

The First 48 Hours: Testing the Security of Silver Lake and Us!

- I. Primary Urge: to master the techniques of human interaction
- II. Need to establish security: first priority
 - 1) How many of you take conferees on a tour of the site? Upper Camp?
 - 2) How many have names on the doors of cabins?
 - 3) How many of you /your counselors physically walk conferees to the bathroom, especially before bedtime. Bathrooms: clean and comfortable. Where the nurse's station is? Light switches?
 - 4) How many share the schedule for the first 48 hours with the conferees?
 - 5) Food: How is the ballfield picnic atypical of the meals for the week: How can we assure kids of the alternatives: peanut butter and jelly, salad bar, vegetarian option.
 - 6) Changing in front of other conferees: how can we assure an emotionally/physically comfortable environment: option to change in bathroom.

We cannot expect kids to experience the uncomfortable process of community-building, disclosure/ testing limits, getting to know God, oneself and each other, experience mountaintop moments... unless basic needs met and assured yet. Distracted by fear of site/people's inability to meet basic needs: physical/emotional/spiritual.

We all decide on the habitat's ability to provide security within the first 48 hours.

- 1) It's the "Welcome": Extravagant welcome starts here.
- 2) Can camp keep me safe?
- 3) Open seating NOT recommended for first 48 hours: sit together as cabin groups for first 2 meals. (Not cafeteria-style: unsafe socially!)
- 4) No scary stories. 1st 24 hours for some campers, everything is new.
- 5) No humiliation rituals.
- 6) Find cool things that are good for community: double dare, get-to-know you by cabin skits, teach everyone a new song, etc.

What are those needs?

Too much trial and error, for adjusting to camp, not good.

Train staff to answer: Where do I fit in? How do I fit in? What's expected of me?

Share the rules. Can I meet those expectations? Help them do it, and assure confidence in the "Yes, we can!"

What are the consequences of expectations not met? Sent home? People not like me? Not make any friends? Work through in Covenant.

How do I get through the first night?

2nd 24 hours: They test against the 1st. Keep routine the same for the 2nd 24 hours.

Kids do better when they feel safe. ***"Kids don't care about how much you know.... Until they know how much you care."***

MASLOW's Hierarchy of Needs,

decreasing in order from top to bottom:-

Self-Actualization (rejuvenation, character, personality, fulfillment)

Esteem ([1] strength, confidence, mastery [2] status, appreciation, dignity)

Affective (belonging, care, friendship, love)

Safety (security, stability, protection, peace)

Bodily (food, clothes, house, health)

Maslow's Holistic Dynamic Needs Hierarchy

P = Physiological

S = Safety

L = Belongingness and Love

E = Esteem

SA = Self-Actualization

Self-actualized folk still need to eat and drink, and children are capable of "growth-through-delight".

Physiological Needs ~ Food, water, oxygen, etc. Anything the physical organism needs to survive. Very fundamental life or death needs. Perhaps because Maslow was well fed, he didn't spend a lot of time on these. "...it seems impossible as well as useless to make any list of fundamental physiological needs, for they can come to almost any number one might wish, depending on the degree of specificity of description." (MP 16).

Safety Needs ~ "If the physiological needs are relatively well gratified, there then emerges a new set of needs, which we may categorize roughly as the safety needs, (**security; stability; dependency; protection; freedom from fear, anxiety, and**

chaos; need for structure, order, law, and limits; strength in the protector; and so on)." (MP 18, emphasis mine)

Belongingness and Love Needs ~ "If both the physiological and the safety needs are fairly well gratified, there will emerge the love and affection and belongingness needs, and the whole cycle already described will repeat itself with this new center. The love needs involve giving and receiving affection. When they are unsatisfied, a person will feel keenly the absence of friends, mate, or children. Such a person will hunger for relations with people in general ~ for a place in the group or family ~ and will strive with great intensity to achieve this goal. Attaining such a place will matter more than anything else in the world and he or she may even forget that once, when hunger was foremost, love seemed unreal, unnecessary, and unimportant. Now the pangs of loneliness, ostracism, rejection, friendlessness, and rootlessness are preeminent." (MP 20)

Esteem Needs ~ "All people in our society (with a few pathological exceptions) have a need or desire for a stable, firmly based, usually high evaluation of themselves, for self-respect or self-esteem, and for the esteem of others. These needs may therefore be classified into **two subsidiary sets**. These are, *first*, **the desire for strength, achievement, adequacy, mastery and competence, confidence in the face of the world, and independence and freedom. *Second*, we have what we may call the desire for reputation or prestige** (defining it as respect or esteem from other people), **status, fame and glory, dominance, recognition, attention, importance, dignity, or appreciation.**" (MP 21, emphases mine)

"Satisfaction of the self-esteem need leads to feelings of self-confidence, worth, strength, capability, and adequacy, of being useful and necessary in the world. But thwarting of these needs

produces feelings of inferiority, of weakness, and of helplessness." (MP 21)

"The most stable and therefore most healthy self-esteem is based on *deserved* respect from others rather than on external fame or celebrity and unwarranted adulation." (MP 22, original emphasis)

Self-actualization Need ~ "Even if all these needs are satisfied, we may still often (if not always) expect that a new discontent and restlessness will soon develop, unless the individual is doing what *he* or *she*, individually, is fitted for. Musicians must make music, artists must paint, poets must write if they are to be ultimately at peace with themselves. What humans *can* be, they *must* be. They must be true to their own nature. This need we may call self-actualization." (MP 22, original emphases. See also MP chaps 11, 12, 13. Maslow later redefined self-actualization as a function of frequency of peak experiences).