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DEFINITIONS OF CAMP RETREAT CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

Professionals in the field continue to develop definitions for a variety of program styles. The American Camping Association definition for camping is the most accepted for that program style. There still are no formally adopted definitions for conference or retreat. The KALEIDOSCOPE inc. consultants suggest the following descriptions as a means of differentiating between the two program styles.

◆ **CAMP** (as defined by the American Camping Association)

A sustained experience which provides a creative, recreational and educational opportunity in group living in the outdoors. It utilizes trained leadership and the resources of the natural surroundings to contribute to each camper's mental, physical, social, and spiritual growth.

◆ **RETREAT** (defined by Kathleen Trotter, Consultant)

Generally a group of 10-75 persons, engaged in an experience led by a primary charismatic leader. Usually all parts of the program are integrated, flowing smoothly through a structured sequence of experiences with all members participating in the same set of activities, offering a relatively small amount of optional time. It is most effective to have facilities "under one roof" to enhance the continuity and the building of relationships.

◆ **CONFERENCE** (defined by Kathleen Trotter, Consultant)

Commonly a group of 50-300 persons (or more), organized by a director or steering committee, and led by a variety of people. The program is focused around a common theme but allows participants to choose the specific activities. The schedule of options is coordinated but participants are not expected to function as a total group except for major plenary/worship sessions or keynotes, and probably meals. Often conference centers are designed as campuses with a variety of housing and recreation options.