

and the first night have their own camp-fire program. On the second night they all come together in a big council fire conducted by the camp staff, but even here the scoutmasters have charge of each part of the program. The first day in camp, following the noonday meal, the scoutmasters and camp staff form an officer's council to make plans for the conducting of the camp and its activities.

TROOP CAMPING AND THE SUMMER PROGRAM

Regional executives are reporting increase with regard to volunteers accompanying boys to camp. A few councils have provided special equipment to conduct a summer camp on a troop basis. The Cleveland Council reports between 25 and 30 scoutmasters and assistant scoutmasters in camp and camping with their boys during the past summer, an increase of 200 per cent over previous years.

The Philadelphia Council has continued its policy of having troops attend camp under their scout leaders. Last summer 135 troops attended Treasure Island, Camp Kearsley and Camp Biddle under this plan. In addition to these, 29 troops conducted independent camps under their own leadership with council help and approval.

Chicago 110 troops in camp with scoutmasters or assistants. The Old Baldy Council, Pomona, Calif.; Cleveland, Ohio; and Salt Lake City all report successful attendance of troops at the council camps.

WINTER CAMPS

While it is recognized that camping in rough weather during the winter season requires more careful planning and sturdy leadership, these very facts seem to offer a challenge to the best types of scouts and leaders, who have had training in summer camps and are looking for a test of their ability without waiting another year in which to put their training into practice.

The winter camp is as popular in the South as it is in the North. Northern boys who go on winter camping trips enjoy ice skating, tracking, snowshoeing, coasting, and like the bracing winter weather. In the South the boys engage in regular scout work, the study of woodcraft and tracking and other sports in the healthful climate which attracts so many northern tourists to the South for winter vacations. Many of the southern winter camps are able to put on practically the same program as used in summer, including swimming and water sports.

Sunny Land Council, Bradenton, Fla., conducted a winter camp December 30, 1929, to January 4, 1930.

Mount St. Helena Council, Vancouver, Wash., held its winter camp from December 26 to 31, 1929.

Pasadena-San Gabriel Council, Pasadena, Calif., reports strenuous work in preparing a winter camp site, which is Camp Blue Ridge, in order to get it ready for camping this winter. It was dedicated December 8.

Greene County Council, Catskill, N. Y.: Troops 1 and 3, of Catskill, Scoutmaster George F. Park, 15-year veteran troop, makes it a practice to spend New Year's night on the highest peak of the Catskills, regardless of wind or weather. Last year they waded through snow waist deep, accepting the challenge of the king of winter to spend the night in true winter camp style, snugly wrapped in their blankets at the top of the peak. This was begun in 1923 and they have continued the practice ever since.

Hibbing, Minn., conducted a dog team trip to the Superior National Forest under the auspices of the State game and fish commission and the Boy Scouts of America during Christmas week.

Amarillo Council, Amarillo, Tex., conducted a winter camp on December 27-30 in a canyon 35 miles from Amarillo. The boys slept in cabins and were grouped by patrols, 26 boys attending for 4 days.

A program of Indian dancing, archery of all forms, knife and axe throwing, trailing, campus games, night games, patrol competition, and drill made the camp a novel experience for all.

A large percentage of older scouts, especially those who are students, avail themselves of the opportunity of spending the Christmas holidays in camp. Many councils report a capacity attendance as far as permanence and substantial housing facilities are concerned.

Camp Brady, of the Detroit Area Council, is equipped to accommodate 155 winter campers.