



Spahr also feels that the class could become a turning point to elementary education majors on whether to continue in elementary education or change to something else.

"After a week at Outdoor School with 120 sixth graders, you've pretty well decided whether you're going to be able to handle teaching or not," said Spahr.

Spahr gets the college class involved in the various camp activities. Learning and singing camp songs, a very important part of camp, is just part of what CCC students face each Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m.

Awareness and appreciation of the environment is the main focus of the Outdoor School Program. Through the week's experience students will use the discovery approach of identifying, observing, classifying and generalizing elements of the outdoors. They will study plants, wildlife, soil, water and weather and their interrelation with man.

The counselor plays a very important role in teaching these subjects. At Camp Nate Creek the staff will consist of 19 CCC counselors, four Bilquist teachers and the camp director. The six subjects are taught by the college students with the teachers acting mainly as observers.

The day begins early, at about 6 or 7, depending upon how energetic the kids are. A flag ceremony, followed by breakfast and cabin clean-up dominate the first few waking hours.

All counselors and teachers are picked by hosts and hostesses to be guests at each meal. Two adults are present at each table to maintain some sort of order. The meals are usually filled with laughter, fun and songs requiring some type of motion from the students.

A two-hour morning study plot with one of the field study groups is followed by lunch. After each meal the kitchen police (K.P.) clean the tables and floors for the next meal.

After lunch the students sign up for one

of ten recreations available: hiking, bait casting, badminton, riflery, ping-pong, crafts, box hockey, rope making, archery, and macrame.

An hour of rest, time for a quick letter home or a refreshing shower, follows lunch, then back to their afternoon field study group for two hours.

Recreation begins directly after field study. This is usually the favorite time of day for both kids and counselors.

At 6 p.m. the flag is retired and the evening meal is served. Afterwards the kids spend an hour with their teachers as the counselors retire to plan the evening camp fire.

Campfire is usually held outside, weather permitting, and is always a highlight at the end of the day. Songs, skits, jokes and lots of fun are packed into an hour of campfire.

Afterwards when the kids are in bed the counselors return to the lodge for a short staff meeting and a time to get together with other counselors and discuss problems or just play ping-pong, cards, or sing before returning to their bunks around 11:00.

The last night's campfire and the next day is always a special time. At the last campfire all the counselors reveal their real names to the tune of a sad song. Many a tear is shed on these last two days amidst name tag signing, address gathering and the final farewell.

Many counselors are hooked on the Outdoor School after one year and return year after year as counselors because of the experience and fellowship with one another.

Afterwards, each school hosts a parent night where counselors and kids are united once again for a night, to share their Outdoor School experience with others. Slides, pictures and autographs are shown and traded for one last time.

"It's an experience everyone should try," stated one returning counselor, "the kids, teachers, and counselors and all just great people to spend a week with."



Photos by Brian Snook

