

Public Abstract

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Graduation Term:SP 2009

Department:Parks, Recreation, & Tourism

Degree:MS

Title:CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING ADOLESCENT GIRLS CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AT RESIDENT CAMP

Although there are many benefits of being in the outdoors and attending camp, many girls cease participation in camp (ACAb, 2008; Easter Seals, 2008). The purpose of this study was to determine the specific constraints that inhibit adolescent girls continued participation in a resident camp or camps. Two types of surveys were administered, a mail-back survey to girls that no longer attended Camp Oakledge and a group administered survey to girls that attended Camp Oakledge in the summer of 2008. Constraint theory was the basis of this research. A constraint has been defined as "a factor that limits or inhibits participation in a given leisure pursuit," (Raymore, Godbey, Crawford, and van Eye (1993; p. 99) while Jackson (1988; p. 69) defined a constraint as a, "a subset of reasons for not engaging in a particular behavior." There are three types of constraints; psychological (intrapersonal), socio-psychological (interpersonal), and environmental (structural) (Alfadhil, 1996). Data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Science 16.0 (SPSS). An independent samples t-test was calculated in each category to determine if there were significant differences between girls that stopped attending camp versus girls that participated in camp. Results from the independent sample t-tests between the girls who stopped attending camp and the girls who attended camp in the summer of 2008, indicated that homesickness was the most prevalent intrapersonal constraint, not having a friend to go back to camp with was the most prevalent interpersonal constraint and not having a scholarship was the most prevalent structural constraint. Results from this study may provide some beneficial information to the Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri to understand non-participation in camp settings as well as strategies to alleviate some of these constraints. If the constraints can be identified, it may be possible to address these issues, thereby eliminating a negative trend in camp attendance.