

## Exploring and Discovering

Think of some of the great explorers this land has had ... Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Lewis and Clark. When we think of exploring, we like to think of adventure and bravery and courage. What comes to your mind when you think of exploring? Ships? Maps? Danger? Excitement?

Today we sometimes think that our exploring days are over. We've mapped all the continents. We've sailed the seas. We've even been in space. But our exploring days are never over. We may think we know the land, but there's always new beauty to discover. We can always find new ways to enjoy what God has created.

Maybe this is your first time at camp. Maybe you've been here before. It doesn't matter. Your job is to explore and enjoy the outdoors. Try to discover something new. Can you find animal tracks in the mud? Dew glistening on a spider web? Can you learn about a new constellation in the night sky?

Nature shows God's beauty and power. Exploring the outdoors can be an adventure, but it can also be a spiritual experience. God has created a beautiful and exciting world. When we take the time to enjoy that world, we can feel close to God.

As you participate at camp this week, try to be an explorer. Explore the outdoors and try new things. Discover more about yourself. Discover more about God who created this wonderful world you live in!



## **Training Body, Mind and Spirit**

Athletes know what it means to be in training. Name some of your favorite athletes. What do you think they have to do to train for their sport?

We like to think of training as physical exercise. Training is what we do so that our bodies get stronger and faster. Training involves exercise and diet. Name some activities at camp that can help you train your body.

But training is not only physical. It is also mental. Can you think of a time when your head wasn't in the game? When you weren't concentrating and you missed an important shot? Good training involves more than just physical exercise. It's about attitude and being tough mentally. Good athletes are focused. They set goals and set out to achieve them. What are some activities at camp that can help you develop your mind?

Life is about training. But it's more than just training the body and the mind. Life is also spirit. What do you think spiritual training involves? Prayer? Study? Worship? Helping others? How many of these things do you already do? Now answer truthfully: How many of these things do you do as if you were in training? Are you focused on God? Are you pushing yourself to grow in the knowledge of God?

This week at camp when you say grace before meals or have devotions, try to picture yourself in training. Your "Duty to God" is more than just words. It demands focus and action.



## Being a Friend

Do you know what a boomerang is? Have you ever thrown one? If you throw a boomerang properly, it will fly away from you but then slowly turn and come back to you. It usually takes a lot of practice to get it right, but when you do, there's nothing more fun than throwing a boomerang! It's like magic. It doesn't make sense that if you throw something hard in one direction, it will turn around and come back to the original location. But that's the magic of a boomerang.

Friendship is like a boomerang. When you throw friendliness or cheerfulness at somebody, it will "boomerang" and come back to you. The smile or helping hand that you give to a person will work its way around and return to you. The loyalty and trust that you share with a good friend will boomerang and you will be richer for it. That's the magic of friendship. Think of a time when you have experienced this magic. Share it with your group.

Learning to throw a boomerang takes a lot of practice. Being a good friend takes a lot of practice, too. Camp is a good time to practice making new friends and learning how to be a good friend. What are some of the proper "techniques" for making friends? How can you be a good friend? Talk about the "do's" and "don'ts" of friendship with your group.

This week at camp try to be a good friend. Show courtesy and friendliness to everybody around you. And when it boomerangs, be sure to thank God for the blessing of friendship!



**Moral Preparedness**  
Be Prepared to do what is Right

Emergency sirens – every neighborhood needs one. Emergency sirens are loud. You can hear them for miles around. And it's a good thing too, because they signal danger. They warn people to take cover. They warn against storms, tornadoes and other natural disasters.

Emergency sirens need to be tested. In St. Louis, they are tested at 11:00 a.m. on the first Monday of every month. Do you know when the sirens are tested in your neighborhood? Do you know what emergency system is in place for your camp? What steps did your group take to learn what to do in an emergency?

Knowing what to do in an emergency is important. What if there's a fire? What if someone is choking? But having good character and knowing right from wrong is important too. We need to be prepared to make good choices. What would happen if people did not obey the laws? What would happen at camp if Scouts did not obey the rules, didn't do their chores, didn't have good attitudes, or didn't try to do their best?

It's important to be prepared and know right from wrong. Your family and your faith group can help you. Your Cub Scout friends and leaders can help you, too. What does the Scout Oath or Promise say? This week at camp, every time you say the Oath or Promise, say it to help you be prepared to do the right thing.



## Using Your Gifts

What would you do if somebody gave you a hundred dollars? Would you throw it away? Or would you celebrate and shout for joy? Of course you would hoot and holler and definitely not throw it away!

Did you know that God has given you even more than \$100? God has given you many gifts. And you have these gifts with you right now, here at camp. No, these aren't gifts like video games or toys. The gifts from God are more like talents and abilities, like the ability to play soccer, do well in school, or play the piano. These gifts are also personality traits and characteristics, like being friendly, cheerful, or caring. These gifts are sometimes hard to see. Sometimes you may not even know that you have a certain gift until somebody else points it out to you. Think about the gifts that God has given you. Ask somebody else in your group to name the gifts that they have seen in you this week. Do the same for that person. Tell him the gifts that you see and appreciate in him.

These are the gifts that make you unique and one-of-a-kind. There is nobody in the entire world just like you. God made only one of you: you are special and important to God. And yet, do you cherish these gifts? Do you celebrate and shout for joy? Or do you casually throw them away? Think about it. As eager as you would be to spend a \$100, are you just as eager to use and develop the gifts God has given you?

As your camp experience draws to a close, thank God for the opportunities that you have had at camp to develop and discover your gifts. Make it a point to treasure your gifts and use them. Don't throw them away!

