

CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING ADOLESCENT GIRLS' CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AT RESIDENT CAMP

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ABSTRACT

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. 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, “subset of reasons for not engaging in a particular behavior.” There are three types of constraints; intrapersonal, interpersonal and structural (Alfadhil, 1996).

Data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Science 16.0 (SPSS). 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 the top constraint in each category were homesickness, not having a friend to go back to camp with and not having a scholarship.

Results from this study may provide some beneficial information to the Girl Scouts to understand non-participation in a camp settings as well as strategies to alleviate some of these constraints.