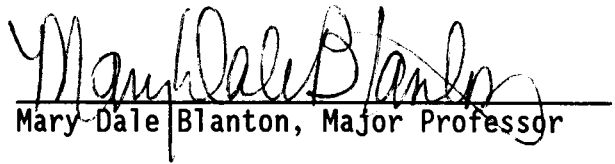
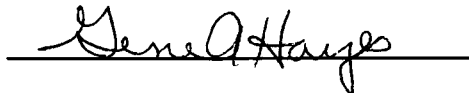
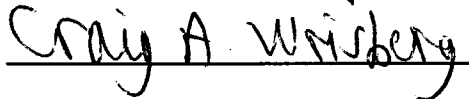


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Mary Dale Blanton, Major Professor

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AN ASSESSMENT OF RESIDENTIAL CAMP FACILITIES
IN TENNESSEE AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR USE
BY SPECIAL POPULATION INDIVIDUALS

A Thesis
Presented for the
Master of Science
Degree
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Donna Behm Reed

May 1989

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ABSTRACT

Since the 1970's there has been a nationwide movement to increase camping services to special population individuals. Little information exists on how that movement is affecting camping opportunities for these individuals in the state of Tennessee.

It was the purpose of this study to identify residential camps in Tennessee and to assess their potential use by special population individuals. Sub-problems included

1. The number and location of residential camps in Tennessee.
2. The types of facilities that are accessible at the camps.
3. The types of groups served by the camps.
4. The types of groups the camps are prepared willing to serve in the future.
5. The operating procedures of the camps.

The sample population included camp directors/administrators in the state of Tennessee representing fifty-two residential camps.

Results indicated that approximately half of the camps served special population groups.

Camping opportunities are available but are limited. Only a small number of residential camps serve individuals with specific disabilities. Fewer than fifty percent indicated a desire to serve special population individuals in the future.

Facility accessibility in these camps was inconsistent and sporadic and only one camp was totally accessible (by the study's standards) to physically disabled populations.

Further recommendations included:

1. Further research should be done to determine if a trend develops over the next two to six year period in the number of increased services to special populations by those camps in the study who indicated they wished to serve special population groups in the future.

2. An in-depth study should be conducted to determine if ownership of a camp affects services to special population individuals.

3. The effects of camper costs per session and the length of the camp session should be compared and investigated.

4. An information guide and training program should be developed on modifying/adapting outdoor recreational facilities.

5. A resource guide to residential camps in Tennessee should be developed. The guide should include information on accessible facilities the camps have to offer.

6. Education/training programs similar to Project Reach and Project Stretch should be offered to Tennessee camp directors. These workshops would emphasize techniques and methods of working with special population individuals and enable camp directors/administrators/staff to assist in meeting the special needs of these groups.

7. An in-depth study should be conducted on program activities that are offered to special population individuals by Tennessee residential camps.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	1
Rationale for the Study.	3
Problem Statement.	5
Delimitations.	6
Limitations.	6
Assumptions of the Study	6
Definitions of Terms	7
II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	9
Introduction	9
History of Camping for Special Populations	9
Purpose, Goals and Benefits of Camping for Special Populations.	10
Obstacles for Lack of Opportunity for Camp Participation.	11
Current Status	12
Summary.	13
III. METHODOLOGY.	16
Introduction	16
Population/Sample.	16
Instrumentation.	17
Selection of Research Areas.	18
Administration of the Instrument	18
Analysis of Data	19
IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	21
Introduction	21
Demographics of the Population	21
Operational Procedures	24
Facilities	25
Groups Served.	30
V. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	33
Summary.	33
Conclusions.	35
Recommendations.	37
REFERENCES	39
APPENDICES	43
APPENDIX A	44
APPENDIX B	54
APPENDIX C	56
APPENDIX D	58

CHAPTER	PAGE
VITA	62

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
1. Year Camps Were Established.	23
2. Availability of Accessible Door Entrances and Fire Exits.	27
3. Availability of Accessible Restroom Facilities	29
4. Availability of Accessible Phones, Fountains and Smoke Detectors.	29
5. Types of Groups Served by Camps.	30

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSE&RS) estimates that approximately 12 percent of Americans are disabled in some way, including eight million U.S. children (Brookhiser, 1982). Demographic patterns suggest that by the year 2000 almost half of the U.S. population will be 50 years of age.

On a regional level, it is estimated that approximately 4.8 million disabled persons live in the Tennessee Valley Region (which includes the states of Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia). It should be noted that these statistics are strictly estimates because it is difficult to combine statistics on the disabled due to (a) inconsistent methodologies used by agencies when reporting numbers and (b) the variety of different definitions given to disabilities by agencies (O'Connor, 1985).

In any case, the number of disabled and elderly individuals represent a significant portion of the U.S. population. Typically, these individuals have been denied equal opportunities because of accessibility and attitudinal barriers. The Architectural Barriers Act (Public Law 90-480) as amended through 1984 and Section 504 regulations has assisted disabled populations by dealing with facility and program accessibility problems; however attitudinal

barriers are still present and may represent an even bigger problem (Tobe, 1988).

A study conducted in 1977 by the National Recreation and Park Association stated that of 1,862 public tax-supported municipal, county, special district, and state park systems responding, only slightly more than 16 percent had services and staff to meet the needs of disabled persons (Tobe, 1988). On the other hand, national agencies like The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and the American Camping Association state that since the 1970's there has been a nationwide movement to expand camping services to a variety of disabled individuals (Brookhiser, 1982).

Medical and technological advances have enabled special population individuals to participate in activities with others despite physical or mental limitations (Ervin, 1985; Information and Research Utilization Center, 1976). Parents are becoming more relaxed about letting their disabled children go hiking and camping (Shea, 1977). Normalization and integration of special population individuals are "buzz" words of the late 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's (Day, 1975; Flax, 1969; Hayes, 1969; Hensley, 1977; Kronick, 1972; Resnick, 1972; Robb, 1973; Seagle, 1974). Thus, the literature strongly supports the need for special population individuals to be provided the opportunity to participate in a camping experience if he/she desires.

The extent to which this nationwide trend is being evidenced in camps in Tennessee remains unclear. There is at present little

information available detailing the potential for increasing camping opportunities in Tennessee for special population groups. For the purposes of this study, the term "special population" with the terms "disabled" and "handicapped" will be used interchangeably.

Rationale For The Study

In 1961, the Tennessee State Planning Commission along with the American Camping Association (ACA) completed a study identifying 96 resident group camps in Tennessee (Tennessee State Planning Commission, 1962). However, the 1987 ACA guide lists only eleven accredited camps in Tennessee (ACA, 1987). In view of the ACA listing, there appeared to be a shortage of quality accessible residential camps in Tennessee or a shortage of information about other residential camps in Tennessee.

In 1972, the National Conference on Training Needs for Personnel in Outdoor Recreation and Camping for Handicapped Children developed national strategies for increasing outdoor recreation and camping opportunities for handicapped children. One of the major actions taken was the implementation of an in-depth national survey of camping and outdoor recreation for the handicapped (Bates, 1976). A similar study was conducted by Bucham in 1975. The study focused on the status of camping for disabled children and youth in 305 California camps (Kraus, 1983). However, there appeared to be little recent data

describing either the status of residential camps in Tennessee or their potential for use by special population individuals.

During the 1972 National Conference participants also developed a series of position statements. Some of the national issues and concerns of potential relevance to the present study included:

- lack of public and professional awareness of the needs and benefits of camping, outdoor and environmental recreation
- lack of exchange and coordinated effort in the provision of camping, outdoor and environmental recreation services for the handicapped
- lack of funds to provide support for the provision of camping, outdoor and environmental recreation for the handicapped
- lack of research related to determine more precisely the level and status of camping opportunities for handicapped persons, outdoor and environmental recreation services, gaps in service and measures that could be undertaken.

Hansen has also argued that an "increased effort must be made to make available appropriate resources and materials on camping for the handicapped to interested professionals and organizations and agencies" (Nesbitt, 1972, p. 32).

Such a task is not without problems since little information appears to exist on the subject--and, more specifically, on camps in Tennessee that might be in a position to accommodate special population individuals.

Social agencies, parents, and organizations that work with special populations seem to be in particular need of camps for their children/adults. Information about established camps for specific disabilities can be obtained from national organizations which serve those disabilities but listings for camps in Tennessee serving specific disabilities appear to be few in number.

The Tennessee Department of Health and Environment has a current listing of approximately 103 residential camps in Tennessee. Therefore, in the present study an attempt was made to identify camps that are presently serving special population individuals and those which have the potential to serve such individuals in the future.

Problem Statement

The purpose of this study was to identify residential camps in Tennessee and to assess their potential for use by special population individuals. Subproblems included:

1. The number and location of residential camps existing in Tennessee.
2. The type of facilities that are accessible at the camps.
3. The types of groups served by the camps.
4. The types of groups the camps are prepared to serve in the future.
5. The operating procedures of the camps.

Delimitations

The delimitations of the study were:

1. Only residential camps in Tennessee were surveyed.
2. The survey mailing list was limited to listings compiled by the Department of Health and Environment, the American Camping Association, National Easter Seal Society, Tennessee Department of Conservation, Girl Scout and church organizations.
3. Only the following selected operating procedures were assessed: season, session, cost, rentals, and insurance.

Limitations

The study was limited by:

1. Assessment of respondents and their opinions.

Assumptions of the Study

The assumptions of the study were:

1. Survey respondents would complete the questionnaire correctly, honestly and in a timely manner.
2. Survey respondents knew and understood the terms and definitions used in the questionnaire.
3. Each survey respondent was the most qualified individual to complete the questionnaire.

Definitions of Terms

For the purpose of this study the following definitions were used:

1. Camp or Camping. "A sustained experience which provides a creative, recreational, and educational opportunity in group living in the out-of-doors. It utilizes trained leadership and the resources of the natural surrounding to contribute to each camper's mental, physical, social and spiritual growth" (ACA, 1984, p. 9).

2. Accredited Camp. A camp visited by the American Camping Association and approved by "skilled, knowledgeable, trained professionals, who have examined camps in such areas as personnel, program, sanitation, health, and safety" (ACA, 1971, p. 7).

3. Residential Camp. An overnight camp that operates from periods of 4 to 365 days a year. The camp provides lodging, meals and a camp director (ACA, 1987).

4. Therapeutic Recreation Service. "Describes recreation programs and experiences that are provided for individuals who have special impairments that limit their involvement" (Kraus, 1983, p. 2).

5. Special Population, Handicapped, Disabled. "Individuals who because of a variety of circumstances, differ from the average in their physical, emotional, social and intellectual behavior, i.e., deaf, blind, orthopedically handicapped, mentally retarded, emotionally ill, aged, public offenders" (National Therapeutic Recreation Society, 1979, p. 42).

6. Season. The length of time a camp is in operation in a given year (Rodney & Ford, 1971, p. 9).

7. Session. The length of time a camper stays at camp (Rodney & Ford, 1971, p. 9).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Introduction

This study was concerned with identification and increasing residential camping opportunities for special population individuals in Tennessee. In this chapter the following topics were reviewed: (a) the history of camping for special populations, (b) purposes, goals and benefits of camping for special populations, (c) obstacles for lack of opportunity for camp participation, and (d) current status.

History of Camping for Special Populations

Camping opportunities for special population individuals before the 1900's were almost nonexistent. Most individuals with impairments were shunned or confined to institutions (Fait, 1971). The first camp for these individuals was developed in the United States in the late 1800's. Many of the early camps were just continuations of the treatments patients were receiving in hospital settings. Operation of these camps occurred on a nonconsistent basis, only opening when funds were available (Shea, 1977).

Today, there are a variety of camps which serve special populations. They include (a) camps specifically designated for special groups, (b) separate camp sessions for special groups,

(c) camps where special groups are sent to a "regular" camp,
(d) camps where special groups are separated from the rest of campers,
and (e) camps that integrate all populations (National Easter Seal Society, 1968). Current emphasis on camping for special populations not only considers treatment of the individual but also includes recreation, socialization and integration of the individual (Brookhiser, 1982).

In 1976, the ACA identified 10,000 organized camps. However, not all of these camps serve special populations. In 1977, the National Easter Seal Society listed 226 camps for special health needs in their directory of resident camps (National Easter Seal Society, 1968). Despite the efforts of organizations like ACA and the National Easter Seal Society, only a small percentage of the nation's special population individuals appear to be served by some type of camping program (National Easter Seal Society, 1968).

Purpose, Goals and Benefits of Camping for Special Populations

The overall purpose of a residential camp for special populations is to provide each camper with a holistic, therapeutic environment which serves to increase the camper's functional and social abilities and is a rewarding experience (Redl, 1966; Shea, 1977).

Goals and benefits of camping for special populations individuals include:

- to promote the learning and maturation of individuals by doing (McCammon, 1983).

- to provide positive experiences with nature (IRUE, 1976).
- to facilitate continued treatment (McCammon, 1983).
- to promote development of an appreciation of one's strength (Nesbitt, 1972).
- to enrich one's lifestyle (Nesbitt, 1972).
- to promote physical and mental fitness (IRUE, 1976).
- to promote the camp setting as an ongoing part of the community mental health program (McCammon, 1983).
- to provide structure at a time when structure is at a minimum (no school) (McCammon, 1983).
- to expose individuals to success oriented activities (McCammon, 1983).
- to provide "a setting in which natural consequences can occur" (McCammon, 1983, p. 10).

Obstacles for Lack of Opportunity for Camp Participation

It would be difficult to argue that camping for special populations is not beneficial for most individuals. However, most of these individuals are not being served. Past and current reasons for insufficient opportunity include lack of integrated services (Nesbitt, 1972), lack of understanding of special needs (IRUE, 1976), inadequate facilities (Nesbitt, 1972), lack of trained staff, poor quality of services (IRUE, 1976) and lack of coordinated efforts and funds (Nesbitt, 1972).

Another current obstacle is the lack of "researched" and consistent design standards for outdoor recreation facilities. The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) distributes guidelines for administrations to follow in modifying facilities to accommodate special population individuals, but these are often difficult to adapt to an outdoor camp environment. While the ATBCB has recently revised their outdoor recreation standards, the standards are not in distribution at this time.

There also appeared to be a shortage of professional expertise available to camp directors to help facilitate outdoor camp accessibility and modifications. This may serve to discourage camp directors/administrators who wish to modify or build accessible facilities.

Current Status

During the late 1970's and early 1980's the federal government sponsored several research projects to promote an increase in camping opportunities for special populations. Project REACH helped determine what basic competencies a camp director needed to work with the physically handicapped. Project STRETCH developed a training program for camp directors working with special population individuals (Brookhiser, 1982).

Groups that have not been typically served in a camp setting are now enjoying the benefits of such outdoor experiences. For example, Camp Logan in South Carolina is a therapeutic summer residential

program for children ages 8-14 who have significant behavior problems (McCammon, 1983). Studies from the camp report that 85% of campers show improvement in social and learning skills (McCammon, 1983).

Will-A-Way Recreation Area located in Fort Yargo State Park in Georgia is designed specifically for special population groups. In 1984 plans for one of the first theme parks specifically designed to be handicapped-accessible were begun in Northeast Missouri. The Mark Twain Heritage theme park will include a marina, amphitheater, and lodge that are all accessible to special population individuals (Tobe, 1988).

On local levels some communities are working with Jaycees, American Legion, Eagles, Elks, and Moose Clubs to help with funding needs (Endres, 1972; Kraus, 1983; Robertson, 1972). Emphasis is being placed on combining local resources to better service special groups. In Tennessee, it appears that local efforts at coordination of camping services for special population individuals has been approached in a piecemeal fashion. Some efforts are being made to assist these groups (i.e., Camp Discovery, Jaycees, Girl Scout Camps), but resource information was not referenced in the literature or promoted statewide.

Summary

In summary, past camping opportunities for special population individuals has been sporadic and primarily treatment oriented. Current emphasis on camping opportunities for these individuals not only considers treatment as a part of the camping program but also

includes a more holistic approach towards recreation, socialization and integration of campers with special needs. The goals and benefits of camping for special population individuals are numerous. Overall, the camping experience allows the individual to become aware of his/her strengths and limitations in a natural, uncontrolled environment away from a classroom or institutional setting. The outdoor setting and outdoor programs help to increase the individual's knowledge of the environment and enhances the chance of the individual to experience success oriented activities. Camping can also be used as an ongoing part of the individual's year round treatment plan.

Today, national camping and related organizations are making strides to ensure equal camping opportunities for all special population individuals. Local community groups are banding together to help support and fund camps that accommodate people with special needs. Some states are building new parks and entertainment centers that are completely accessible to people with physical disabilities. Despite this progress, there are many obstacles that have prohibited or hindered other states and/or agencies from following the examples. They include funding and coordination problems such as where will operation and maintenance dollars come from and who will spend the time to coordinate the numerous agencies responding to a central need. Other problems include accessibility and attitudinal barriers, lack of trained staff to work with special population individuals, lack of integrated programs and lack of adequate camping resource information. In relation to the obstacles mentioned above, the present study focused

on facility accessibility and groups served in Tennessee residential camps. Information gathered from the study will hopefully serve as a stepping stone to better understand the facility needs of camp administrators as well as noting camping opportunities for special population individuals.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

In this chapter the procedures used in the present study are discussed. The purpose of this study was to identify residential camps in Tennessee and to assess their potential for use by special population individuals. Subproblems included:

1. The number and location of residential camps existing in Tennessee.
2. The types of facilities that are accessible at the camps.
3. The types of groups served by the camps.
4. The types of groups the camps are prepared to serve in the future.
5. The operating procedures of the camps.

Population/Sample

The population of the present study consisted of all residential camps in Tennessee as identified by the Department of Health and Environment, ACA, National Easter Seal Society, church organizations, Girl Scouts, and the Tennessee Department of Conservation. One hundred and three mail-outs were sent to residential camps.

Instrumentation

The instrument used in this study was a questionnaire (Appendix A). Determination of the instrument was based on availability and affordability. The questionnaire contained a majority of close-ended questions with a few open-ended questions included. This approach was intended to limit responses yet allow survey respondents an opportunity to express their opinions to some degree. Facility accessibility questions were compiled from the 1984 ACA Camp Standards (ACA, 1984) and from the ATBCB 1980 access to Recreation Survey Tool (ATBCB, 1980). The ACA standards are used by camp administrators in providing quality camping experiences for participants as well as meeting local, state, and federal health and safety standards. The author also contacted Randy Smith with the Tennessee Easter Seal Society to research the accessibility guidelines used by Easter Seal for their camps. Mr. Smith reported that the Tennessee Easter Seal Camp followed A.C.A. and the North Carolina Building Code accessibility guidelines. The Recreation Survey Tool was formulated to study how accessible parks and recreation facilities currently are, to determine current needs of special population individuals, and to give recommendations for facility modifications. Bates' (1976) study was used as reference for special population general information and questionnaire design. Additional questions were compiled from a variety of sources (Brookhiser, 1983; Harding, 1983; van der Smissen). Format was investigated on 1) the basis of sentence structure and clarity, 2) techniques for high response rates and 3) the ability to

obtain necessary information from questions (Babbie, 1973; Clark, 1976; Rossi, 1983; Dillman, 1978). The questionnaire was accompanied by a cover letter and a set of terms and definitions to assist the survey respondents.

Selection of Research Areas

The questionnaire was divided ~~be~~ into four topical areas:

- (a) demographics, (b) operational information, (c) facilities, and
- (d) groups served.

Administration of the Instrument

A pilot study was performed to determine the validity of the questionnaire. A jury consisting of two professors, two state planners, a state park therapeutic recreation specialist, two camp directors and a facility design expert reviewed the questionnaire. After revisions to the instrument, the questionnaires were mailed to survey respondents. A cover letter was sent with the questionnaire (Appendix A) which assured subjects of complete confidentiality (Cebik, 1987). Form A, "Certification of Exemption Form Review of Research Involving Human Subjects" was also filed with and approved by The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The initial mail-out was sent to two hundred and sixty-six camp directors. The mailing list obtained from the TN Department of Health and Environment consisted of day camps, campgrounds and residential camps. The Department did not have the means to sort these camps

according to function. This made it difficult to distinguish the differences between camps unless they were specifically labeled. To ensure that no residence camps were eliminated, surveys were sent to all camps listed with the exception of those which had the word "campground" included in the address.

A follow-up letter was sent to individuals who did not return the questionnaire by the two-week deadline date. The first response to the survey and follow-up letter was poor. It is believed that this was due to the large number of mail-outs sent to non-residential camps. To improve the response rate, a postcard was developed to help eliminate these camps from the mailing list and to target residential camps wishing to cooperate in the study (Appendix B)

Returns of the postcards resulted in a higher response rate and a fourth mail-out was sent to those respondents who indicated an interest in completing the survey.

Data were compiled and organized and conclusions were made based upon the information obtained from survey questionnaires (Clark, 1976; Cloninger, 1980; Thomas and Nelson, 1985).

Analysis of Data

The results of the questionnaire were analyzed by the Statistical Analysis System. The primary statistics used were descriptive. Data were reported in numbers and percentages and the present study addressed the following subproblems:

- The number and location of residential camps in Tennessee.

- The types of facilities that are accessible at the camps.
- The types of groups served by the camps.
- The types of groups the camps are prepared to serve in the future.
- The operating procedures of the camps.

Written responses to open-ended questions were recorded and placed into appropriate categories.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

The survey was administered by mail during June through September 1988. The one hundred and three recipients were residence camp directors in Tennessee. Sixty-three persons responded to the survey before the deadline date (61%). Eleven questionnaires were not used in the study because of incomplete information, late return and camp directors not wishing to disclose further information. The total number of questionnaires used in the study was 52 (50%). It is possible that the response rate may be 1) an indication of the reluctance of camp directors to acknowledge that camp facilities were not accessible to disabled populations, 2) the lack of desire to serve special population individuals and/or 3) the camps were designed to serve a specific group only (i.e. out of the forty nonrespondents to the survey, twenty-two were church camps).

Demographics of the Population

The first section of the questionnaire was concerned with demographics of the population. The demographics of the population included: location of camps, year established, size of camps and American Camping Association (ACA) accreditation.

Location of Camps. Location of residential camps was included to assess the geographical location of areas where residential camping opportunities exist. It was decided the most efficient way to accomplish this was to contact the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment (TDHE). Residential camps are required to pass a state health and safety inspection and the state retains a mailing list of these camps. The author obtained the mailing list from TDHE but had problems sorting non-residential camps from residential camps as mentioned earlier in this study. After the non-residential camps were eliminated from the mailing list, the author determined that approximately one hundred and three residential camps exist in Tennessee. The majority (46) of camps responding to the survey were located in East (25) and Middle (21) Tennessee. Six camps were located in West Tennessee. The lack of camps located in West Tennessee may indicate that individuals attend camps in nearby states (Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri and Mississippi) or a lack of camps that provide services to special population individuals. A map noting the counties that participated in the survey is located in Appendix C.

Year Camps Were Established. Table 1 indicates the summary of years the camps responding to the survey were established. Age of the camp was included to determine if age and camp accessibility were related (federal accessibility guidelines were not available before the 1960s). The majority of camps were established in the 1940s and there appears to be no particular time period in which camps were built.

Table 1. Year Responding Camps Were Established

Years	n=46 Percent of Respondents (%)
1920s	7
1930s	5
1940s	26
1950s	21
1960s	17
1970s	12
1980s	21
Missing frequency = 8	

Accessibility of facilities were no different between camps established in different decades.

Acreage of Camps. The mean acreage of camps was included to determine future potential for expansion of camp facilities to accommodate individuals with special needs (camps with a large land base may have better renovation potential). The mean for total number of acres reported for camps in Tennessee was 580.80. Amount of acreage ranged from a high of 2,400 acres to a low of 7 acres. The mean acreage for camps located in East Tennessee was 373.09, in Middle Tennessee the mean number of acreage was 880.90 and in West Tennessee a mean of 275.00 was reported.

Accreditation. The ACA is the only national accrediting organization for organized camps. ACA accreditation means a camp has

met certain health/safety and program standards. Seventy-seven percent of the camps participating in the study were not accredited by ACA. The majority of camps (77%) were not accredited by the A.C.A. This could indicate 1) a lack of knowledge about A.C.A. accrediting procedures; 2) a disinterest in the association; or 3) the inability of camps to meet the health/safety requirements and program standards set up by A.C.A. From the results of this study, it appears that Tennessee camp directors could benefit from special training programs supported by A.C.A. (i.e., Project Stretch and Project Reach) and could receive technical assistance from A.C.A. regarding facility and program accessibility for special groups.

Operational Procedures

In looking for camping opportunities for special population individuals, availability and affordability of camp facilities were important camper participation factors.

Length of operation. Forty percent of the camps operate eleven to twelve months a year. Thirty-one percent operate one to three months a year, seventeen percent operate seven to ten months a year and twelve percent operate four to six months a year.

Length of stay. Average length of stay for a camper was reported at one to three weeks (71%). Fifteen percent of campers stay four to

six weeks and four percent stay seven weeks and over. Four camp directors did not respond to this question.

Cost per camper. Approximate cost per camper per session was one hundred dollars or less (46%). Sixteen percent charged one hundred and one dollars to two hundred dollars, six percent charged two hundred and one dollars to three hundred dollars and ten percent charged three hundred dollars or more per camper per session. Three camp directors did not respond to this question.

Rent and insurance information. Seventy-seven percent of the camps in this study were available for rent and fifty-two percent of these camps required group insurance when renting.

In summary, these operating procedures suggested camps are interested in promoting their facilities to groups (i.e., low costs, year-round availability), but a problem exists in the consistency of facilities being accessible for special population individuals.

Facilities

The facilities studied in this section were considered to be the most commonly found in a camp environment and those which needed to be accessible for physically disabled individuals to participate in a camp setting.

Fifty-one camps responding to the survey were not totally accessible. The majority of camps provided accessible door entrances

and fire exits, but only forty percent of the camps had accessible toilets in the cabins. Eighty-one percent did not provide designated parking spaces for physically handicapped individuals. Many camps provided access for physically handicapped individuals but did not provide appropriate facilities or equipment for the blind, deaf or hearing impaired (i.e., visible/audible smoke detectors, adjustable volume controls on phones, etc.). There seemed to be no continuity of services to meet the needs of special groups.

Next to each yes and no column in the facilities section, there was a "how many" column which was to be used to determine the number of facilities. It is possible that a camp may report cabins with accessible toilets but in actuality only one cabin in the camp has an accessible toilet. Less than two percent of the survey respondents answered this column, and this section of the survey has been eliminated from the study due to this response. Again, it is possible that the respondents felt the question was too time consuming to complete or it may be some reflection of inadequate camp facilities.

Parking spaces and walkways. Physically disabled campers must be provided ample parking space for ease of getting in and out of their vehicles and be able to move from one camp facility to another on a surface compatible with their special needs (crutches, braces, wheelchairs, etc.). Eighty-one percent of the survey respondents stated there were no parking spaces designated for use by physically

disabled individuals. Fifty-six percent of the walkways had hard, non-slip surfaces and sixty percent of those walkways were lit at night.

Accessible door entrances and fire exists. Getting in and out of buildings is a frequent problem faced by individuals with physical disabilities. Table 2 represents the availability of accessible door entrances and fire exits. Fifty percent and above of the camps had accessible door entrances and fire exits to dining halls, recreation lodges, living accommodations and camp stores.

Table 2. Availability of Accessible Door Entrances and Fire Exits

n=52		
Camp Facility	% of Camps with Accessible Door Entrances	% of Camps with Accessible Fire Exits
Dining Hall	77	67
Recreation Lodge/ Hall	75	67
Living Accommodations	64	52
Camp Store	54	48

Restroom facilities. In Table 3 the accessibility of restroom facilities is shown. More than half of the camps provided accessible

entrances to restroom door entrances, showers, fire exits and lavatories. Less than fifty percent provided accessible shower flooring, cabin toilets, urinals and ramped showers.

Phones, fountains, smoke detectors. Table 4 includes the availability of accessible phones, fountains and smoke detectors. The majority of camps provided available smoke detectors in cabins but less than thirty percent provided accessible phones, drinking fountains and visible/audible smoke detectors in cabins.

Recreation areas. Sixty percent of the camps provided accessible areas for sports and games. Fifty-six percent provided accessible areas for arts and crafts followed by accessible fishing areas (40%), accessible water sports areas (38%) and accessible sand play areas (27%). Many programs could be held in the sports/games and arts and crafts areas and may be all the space that is needed to program activities for a well-rounded camp program.

In determining the type of slope that best describes the terrain of the camp, the respondents had difficulty in choosing one terrain type. Eleven respondents checked more than one terrain type and these are included in the percentage total. Forty-six percent of the camps reported having a gentle slope or hilly terrain. This could be a promising note for those camps wishing to add accessible facilities and

Table 3. Availability of Accessible Restroom Facilities

Restroom Facility	n=52	% of Camps with Facilities
Door Entrances (Restrooms)		69
Door Entrances (Showers)		67
Shower Entrance Flush with Floor		63
Fire Exits Accessible (Shower)		54
Fire Exits Accessible (Restroom)		54
Accessible Lavatories		52
Non-Slip Shower Flooring		46
Accessible Cabin Toilet		40
Urinal Opening 19" High		31
Urinal Opening Level with Floor		14
Shower Entrance Ramped		11

Table 4. Availability of Accessible Phones, Fountains and Smoke Detectors

Equipment Name	n=52	% of Camps with Equipment
Audible Smoke Detectors in Cabins		62
Accessible Wall-Mounted Phone		37
Accessible Drinking Fountain		29
Visible/Audible Smoke Detectors in Cabins		19
T.T.Y. Available		4
Phone with Adjustable Volume Control		4

walks. Twenty-one percent of the camps have steep slopes, nineteen percent have level terrains and seventeen percent have rocky terrains which best characterize their camp's land base.

Groups Served

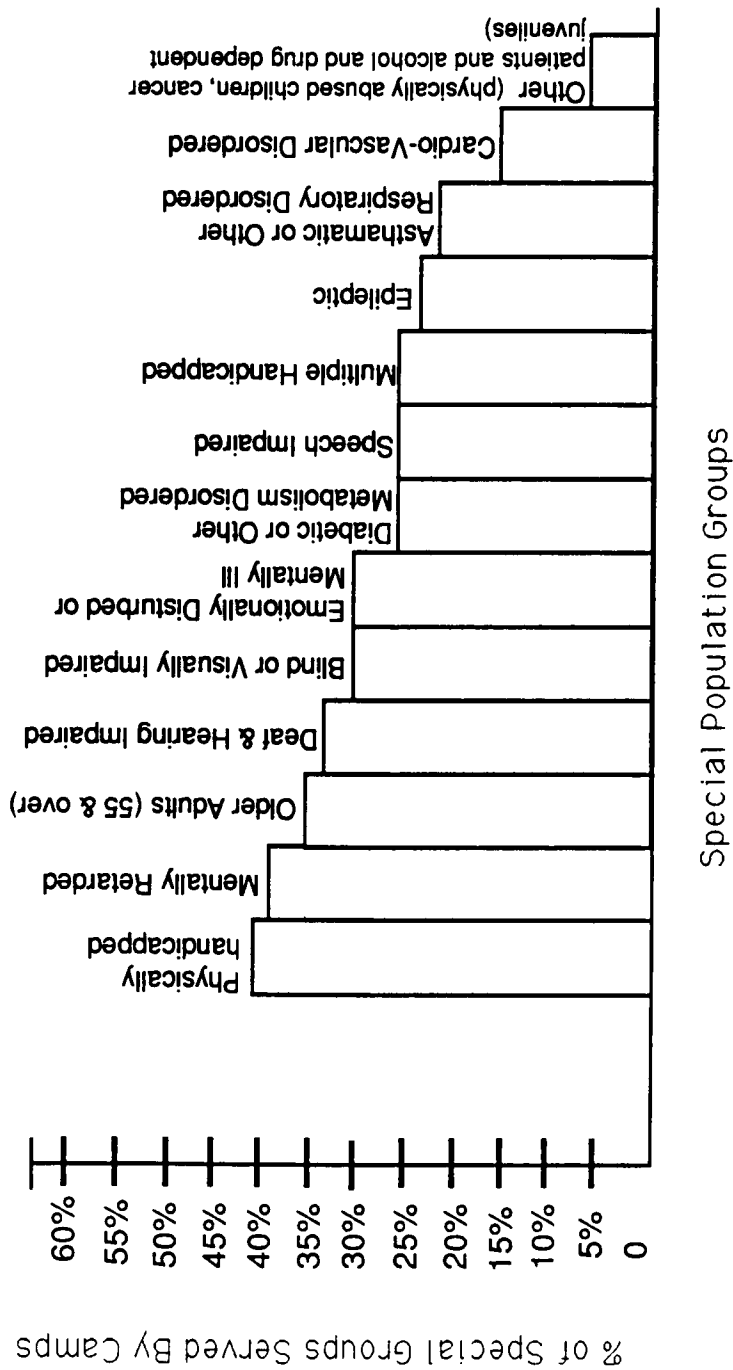
One of the subproblems of the study was to determine the types of groups camps were presently serving. Table 5 illustrates age and sex categories of groups served. Coed (boy/girl) groups were the most frequently served group.

Table 5. Types of Groups Served by Camps

<u>Clientele</u>	<u>n=52</u>	<u>% Respondents Serving Clientele</u>
Coed Boy/Girl (1-18 years of age)		73
Girls Only (1-18 years of age)		56
Special Populations		54
Boys Only (1-18 years of age)		50
Women Only (19 and older)		50
Men Only (19 and older)		50

Figure 1 illustrates the specific types of special population groups being served by camps. Of the fifty-four percent of respondents who served special populations, forty-two percent stated they served

Figure 1. Special Populations Served by Camp Respondents.



the physically handicapped and thirty-eight percent reported that they served mentally retarded individuals. Percentages for the other special groups listed in Figure 1 are thirty-five percent or less.

Forty-eight percent of camp respondents noted they would be interested in considering special population groups in the future. In terms of special population groups camps would like to serve in the future, the following groups were mentioned: older adults (8), deaf and speech impaired (8), diabetic (5), mentally retarded (5), asthmatic and other respiratory disorders (5), any special population group (4), epileptic (3), multiple handicapped (2), blind (1), child abuse victims (1), emotionally disturbed (1), physically handicapped (1), psychiatric/alcoholic patients (1), muscular dystrophy clients (1), hemophilia clients (1) and cardio-vascular clients (1). The low response rate to this question may be associated with the lack of interest on the part of the respondents to serve any new groups.

Refer to Appendix D for an itemized list of percentages for each question included in the study.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of the study was to identify residential camps in Tennessee and to assess their potential use by special population individuals. Specifically, the study was concerned with: (a) number and location of residential camps in Tennessee; (b) accessible facilities; (c) types of groups served by the camps; (d) types of groups camps are prepared to serve in the future; and (e) operating procedures.

Summary

The literature strongly supports the need for special population individuals to be provided the opportunity to participate in camping experiences. Each individual should have the right to attend a camp that provides accessible programs and facilities for their special needs. From the results of this study it appeared that camping opportunities for special population individuals do exist in Tennessee. Over half of the respondents to the study are serving or are interested in serving these individuals. Although these camps are limited in the types of groups they serve, it appeared that the majority have the potential to become totally accessible with only a few changes. This situation creates an opportunity for groups with special needs to get

together and work with camp directors/administrators to assist with facility design and education/training of camp staff to meet the needs of special individuals. The training and educating of camp directors, administrators and staff about various disabilities could help change attitudinal and accessibility barriers. Camps should also recognize these individuals as a potential economic plus. Marketing programs should be developed to reach a variety of individuals. The more clientele a camp serves, the more camp revenues increase.

Study results indicated that the majority of camps were available year round for rent and the costs per camper were relatively inexpensive. It is also important to market this information to groups/individuals. If no one knows the camp exists, no one will use it. There is a definite need for camps to advertise their facilities state-wide. Individuals/agencies need to know that there are camps in Tennessee that are affordable and able to meet their special needs.

Lastly, this study has attempted to present the results in a positive light, but one must also look on the other side. Lack of interest and lack of services could be two reasons for the fifty percent response rate to the survey. Even those who responded to the survey reported serving low numbers of special individuals. Facility accessibility was sporadic and non-existent in many cases. This may indicate a lack of commitment on the part of many camp directors to meet the needs of special population groups. There is still a tremendous amount of work that needs to be accomplished to break down these attitudinal and accessibility barriers. Hopefully more

individuals with special needs and agencies serving special population individuals will work together with camp directors/administrators to communicate these needs and to promote camping opportunities for all individuals.

Conclusions

The following conclusions were made based on the results of the study:

Subproblem One:

1. Determination of residential camps existing in Tennessee. The majority of camps responding to the survey were located in East (25) and Middle (21) Tennessee. Six camps were located in West Tennessee.

Subproblem Two:

2. Facilities that are accessible. Nineteen percent of survey respondents stated they provided parking spaces designated for use by physically disabled individuals. Fifty-six percent of the camps had walkways with hard, non-slip surfaces and sixty percent of those walkways were lit at night. Fifty percent and above of the camps had accessible door entrances and fire exits to dining halls, recreation lodges, living accommodations and camp stores. More than half of the camps provided accessible entrances to restroom door entrances, showers, fire exits and lavatories. Less than fifty percent provided accessible shower flooring, cabin toilets, urinals and ramped showers. Less than thirty percent provided accessible phones, drinking fountains

and visible/audible smoke detectors in cabins. Sixty percent provided accessible areas for sports and games. Fifty-six percent provided accessible areas for arts and crafts. Less than fifty percent of the camps provided accessible areas for fishing, water sports and sand play. Forty-six percent of the camps reported having a gentle slope or hilly terrain.

Subproblem Three:

3. Types of groups served by the camps. Seventy-three percent of the camps serve coed boys/girls (1-18 years of age). Fifty-six percent of the camps serve girls only (1-18 years of age) and fifty-four percent of the respondents stated they served special populations. Of those who serve special population individuals, forty-two percent said they served the physically handicapped and thirty-eight percent reported that they served mentally retarded individuals. Percentages for the other special population groups listed on the questionnaire are thirty-five percent or less. Other groups served by the camps were boys only (1-18 years of age) (50%), women only (19 and older) (50%) and men only (19 and older) (50%).

Subproblem Four:

4. Types of groups the camps are prepared to serve in the future. Forty-eight percent of camp respondents noted they would be interested in considering special population groups in the future. The following groups were mentioned for consideration and are listed in order of the number of camp directors that responded to the question: 1) older adults, 2) deaf and speech impaired, 3) diabetic, 4) mentally retarded,

5) asthmatic and other respiratory disorders, 6) any special population group, 7) epileptic, 8) multiple handicapped, 9) blind, 10) child abuse victims, 11) emotionally disturbed, 12) physically handicapped, 13) psychiatric/alcoholic patients, 14) muscular dystrophy clients, 15) hemophilia clients and 16) cardio-vascular clients.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the results of this study.

1. Further research should be done to determine if a trend develops over the next two to six year period in the number of increased services to special populations by those camps in the study who indicated they wished to serve special population groups in the future.

2. An in-depth study should be conducted to determine if ownership of a camp effects services to special population individuals.

3. The effects of camper costs per session and the length of the camp session should be compared and investigated.

4. An information guide and training program should be developed on modifying/adapting outdoor recreational facilities.

5. A resource guide to residential camps in Tennessee should be developed. The guide should include information on accessible facilities the camps have to offer.

6. Education/training programs similar to Project Reach and Project Stretch should be offered to Tennessee camp directors. These workshops would emphasize techniques and methods of working with special population individuals and enable camp directors/administrators/staff to assist in meeting the special needs of these groups.

7. An in-depth study should be conducted on program activities that are offered to special population individuals by Tennessee residential camps.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

June 8, 1988

Dear Camp Director/Administrator:

We need your assistance with an assessment study of residential camps in Tennessee and their potential for use by special population individuals.

Your insights regarding this subject are very important in helping to identify the location of camps, populations served and the populations camps would be willing to serve. The information will be an important tool in assessing camping opportunities for special population individuals throughout the State.

Donna Reed, one of our graduate students, will be conducting the research. Participation is voluntary. All procedures used in the study adhere to ethical standards of human subjects research at The University of Tennessee. Confidentiality of your responses will be maintained and only summarized group information will be used in reporting data. The questionnaire has a identification number for mailing purposes only. This is so your name can be checked off the mailing list when you return your questionnaire.

The questionnaire should be filled out only by the camp director or camp administrator and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. A set of terms and definitions is enclosed to assist you in completing the questionnaire. After completing the questionnaire, insert it into the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope and mail.

Your professional expertise is vital to the success of this investigation. Please forward your responses to me by June 17. If you have questions, please call Donna at (615) 632-1570. Thank you for taking the time to contribute information.

Sincerely,

Mary Dale Blanton, Re.D.
Assistant Professor
Recreation and Leisure Studies

MDB:tml

Enclosure

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Operational Definitions

Accessible - Things "able to be used, entered, reached, etc."
(Random House Dictionary, 1975).

Accredited Camp - A camp visited by the American Camping Association and approved by "skilled, knowledgeable, trained professionals, who have examined the camps in such areas as personnel, program, sanitation, health and safety" (ACA, 1971, p. 7).

Asthmatic or Other Respiratory Disordered - An individual "affected with asthma, acute respiration--affecting allergies, or diseases of respiratory function such as cystic fibrosis, tuberculosis, etc." (Bates, 1976, p. 186).

Blind - An individual "whose vision is defective to the extent that intellectual, emotional and social development are enhanced primarily through perceptual channels other than visual" (Bates, 1976, p. 186).

Camping - "A sustained experience which provides a creative, recreational, and educational opportunity in group living in the out-of-doors. It utilizes trained leadership and the resources of the natural surroundings to contribute to each camper's mental, physical, social and spiritual growth" (ACA, 1984).

Cardio-vascular Disordered - An individual "with heart disease, circulation disorders, or other heart impairments, such as stroke, leukemia, rheumatic hearts, etc. (Bates, 1976, p. 186).

Deaf - An individual "with little or no hearing" (Bates, 1976, p. 186).

Diabetic or Other Metabolic Disorder - An individual "with malfunctions of metabolic processes such as diabetes, hypoglycemia, etc." (Bates, 1976, p. 186).

Emotionally Disturbed and Mentally Ill - Individuals "who behave with abnormal frequency in such a way as to have a detrimental effect on their own development and adjustment or take actions detrimental to other people" (Kirk, 1972, p. 389).

Epileptic - Individuals "affected with periodic seizures" (Bates, 1976, p. 186).

Facilities - "Building and other structures, utilities, and man-made improvements on the site" (ACA, 1965, p. ix).

Multiple Handicapped - An individual "affected with two or more handicapping conditions" (Bates, 1976, p. 186).

Physically Handicapped - An individual with "any abnormal alteration of movement or motor function arising from defect, injury, or disease of the nervous system, muscular system or skeletal system" (Bates, 1976, p. 187).

Residential Camp - An overnight camp that operates from periods of 4 to 365 days. The camp provides lodging, meals and camp director (ACA, 1987).

Season - The length of time a camp is in operation in a given year (Rodney, 1971, p. 9).

Session - The length of time a camper stays at camp (Rodney, 1971. p. 9).

Special Populations, Handicapped, Disabled - "Individuals who because of a variety of circumstances, differ from the average in their physical, emotional, social and intellectual behavior, i.e., deaf, blind, orthopedically handicapped, mentally retarded, emotionally ill, aged, public offenders" (N.T.R.S. 1979, p. 42).

Speech Impaired - An individual "whose speech is inaudible, unintelligible, or deviant from normal speech development appropriate to age level in such a way as to be detrimental to social and intellectual adjustment and development" (Bates, 1976, p. 187).

Therapeutic Recreation Service - "Describes recreation programs and experiences that are provided for individuals who have special impairments that limit their involvement" (Kraus, 1983, p. 2).

**Survey of Residential Camps in Tennessee and Their Potential
for Use by Special Population Individuals**

Important: Please check or complete the response for the following questions based on your camp. Confidentiality of your responses will be maintained and only group information will be used in presenting results.

A. Demographics:

1. Name of camp _____
(optional)
2. Address of camp _____

(optional)
3. Phone _____
(optional)
4. In what city or cities is camp located? _____
5. In what county is camp located? _____
6. Year camp was established _____
7. Number of acres _____
8. ACA accredited? (check one) Yes () No ()
Expiration Date _____

B. Operational Information:

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| | 1-3 mo | 4-6 mo | 7-10 mo | 11-12 mo |
| 9. Length of time camp operates (check one) (based on months) | () | () | () | () |
| | 1-3 wks | 4-6 wks | 7-9 wks | 10+ wks |
| 10. Average length of camp session (based on weeks) | () | () | () | () |
| | \$100 or less | \$101 - \$200 | \$201 - \$300 | \$300+ |
| 11. Approximate cost per camper per session | () | () | () | () |

12. Is camp available for rent? (check one) Yes () No ()

If answer is yes to question 12, please answer question 13.

13. Is group insurance required? (check one) Yes () No ()

C. Facilities

	Yes	No	How Many	Other
14. Are any parking spaces designated for use by physically handicapped individuals?	()	()	_____	_____
15. Do main walkways have a hard, non-slip surface?	()	()	_____	_____
16. If walk is used at night, is it lighted?	()	()	_____	_____
17. Are door entrances to the following facilities wide enough (34") to allow for passage of wheelchairs?				
Restroom	()	()	_____	_____
Showers	()	()	_____	_____
Dining Hall	()	()	_____	_____
Living Accommodations	()	()	_____	_____
Recreation Lodge/Hall	()	()	_____	_____
Camp Store	()	()	_____	_____
18. Do these facilities have accessible/usable fire exits for persons with physical disabilities?				
Restrooms	()	()	_____	_____
Showers	()	()	_____	_____
Dining Hall	()	()	_____	_____
Living Accommodations	()	()	_____	_____
Recreation Lodge/Hall	()	()	_____	_____
Camp Store	()	()	_____	_____
19. Is the shower flooring a non-slip surface?	()	()	_____	_____
20. Is there at least one accessible toilet located in cabin for physically disabled individuals?	()	()	_____	_____

<u>Facilities (continued):</u>	Yes	No	How Many	Other
21. Are lavatories usable from wheelchair?	()	()	_____	_____
22. Is there a urinal opening 19" high?	()	()	_____	_____
23. Is there a urinal opening level with main floor?	()	()	_____	_____
24. Is shower entrance flush with floor?	()	()	_____	_____
25. Is shower entrance ramped?	()	()	_____	_____
26. Is there at least one wall-mounted phone that has a maximum height of 48"?	()	()	_____	_____
27. Is there an adjustable volume control on the head set of a phone?	()	()	_____	_____
28. Is TTY available? (telecommunications device for deaf people)	()	()	_____	_____
29. Is there at least one drinking fountain with the spout and controls at the front?	()	()	_____	_____
30. In living accommodations are there smoke detectors that provide audible warning?	()	()	_____	_____
31. In living accommodations are there smoke detectors that provide audible and visual warning?	()	()	_____	_____
32. Are there accessible areas for physically disabled individuals for:				
Water Sports	()	()	_____	_____
Sand Play	()	()	_____	_____
Arts and Crafts	()	()	_____	_____

Facilities (continued):

	Yes	No	How Many	Other
Sports and Games	()	()	_____	_____
Fishing	()	()	_____	_____
33. Which land characteristics best describes the terrain around your camp facilities? (choose one)				
Gentle Slope	()	()	_____	_____
Hilly	()	()	_____	_____
Steep Slope	()	()	_____	_____
Level	()	()	_____	_____
Rocky	()	()	_____	_____

D. Groups Served:
(check all that apply)

34. Clientele:				
Boys Only (1-18 years of age)	()	()	_____	_____
Girls Only (1-18 years of age)	()	()	_____	_____
Men Only (19 and older)	()	()	_____	_____
Women Only (19 and older)	()	()	_____	_____
Coed Boy/Girl (1-18 years of age)	()	()	_____	_____
Special Populations	()	()	_____	_____

35. If you answered yes to Special Populations, please check the appropriate group(s). If you answered no, please skip to question 36.

Asthmatic or Other Respiratory Disordered	()	()	_____	_____
Blind or Visually Impaired	()	()	_____	_____
Cardio-vascular Disordered	()	()	_____	_____
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	()	()	_____	_____
Diabetic or Other Metabolism Disordered	()	()	_____	_____
Emotionally Disturbed or Mentally Ill	()	()	_____	_____
Epileptic	()	()	_____	_____

<u>Facilities (continued):</u>	Yes	No	How Many	Other
Mentally Retarded	()	()	_____	_____
Older Adults (55 and over)	()	()	_____	_____
Physically Handicapped	()	()	_____	_____
Speech Impaired	()	()	_____	_____
Multiple Handicapped	()	()	_____	_____
Other (specify)_____	()	()	_____	_____

36. Are there any special population groups listed in question 35 that your camp would consider serving in the future? () () _____

37. If you answered yes to question 36, please list the groups you think your camp could presently serve?

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Return Completed Questionnaire to:

Donna Reed
714 Granville Connor
Powell, TN 37849

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

APPENDIX B

Dear Camp Director,

In June you received a Survey of Residential Camps in TN. To increase survey reliability we are continuing the study until September and are trying to limit the mailing list to camps that provide on-site housing. We would appreciate your taking the time to fill out the attached card and returning it by September 9. Thank you for your assistance.

Please check (✓) all boxes that apply to your Camp:

- ☐ Developed campsites only
- ☐ Private resort/camp - no outside groups participate
- ☐ Primitive - No developed campsites or housing
- ☐ Camp no longer in operation
- ☐ Group camp or lodge - overnight housing available
- ☐ Other - Please specify _____
- ☐ Please remove us from the mailing list
- ☐ Please send another copy of the survey to:

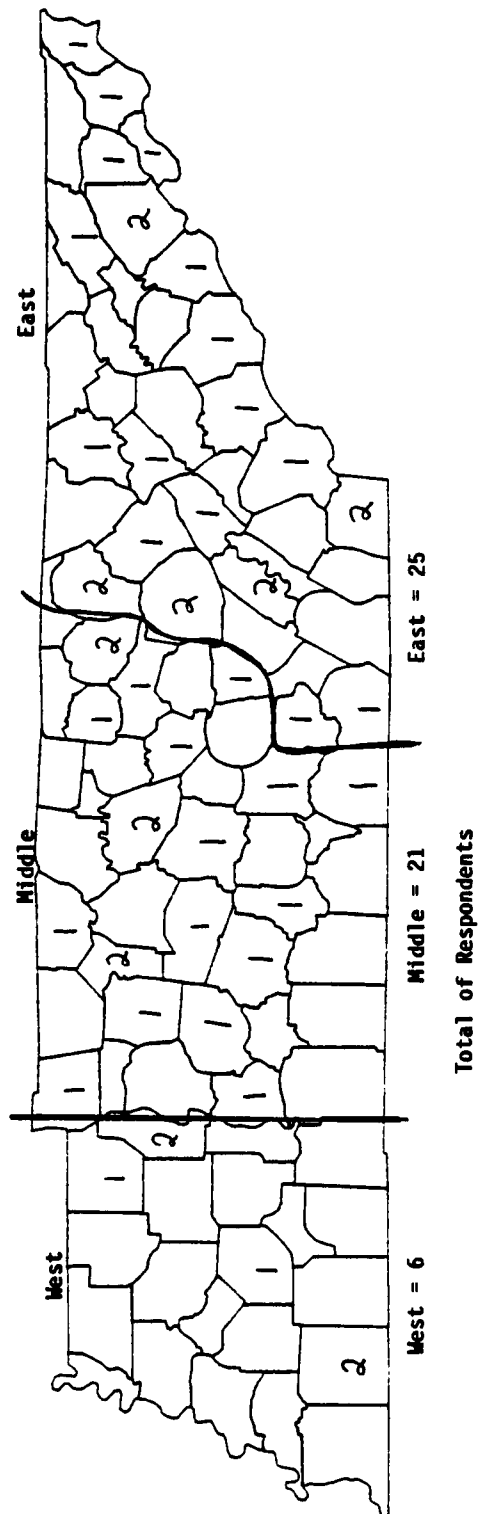
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

APPENDIX C

Location of Camps Responding to the Survey by Counties



APPENDIX D

**Survey of Residential Camps in Tennessee and Their Potential
for Use by Special Population Individuals**

Important: Please check or complete the response for the following questions based on your camp. Confidentiality of your responses will be maintained and only group information will be used in presenting results.

A. Demographics:

1. Name of camp _____
(optional)
2. Address of camp _____

(optional)
3. Phone _____
(optional)
4. In what city or cities is camp located? _____
5. In what county is camp located? _____
6. Year camp was established _____
7. Number of acres East $\bar{x}$ = 580.80; West $\bar{x}$ = 275.00; Middle $\bar{x}$ = 881.90
8. ACA accredited? (check one) Yes (77%) No (23%)
Expiration Date _____

B. Operational Information:

9. Length of time camp operates (check one)
(based on months)

1-3 mo	4-6 mo	7-10 mo	11-12 mo
(34%)	(12%)	(17%)	(40%)
 10. Average length of camp session (based on weeks)

1-3 wks	4-6 wks	7-9 wks	10+ wks
(7%)	(19%)	(4%)	(4%)
 11. Approximate cost per camper per session

\$100 or less	\$101 - \$200	\$201 - \$300	\$300+
(47%)	(16%)	(6%)	(10%)
 12. Is camp available for rent? (check one) Yes (77%) No (23%)
- If answer is yes to question 12, please answer question 13.
13. Is group insurance required? (check one) Yes (52%) No (48%)

		Yes	No	How Many	Other
D. <u>Groups Served:</u>					
(check all that apply)					
34. Clientele:					
Boys Only (1-18 years of age)	(50%)	(50%)	_____	_____	
Girls Only (1-18 years of age)	(56%)	(44%)	_____	_____	
Men Only (19 and older)	(50%)	(50%)	_____	_____	
Women Only (19 and older)	(50%)	(50%)	_____	_____	
Cood Boy/Girl (1-18 years of age)	(13%)	(87%)	_____	_____	
Special Populations	(59%)	(41%)	_____	_____	
35. If you answered yes to Special Populations, please check the appropriate group(s). If you answered no, please skip to question 36.					
Asthmatic or Other Respiratory Disordered	(11%)	(89%)	_____	_____	
Blind or Visually Impaired	(27%)	(73%)	_____	_____	
Cardio-vascular Disordered	(19%)	(81%)	_____	_____	
Deaf or Hearing Impaired	(33%)	(67%)	_____	_____	
Diabetic or Other Metabolism Disordered	(27%)	(73%)	_____	_____	
Emotionally Disturbed or Mentally Ill	(27%)	(73%)	_____	_____	
Epileptic	(27%)	(73%)	_____	_____	
Mentally Retarded	(33%)	(67%)	_____	_____	
Older Adults (55 and over)	(47%)	(53%)	_____	_____	
Physically Handicapped	(47%)	(53%)	_____	_____	
Speech Impaired	(27%)	(73%)	_____	_____	
Multiple Handicapped	(27%)	(73%)	_____	_____	
Other (specify) _____	(4%)	(96%)	_____	_____	
36. Are there any special population groups listed in question 35 that your camp would consider serving in the future?					
	(48%)	(52%)	_____	_____	

37. If you answered yes to question 36, please list the groups
you think your camp could presently serve?

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

Return Completed Questionnaire to:

Donna Reed
714 Granville Connor
Powell, TN 37849

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

VITA

Donna Behm Reed was born in Nashville, Tennessee on October 13, 1956. She attended George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee and majored in special education and physical education (1974-1977). She received a B.S. degree in recreation from Western Kentucky University in December 1978 and received her Master's in recreation with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation in 1989 from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In 1988 she received the Matha Peters Award for outstanding recreation graduate student.

Ms. Reed worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority for ten years as a recreation planner. Her responsibilities included developing community-based therapeutic recreation programs for a variety of special population groups in a seven-state region. In recent years she has been involved with the Tennessee Special Olympics and the Tennessee Senior Olympics.

Active in state and national organizations, Ms. Reed was awarded the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association's 1986 Resource Management Award of Excellence. She is also a member of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and currently serves on the NRPA Southern Regional Programming Forum Committee. She is certified by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.

Ms. Reed enjoys planning and speaking at workshops on therapeutic recreation and has a special interest in community-based therapeutic recreation programming.

In her leisure time, Ms. Reed plays the fiddle, snow skis and farms with her husband Greg and son Dustin.