



ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

inspiring change through relationship

March 2017

Problem Solving IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM

A primary mission of Allegany Boys Camp is to help solve relationship problems between a boy and his family. Over the next few newsletters we plan to include some thoughts on the matter. The following is the first installment.



The first and often the hardest of the five steps to solving a problem is identifying the problem. This step is crucial be-

cause a correct identification is necessary for progress to be made on any given problem. Some problems are quite simple to identify. On the other hand, it can take months or even years to identify exactly what is the problem.

When a group of boys at camp encounter a problem, everyone stops what they are doing and the group gets together in a "circle up" to try to identify and solve the problem. There are several obstacles that can come up to hinder correct identification. To identify a problem, first we must admit that we are doing something wrong. Sometimes pride makes it hard for a boy to admit to his

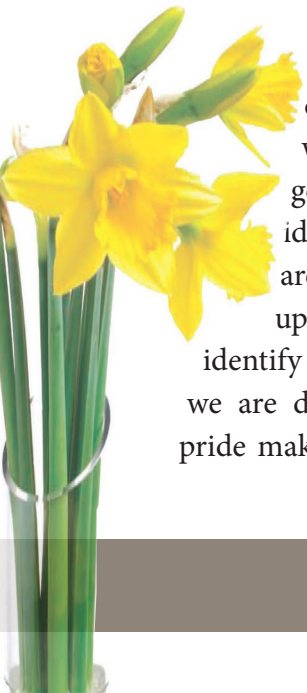
group that he made a mistake. We probably all know that feeling.

Confusion can be another major obstacle. Sometimes a boy is dealing with a problem and he simply doesn't know why. Maybe it's just the way he has always handled his anger, or treated his mom. Maybe there have been traumatic events in the past that trigger these wrong actions and it's hard to connect the two... The list could go on.

It can be difficult to differentiate between visible symptoms of a problem and the real, core issue. Symptoms are usually readily observed but tend to mask to the root of a problem. The ability of symptoms to hide a problem is another reason that it can be difficult to properly identify them.

A group of boys, with the help of God and their chiefs, must learn to get past all of these obstacles and figure out what the root of the problem is so that they know how to work on solving it. Sometimes they must work long and hard in this process, but seeing a boy or a group of boys realize exactly what problem they are facing and the resulting progress that they make is a reward well worth the hard work that it takes.

Leighton Martin, Groupwork Supervisor



ADVENTURE LEARNING - MAPLE SYRUP



Next time those golden brown pancakes are served, take note. After the meal it seems there is always some plate with a substantial puddle of syrup left to be dealt with by the kind ones who wash the dishes.

This problem is understandable and can perhaps be overlooked if it is what my friend calls “synthetic” syrup, but should it be pure maple syrup, it is a sure sign that one does not understand its value.

There are two ways to understand the value of maple syrup. One is to handle the financial matters when it is purchased at the market. The other is to join the tradition of collecting and boiling maple sap.



This spring at Allegany, we are experiencing the latter: the sweeter of the two. We began with a search for groves of the largest maples we could find. On a cold day in February we sank a drill bit into several of our finds. Beautiful, white drillings curled out and fell to the ground, but there was not the slightest drip of sap, only hope that it would come.

We were not disappointed. Jolly round Mr. Sun climbed a bit higher in the sky than he did the day before. He shone longer and brighter. Coaxing. Then it came, inching its way forward on the dry galvanized spile... drip - doong. Into the waiting bucket below, followed by thousands more.

There are many things to be considered when making maple syrup. Some years are better than others; what makes the difference? When should the trees be tapped? Which trees will yield the most sap? Which side of the tree? How many gallons of sap will it

take to make a gallon of syrup? How long can the sap be kept before it is boiled? And when boiling it, how does one tell when it is finished?


With every season our Creator has placed wonderful cycles in our natural world, just waiting for us to partake of them. Cycles that touch the senses with the finest subtleties. With each of them, the more one has experienced it, the more his senses are stirred. He waits for it and revels in it, but before it has even ended, another cycle, distinctly different but no less wonderful, is already beginning. I'm thinking of the woodcock returning from its migration, the mayfly hatches on a trout stream, or the taste of summer squash. There is more than a body can take in.


But for now, lean over the boiling pan, enveloped in a world of steam. There's the soft music of a rolling boil. An occasional pop from the hardwood fire. Take a deep breath. Sweet, isn't it?

Albert Stoltzfus, Program Director

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



 Pray for all three groups as they are going on bus trips in the coming weeks. Pray that their trips would be a good, educational experience. Pray for safety as they travel many miles.

 Pray for the staff at camp, there is a lot of staff transition taking place in the next several months.

THANK-YOU

Thanks to the many people who helped with getting the house for Chiefs built. They are excited about moving in this week. This would not have been possible if it wouldn't have been for those of you who gave of your time, money, and resources to help complete the job.