-spot staff coverage stuff. More than 50 percent of the type that makes a newspaper came from people like wildlife rangers—those whose professions deal with people and what they are doing.

Our friend pointed out that front page stories are often the result of phone calls or telegrams from a person who was on the scene and recognized the incident for its news value.

There is a distinct need for better relations between wildlife rangers and newspapers all over the country, for what is good news and feature material in one small county may not be of interest to newspapers in other counties and, therefore, does not warrant being part of a newsletter or news release. If a wildlife ranger can pass on the story to his local press, it is not lost.

In summing up this program allow us to say that all that's needed to have a good ranger-press relationship is the cooperation of the rangers. The press, in most cases, is willing.

Also, rangers must be taught the policies of the department and the goals it is trying to reach. It is not beneficial for a ranger to author information or stories that are not in the best interest of the department at large.

By properly training rangers in newspaper tactics and by making them realize that they have information and incidents that will make informational and enjoyable reading, a program such as this can reap big dividends in Education and Information work.

KENTUCKY'S JUNIOR CLUBBERS GO CAMPING

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Kentucky is in the camping business. No need to mince words, no doubt about it—the bluegrass state is on an all-out camping spree. The unique thing is, this camping spree is a spree producing a better Kentucky—and we feel, better men, also.

This paper is headed "Kentucky's Junior Clubbers Go Camping." It might more aptly be tabbed "camps for conservation."

The Kentucky Division of Conservation Education, and its Junior Conservation Education Program—a program well known and recognized throughout the southeast and the nation—is the particular agency referred to in the camping spree mentioned above. It is a spree, gentlemen, of which we are proud—a spree doing a tremendous job for the commonwealth.

For that reason, we recommend it to your consideration. The job that has been done for Kentucky—and its youth—through the Junior Conservation Education Camping Program is one of hard-to-estimate value. It serves to crystallize the year-long conservation education program carried on in our schools, and it helps to build better men through a youngster's contact with his fellow men and nature. This, in turn, produces individuals trained in conservation, sympathetic to the problems and needs of good fish and wildlife management, and safety at home, in the fields or on the waters of the state.

Our junior club boys started camping in 1945. The program has grown from 15 in that year, to approximately 5,000 this year (this is the camping program alone.) We feel its growth is indicative of its merit. As most members of the Southeastern Association know, Kentucky's Junior Club Program is a year-long education program, conducted in the schools and during the summer months. We feel that the summer month activities are the high light of our conservation education year. The boys feel the same way, for nearly all of the 40,000 enrolled want to attend one of our junior club camps. This number, although very complimentary, cannot be handled within our present budget, so we have had to put our camping program on a competitive basis.

We operate two junior conservation education camps. One is located on Lake Cumberland in south-central Kentucky and the other on Kentucky Lake

in western Kentucky. The plants are modern, well equipped, well staffed. The members of each club spend a full week at one of the camps—the camp they attend depending upon the area of the state from which they come. In order to attend (and here comes the competitive angle) a boy must exhibit during his school-year classes a very definite interest in conservation and club work. Various standards have been set up to determine this interest.

Once a boy is cleared for camp and gets there, he gets a week of intensive, well-organized training in all aspects of conservation education, as well as some of the best fishing the nation has to offer. Primary attention at the camps is given to conservation subjects and to safety—both gun safety and water safety. The camp's daily activity is split into various classes, classes taught by experts in their fields, in which the boys learn by doing. Recreation is present also, in the form of fishing, boating, swimming, softball, badminton—in fact just about anything a youngster wants to do.

The eighteen junior club men who carry on the conservation education program in the schools, carry on the program at camp, each assigned to his specialty such as nature study, hunter safety, rifle safety, water front, etc.

The boys live in modern cabins on the barracks design, 24 boys to the cabin. Each cabin has a Unit Leader (usually a college boy or former junior clubber) who maps out the daily program for his boys and goes with them.

Throughout the camping day they get instruction in such varied fields as: Hunter safety, nature study, swimming, boating, and in all instances the boys learn by doing. They travel the hunter safety course, well designed to bring out the dos and don'ts of gun handling; they walk nature trails and see soil erosion or study trees, or watch squirrels at play; they learn how to handle a boat safely or how to give emergency first-aid; or if they like, they learn to swim or how to cast—all from experts.

What does all of this accomplish? Individuals equipped to take care of themselves and others; individuals who know what conservation is and what it means to themselves and to their state, and to their nation.

We are particularly proud of our hunter safety, nature study, and boating-water front programs at camp. The hunter safety course has gained national recognition for its effectiveness. Nature study does us, from a strict conservation standpoint, a job of great value, and the boating-water front program produces safe, sane, competent young people.

Last year, for instance, some 700 boys and girls learned to swim while attending a junior club camp; 543 received Red Cross beginners cards; 144 earned their junior life saving cards; and 30 received Red Cross senior life saving cards. Throughout the past 13 years, our water front program has enrolled some 20,000 boys and girls—teaching them to swim, to handle boats and motors safely, and in most instances, teaching them at least the rudiments of life saving.

Over the course of the years since the establishment of the Kentucky Junior Conservation Club program in 1945, approximately 200,000 youths of the commonwealth have passed through our conservation education classes. Although the year-round school program is extremely important, the instructions presented during the summer camping sessions probably have more retentive value than any other. This is due to two factors: (1) Some 40 hours of solid instruction packed into a week's daytime activity, plus nightly conservation education movies. (2) Pleasant lesson associations based on well-remembered camping activities.

Kentucky's Junior Clubbers are camping each year and with increased interest. The benefits being derived by the commonwealth and its people through youngsters learning-by-doing are, we believe, great. The benefit to the youngsters, through close association with nature, through learning to mix and live with their fellows, and to take care of themselves, is, we feel, equally as great.