

Camp choice depends on child

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Picking the right summer camp for a child may seem like an overwhelming task. It need not strike terror in a parent's heart, however, for with some advance thought and planning, the right choice can be made.

"I think the most important thing is to assess beforehand what their expectations of the summer camp are," said Jim LeMonn, spokesman for the American Camping Association (ACA).

"You have a variety of programs. I think you need to think about what's

right for your child." The child should be included in the camp selection process right from the start, he said.

"I think the most obvious are health and safety things," said Linda West, manager for outdoor programs for the Michigan Metro Girl Scouts. Parents should check facilities, to make sure they are safe.

Parents should talk to camp directors, LeMonn said, to get a sense of the camp's philosophy and the way that philosophy is implemented. Some programs are highly structured, while others are not.

"Sometimes there are camps where

a child is pretty much left alone," he said. Some children will thrive in such an environment, others will end up lonely and bored.

A CAMP's philosophy should be one the parents find agreeable; it should not emphasize religious or social values the parents find objectionable.

"It's finding the camp that complements the philosophy that's already found in the home," LeMonn said.

"The camp should have a philosophy," West said. "A child should learn to live with other people, maybe that's part of the philosophy."

A camp's philosophy may emphasize boosting the self-esteem of children, by letting them achieve goals in various areas.

"Sometimes parents don't realize this, and they send their child to a camp where there's no way they can win," she said.

In talking with camp directors, it's a good idea to ask for names of families who have sent children to the camp.

"You School to talk to people who are familiar with that camp," the ACA's

LeMonn said. Parents should be wary if camp directors are reluctant to provide such names.

"I don't think that's likely to happen," he said. Happy families "are their stock in trade, after all."

The length of stay will vary from camp to camp. A shorter camp stay may be better for a younger child.

"It really depends on the child," LeMonn said. "Some kids are ready to go and can function independently. I don't think there's any rule of thumb."

"SOMETIMES KIDS are sent to camp, and they're not ready," West said. Overnight stays with friends or family can help prepare a child for longer stays away from home.

Cheerful mail from home can also help make a camp stay pleasant.

"Don't say things like 'We're going to Disney World without you,'" West said. "It should be 'We love you and miss you,' but cut it at that."

It's also a good idea to check on staff-to-camper ratios and on staff qualifications and training. Accreditation by the American Camping Association

is a good sign, West said.

"That's a basic thing all parents should look for." Camps run by an organization, such as Scout camps, can be checked out by looking at the organization's standards.

ACA accreditation covers more than 240 standards, ranging from the temperature of dishwater to the maintenance of health records to staff training and qualifications. In order to be accredited, a camp must have an overall score of 80 percent, and scores of no lower than 75 percent in the areas of programs, staff, site and administration.

The staff-to-camper ratio recommended by the ACA varies, depending on the age of campers and the type of program. For 7-8-year-olds, the organization recommends a ratio of one program staffer to six children (1-to-6 for a day camp). For those between the ages of 9 and 14, a 1-to-8 ratio is recommended (1-to-10 for day camp).

THE COST of camp is also a consideration. Parents should be fully aware of what the total cost will be.

"Most of all kids should have a pleasant, fun experience."

— Linda West
Michigan Metro Girl Scouts

Non-profit agency camps generally cost from \$1 to \$25 a day, LeMonn said. Private camps usually cost between \$25 and \$50 to \$60 a day.

"Camp is affordable to all income levels," he said. "It's really a matter of shopping around for the program."

"Most of all, I think kids should have a pleasant, fun experience," West said. "Kids need a vacation, too."

(Copies of the 1985 Parents' Guide to Accredited Camps are available by sending \$8.95, payable to the American Camping Association, Inc., American Camping Association, Box 100, Bradford Woods, Martinsville, Ind., 46151.)



Summer camp gives kids a chance to get away from it all and escape the pressures of everyday life.



Parents should consider a child's interests when evaluating the programs a camp offers.

Re photo/RANDY BORST

INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

BEVERLY CORNELL, a Farmington Hills resident who won the title "Professional Handicapped Woman of the Year" for the metro area early this year, has won the same title in the Michigan-Indiana District competition. Beverly, who started the Amputee Support and Service Group for amputees in southwest Michigan, was nominated by Pilot Club International Chapter of Detroit. She is a contender for the title "International Professional Handicapped Woman of the Year." Co-sponsors of the competition are the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and Sears, Roebuck and Co.

PVT. SONG K. KIM, son of Young and Yong Kim of Farmington Hills, has completed one station unit training (DSUT) at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga. DSUT is a 12-week period which combines basic combat training and advanced individual training.

BRADLY SEAN GOODMAN, son of Mr. Norman Goodman of Farmington Hills, has been named to the dean's list at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

ROGER COCHRAN, Stephen Hodges, Thomas Hurst, Dennis Muehle, Suzanne Muirhead, Linda Parcella and Babbette Varran of Farmington Hills have been named to the dean's honor role for the winter term at Lawrence Institute of Technology.

MICHAEL CHEKAL, Karen Hysell and Jon Smathers of Farmington Hills have been named to the dean's honor roll for the School for Associate Studies at Lawrence Institute of Technology.

JUDY KETTENSTOCK, daughter of Edward and Judy Kettenstock of Farmington Hills, has been initiated into Omicron Pi Chapter at the University of Michigan where she is a nursing student.

TEN FLOWERING TREES will be given to people who join the National Arbor Day Foundation during March 1985. The free trees are part of the foundation's effort to encourage tree planting throughout America. To become a member of the foundation and to receive the free trees, a \$10 membership contribution should be sent to Flowering Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb. 68101, by March 31.

CRAIG D. BAMSEY, a Dartmouth College sophomore from Farmington Hills, is studying the

German language and culture this winter in Mainz, West Germany, as a participant in Dartmouth's Language Study Abroad program. Bamsey, son of Alfred Bamsey and Marcia Hill of Farmington Hills, is a 1983 graduate of Harrison High School, has completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

DAVID GUNDERSON, Paul Pelus, Darryl Smith, Todd Scott and Laurel Walker of Farmington Hills achieved a 4.0 grade point average during the fall term.

HOLLY BARTON of Farmington is one of 201 students at Eastern Michigan University receiving the University's Regents Scholarship award. Eastern's Regents Scholarship is a \$1,500 award, renewable for four years, and is the most prestigious award offered by the university.

MICHELLE KRAMER of Farmington joined the seventh annual Dance Marathon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association at Central Michigan University. The dance was March 22 and 23. The dance has been one of the largest fund-raisers in this area for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This year's goal is \$12,000.

MARY FESSEY, who has frequently been honored for her many volunteer activities, has co-chaired the Farmington Community Center's Second Edition Resale Shop since its opening. She commends her loyal staff for their devotion and hard work. They are busy accepting donations and consignments of spring clothing. Among the staff are: Gini Fetterly, co-chairwoman, along with Nan Heid, Pat Thompson, Doris Harper, Donna Richert, Connie Wingle, Evelyn Phillips, Janice Haydel, Gretchen Cudini, Marjorie Perry, Bette Patton, Ruth Miller, Arlene Fosmoen, Fran Eggart, Bea Parillo, Donna Thomas, Marlene Coffey, Lee Van Loon, Sophia Carrier, Katie Schoenfelder, Marilyn McLaughlin, Brenda Shelton and Gail Feldman.

KIMBERLY A. CUDINI, daughter of Roger and Gretchen Cudini of Farmington Hills, has been selected, along with 24 other students, to study at the Universidad de Extremadura in Carceres, Spain, through Michigan State University's Overseas Study Program for a 10-week period. Kim is a sophomore at M.S.U. and a Spanish and Education major.

TAMARA JO RICHARDSON and Ronald Stachura of Farmington Hills were initiated into the Phi Theta Kappa chapter of the national honor fraternity at Schoelkopf College. All members have a minimum 3.3 grade point average for at least 12 credit hours in 100 level courses or above.



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along with a personal shopping experience you won't want to miss. The Oval Room is located next to the Woodward Shop.

Come see our Calvin Klein Classics spring collection. Soft, feminine looks in his timeless, clean, simple style.

Shown: Handkerchief linen T-shirt, \$72, and knee-length skirt, \$48. In better or bony.