

November 6, 1986

Mr. Murph Widdowfield
11672 West 28th Avenue
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Mr. Widdowfield

I am finally writing concerning August's RYLA camp in New Mexico. I apologize for the delay, but I realize that the establishment of a new camp is in good hands without me.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to participate in the previous camp and for developing the forthcoming camp, because I feel that the people who attend them in the future will come away with as memorable an experience as I did.

As for suggestions and criticisms on the camp itself, I think most of the comments that I have to make have probably already been considered by yourself. The use of active and involving speakers, such as the potter and fly-fisherman, are essential to making a lasting impression on an audience who will sit through as many as three dozen speakers in a week. Out-of-session athletics are also important. These points were covered well by the staff of the Texas District camp.

The prospect of a coed camp is very interesting. I would expect this to add another dimension or two to the overall impact on the campers, as it would provide different opinions from those with different roles in, and perceptions of, our society. The reality here, of course, is that the time-off from organized meetings would have to be well filled with optional activities involving both boys and girls in order to avoid some embarrassing situations.

Another thing that I think is worth keeping in mind, is that while the kids are getting alot of exposure from those from Rotary, Rotary also has an excellent opportunity to present itself to people who have never heard of the organization. Although I had heard of Rotary before going to New Mexico, I think that this was the first involvement with it for all of us. This first impression was very strong and very positive, and although the purpose of the camp is not to further Rotary, it can be a very useful tool in making the club more visible to otherwise unfamiliar people.

Again, thank you for supporting the program that allowed me such a golden opportunity to meet new people and hear new ideas, and I will look forward to any contact we may have in the future.

Sincerely,