

Features

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Real Outdoor Living Experienced By Girls Attending Daytime Camp On Stukel Mountain

By JUNE A. JOHNSON

Cooking over an open fire, hiking through wilderness areas, constructing a camp site—all might be considered fairly run-of-the-mill experiences in outdoor living.

But add to these activities whittling, knot tying, organized nature study, handicrafts made from nature materials, from 75 to 90 companions, and a bullsnake mascot named Henry—and the result is the annual Camp Fire Girls day camp on Stukel Mountain.

Camp Waita (the official but seldom used name of the day camp, which appropriately signifies "camping on a mountain in the daytime") offers each age group an opportunity to participate in a program related to living in and enjoying the outdoors.

Situated just far enough off the beaten path, 14 miles from town and up two and a half miles of dirt road and rolling hills, the location of the camp gives the girls the feeling of actually camping "out" without spending the night away from home.

At 8 a.m. on a typical day, a chartered Klamath County school bus starts making its rounds through the city and suburbs to collect campers and arrives at Camp Waita at 9:30 a.m. The first event on the schedule is an assembly, opening the day camp program much in the same manner as a resident camp with the flag ceremony, announcements, and several peppy songs to get the early risers in the spirit of things.

The main center of activity at this hour is Cable Corral. Cable Corral is a clearing shaded by trees which contains a small shed for provisions, first aid station, outdoor iron stove, several picnic tables, and serves as the headquarters for the daily staff meeting and coffee break.

It also houses the camp's supply of milk, water, and soft drinks, making it such a popular spot that the entire day camp is commonly referred to as "Cable Corral."

Cable Corral derives its title from the heavy wire cables enclosing the area to prevent intrusion by the somewhat inquisitive cattle scattered around the camp site. But the cables don't hinder Henry, the four-foot-plus bullsnake that makes his permanent home under the shed.

Recognized as everyone's friend (because bullsnakes are believed to ward off rattlers), Henry has

the run of the camp and takes advantage of it, returning to the solitude of his home when the attentions of the campers become a bit tiring.

Following the assembly and a

quick head count, the girls are divided into groups of from eight to 12 and assigned to a unit. The units are supervised by adult counselors and one or more experienced campers of junior high

and high school age who serve as program aids.

Each unit selects its own camping spot, as far away from other groups as possible, and begins to set up temporary housekeep-

ing. The first project is to mark the boundary with stakes and twine. Not only does the "fence" give some degree of privacy and

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CALL TO ORDER — As soon as the bus unloads its passengers at the day camp, the staff has the task of gathering some 75 to 90 eager campers together for an assembly. After order prevails, the director, Mrs. Carol Baird, opens the morning ritual — flag ceremony, singing,

and announcements. Then the girls break up into units and scatter in all directions to begin the day's activities. A second assembly for a less energetic group is held before returning home.



BUS SERVICE — Transportation to the camp is provided by a chartered Klamath County school bus which makes a planned circle through the city and suburban area picking up campers at designated stops. Arriving around 9:30 a.m. and leaving promptly at 3:45 p.m., the bus remains at the site in case of rain and a quick departure. The driver, Mrs. Fred Murphy, also volunteers her services for any camp project. Her charges getting off the bus are, top to bottom, Becky Luksan, Cindy Conn, Cindy Loibl, Diane Wittman and Peggy Williams.



CAMP-STYLE FAUCET — A little ingenuity can go a long way at a camp site without running water. The hand washing problem is adequately solved with a tin can filled with water and plugged at the bottom for easy access. A roll of paper towels mounted with twine is conveniently placed to the right of the "faucet." In the picture, Diane Allensworth waits her turn while Teresa Schmidt scrubs up.



NATURE DISCOVERY — Exploring the woods and fields for any unusual objects of nature resulted in a real "find" for one day camp unit. Lu Anne Knoles shows the treasured "eagle" skull (exact type determined by several of the campers after a thorough check of birds in the encyclopedia) to Valerie Edgar, who is just as fascinated with her discovery of a cow's bone. The girls became so interested in the subject of bones that they constructed a bone museum from their extensive collection, enclosing the display with a pine cone fence.



UNIT CONSTRUCTION — Lynn McCullough, program aide, and Delores Wittman, camper, prepare a unit site, one of the first duties after arriving at day camp. Each unit, composed of 10 to 12 girls, selects its spot for a temporary home under the trees and marks it off with stakes and twine. The decor, which varies with the tastes of the inhabitants, may include pinecone entrance paths, gaily painted stakes, makeshift flags, and colorful strips of paper to adorn the twine. The unit homes are used primarily for rest periods and a safe place to hang lunches away from foraging insects.



ROASTED AND READY — With or without the bun and trimmings, Andre Ivanoff casts her vote for roasted hot dogs and milk at lunchtime. While her unit agreed the day before to bring hot dogs, other groups had planned a main course of hamburger, hash, or anything else they wanted to cook. The method of cooking, whether it was by a tin can hobo stove, open pit, or tripod and kettle, was also decided by the members of each unit.



COME AND GET IT — After a vigorous morning of outdoor activity, nothing appeals more to the campers than the signal for lunch — especially when they have taken complete charge of planning and preparation. Just ready to serve up a pot of piping hot beef stew are, from left, Debra Urban, Becky Sykes, and Julia Drier. Observing one of the first camp safety rules, each girl wears a head scarf while working around the open fire.



CAMP WAITA CONTROL CENTER — The headquarters of the Camp Fire Girls day camp on Stukel Mountain is Cable Corral (despite the sign there is only one corral), so-called because of the cable fence enclosing the area from a possible cattle invasion. Cable Corral serves as the staff's center of operation and houses the first aid

station, shed for storing supplies, large outdoor iron stove, and several picnic tables. Although the day camp is commonly referred to as Cable Corral, its proper name is "Camp Waita," which means "camping on a mountain in the daytime."



NATURE WALK — One of the traditional activities of the day camp is hiking or taking "nature walks" through the woods and around the pond located on the campgrounds. The pond is too muddy for wading and too shallow for boating, but the girls have found it a perfect

place to observe tadpoles and other water creatures. The hikes are usually led by program aides, experienced campers in the eighth grade and high school who assist the adult staff members.



SWEET TREAT — The most popular way to wind up the lunch hour is with a camp dessert that has been a favorite for so long the origin could probably never be traced. Called "s'mores," short for "some mores" because you can't stop with one, the delicacy is concocted by toasting a marshmallow and pressing it between two graham crackers and a chocolate bar. Demonstrating the technique are Kathleen Shipsey, left, and Kathleen Luksan, right.



FIRST AID STATION — Prepared for any emergency scratch or cut, the camp's first aid station is equipped with a large supply of band-aids which are in frequent demand, according to Mrs. Carol Baird, day camp director. Although most of the girls wear long pants and socks, they can't seem to avoid a few nicks from the brambles and thorns in the wooded area. Here Mrs. Baird applies minor first aid to Vicki Foster, who apparently doesn't mind the band-aid operation a bit.