



# ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

*inspiring change through relationship*

April 2017

## Problem Solving DISCUSS SOLUTIONS

After we identify a problem at camp, the second step is to look at ways to solve the problem. Finding a solution should involve input from everyone in the group. There are usually multiple solutions to a problem.

Let's say the group has gotten together to talk to Edmund and Leroy. Edmund dropped a piece of firewood on Leroy's foot which was followed by several expletives from Leroy. The first step is of course to identify the problem so we know what it is that needs resolved. There may even be several problems. Is the problem Leroy's foot, or is it the bad language he used, or is it Edmund's problem for being careless and dropping the wood in the first place, and what a coincidence that it was Leroy's foot it landed on because Leroy and Edmund really do not like each other that well and several guys are convinced that it was intentional. Upon further discussion and dialogue the problem is identified as twofold. First, Edmund was once again trying to show off and act tough by carrying a larger load of wood than he could reasonably handle and second, Leroy used vulgar language. Leroy's foot is



fine, he is simply upset about the scuff on his nice leather boots that he had spent an hour this morning cleaning, oiling and buffing them until they were spotless.

So, what are possible ways to solve the

problem? The group discusses several options: Edmund could apologize for dropping the piece of wood. He could clean Leroy's boots and buff out the scuff that the piece of wood made. He could buy Leroy a new pair of boots at the camp Trading Post. He could finish carrying the wood in two trips rather than one. He could stop carrying wood altogether (after all, the group always gets on him when

he tries to "work" so hard) Maybe he should finish carrying all the wood by himself since he wants to show off how tough he is. Leroy could apologize for using poor language or he could go climb a tree until he cools off a bit. Maybe he should drop a piece of wood on Edmund's new belt buckle so Edmund knows how it feels to have his stuff damaged. Another solution could be that he makes sure he stays

away from Edmund. Maybe he should miss dessert for his use of poor language. Both guys could make a list of 5 positive things about each other. Or they could make a list of 10 negative things about each other to express their feelings.

*Finding a solution should involve input from everyone in the group.*

All of these are possible solutions; how do we know which one to go with? Some of them are fairly poor solutions that may not work very well. Which ones actually deal with the main problem? Knowing what is the main problem is important for choosing an appropriate solution. Some problems have several solutions. What will it take for Edmund to overcome his arrogance and for Leroy to overcome his impulsive outburst? Some of these solutions deal with the symptoms of the problem, but what about the root problem: Edmund's self-image and Leroy's anger? Saying sorry is often mistaken as one of the steps in problem solving. It may be one of the solutions or part of a solution but apologizing does not necessarily face the problem.

How does the Lord expect us to solve our problems? In the Old Testament he required sacrifices but that only covered the problem for a time: it did not solve it. The severity of the problem made a difference in what was required to deal with it. Jesus is the solution to all of our problems. The Bible has something to say about every problem we may possibly face. It may not always seem clear; however, he wants us to seek after Him for the solutions to all of life's problems.

Kevin Maust, Groupwork Supervisor

# ADVENTURE LEARNING - WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

## Survival #1: Improvised Shelters And Animal Traps

The drag noose is used for catching small game like rabbits. To make it you need two 2 feet long Y-sticks and a 1 foot long stick, and a long piece of paracord. First take the paracord and tie it around a small tree at both ends right next to each other and put a stick at the end of the loop and twist it the whole way and tie it at the end. To make the trap frame, take the 2 Y-sticks and put them in the ground half their length or to where the Y's are at the same height and the other stick along the top and tie the snare loop around the top stick. You want to put it by a river along a rabbit trail with some bait on the side toward the river.

Making shelter is one of the essentials of surviving the cold nights. Some people will say you want to get a roof before a bed but a bed will be very important since the ground sucks the warmth out of your body. It helps to put 2 long logs across the ground and then lots of short ones across those, then grass on top of that. Other than a simple lean-to or A-frame there are multiple options for a shelter, such as the beach shade shelter and the desert shelter, both are underground. The desert shelter is for non-raining areas ONLY! If not used in the desert, it should be used on high grounds, and have something to cover its entrance when it rains, or it will be flooded. To make it, dig a 3 foot deep hole, long enough to fit a person in. Make sure there is a ramp to make getting out easier. Cover the top with whatever is available. After that, cover the top with dirt, but leave space for an entrance. The beach shade shelter is similar but is made for all environments, but it works best on beaches. Dig up dirt and make a U-shape same size as a desert shelter, 2-3 feet tall. Then do the same thing as you did with the desert shelter roof. If you are in a snowy environment with lots of trees, an easy option is the tree pit shelter. Dig out the snow around the trunk of an evergreen, then make a lean-to over top of it for a roof. To do this, find a low branch and lay a straight stick over it, then tie it there with lashing. Lean sticks over that, then cover it with evergreen boughs. These are some unique shelters but remember, use whichever one is most practical for your situation. If you will only be in the wilderness for a day or two, just make an A-frame. Otherwise, you can use whichever one is most practical for your situation.

Benji—Pioneers

## The Way of the Indian - Fire Starting

To make a “wild” fire you can take either dry leaves, dead grass, pine sap, birch bark, or pine needles and put them in a tight ball and place them on the ground. Then you find small, small, twigs and put them on top, then you find a small stick and place it on top. (But remember, leave a hole for a spot to light it.) Finally, you light it. While its burning bring big sticks in and place them on top.

Madden—Pioneers



## Burdock Tea

On the day of the Woodsmanship Festival I made some burdock tea. It was a fun process. First we went on a ramble while the cooks were cooking breakfast. We went over to the sumac patch to find burdock. It grows on the ground and the leaves start big and look kind of like an arrow head then gradually get smaller to the middle of the plant. So me and a couple of other guys went to find some. About 10 seconds later Yohannes came back with a big wad of burdock. Then we all headed back to campsite. I got a big pot and filled it up to the top with water. Then I cleaned the leaves off and then washed the leaves off. I put the pot on







our hearth and put the leaves in and concocted sugar with the leaves. Finally the pot was boiling with green tea. I took the debris leaves and threw them away. Then we went up trail to the Dutch oven cook off.

Luke—Pioneers

## Camp Kindling ... small pieces of camp news and needs



-  Brandon Bowman from Gladys, VA came this month to serve as a chief.
-  Jesse King is returning home after serving as a Mountaineer Chief for the last 2 years.
-  We need wooden outdoor furniture for the office porch.
-  All three groups spent part of the month on trips studying steel industry, the Civil War, and the Revolutionary War.