Work Camps

Conducted by American Friends Service Committee (Quakers)

June 28 - August 23, 1940
A Constructive Service
In a World at War

In the Michigan automobile area

In the sharecropper region in Mississippi

Wide-World Photos
For the seventh year Work Camps conducted by Quakers are helping to build the foundations of peace in America's areas of tension and conflict . . .

In the Pennsylvania coal areas

In the migrant labor area of California
The Members of Each Work Camp ...

Work ...
on needed projects

Live ...
in simple quarters

Learn ...
from local leaders
Cooperate...
in group life

Discuss...
constructive and non-violent means of solving local and regional problems

Join...
in community activities
Each Work Camp Offers...

An Opportunity for Constructive Service

Faced with conflict in Europe, many are asking how they can make a more positive contribution to a war-torn world. It is increasingly evident that opportunities are unlikely to develop abroad for any large number of people concerned with the healing and not the destruction of nations. Many of us who believe in the possibility of a new way of life may well find outlets for service in America’s distressed areas, amid our own unsolved problems of economic insecurity and racial intolerance. Here we may come to understand more fully the root causes of violence. Here we may work at the problems of building a more adequate economic structure—thus partially relieving the occasion for violence.

For the seventh year Work Camps are helping to build the foundations of peace in America’s areas of tension and conflict. The location of each camp, whether in the Mississippi cotton belt or the coal fields of western Pennsylvania, offers unique opportunities for study and service. The association of each camp with new and hopeful experiments in community rebuilding relates the experience to the pioneer tradition in American life.

Work is the basis of the summer’s experience. The work day in the camps varies from six to eight hours—depending on the location and the community’s need. The camper’s participation in hard physical work has a double value. It increases the facilities available for community development. It gives the campers insight into the problems associated with unskilled and semi-skilled labor. Laboring with one’s hands makes it possible as nothing else can, to understand realistically the problems of the working man. Class and race barriers tend to disappear in the fellowship of hard physical labor.

The Work Camps are not merely a means by which local conditions can be studied at first hand, nor simply a way of making some constructive material contribution to the welfare of a distressed area. They provide an opportunity to explore in a group setting new and non-violent techniques of solving the basic economic and social problems presented by each situation. For those concerned with the causes of conflict and the building of a healthy and peaceful society, the Work Camps offer a summer of vigorous exploration.
Work Projects Have Social Significance

In each location the work projects are those needed by the local community. These projects are related to a year-round program and in most cases are of direct benefit to some pioneering experiment in economic and community rehabilitation. The projects for both men and women involve physical labor. There are special opportunities for girls to be of assistance in community health and recreational work. By hard physical work the campers earn the right to share in the life of the local community.

All the activities of the camp contribute to a group exploration of a new way of life

The work with the local community, the sharing in its problems and planning, the evening discussions with local and regional leaders, the cooperative organization of the camp, the rotation of routine duties, and the responsibility assumed by the campers to handle the problems involved in their own life and work, combine to make the total experience one of great educational importance. In such a setting the physical work and the daily periods of meditation become means through which the camp group comes to understand the deeper human meanings of community rebuilding.

In addition to the regular evening discussions, each camp this summer will arrange for a series of panel discussions to be held at the end of the first four weeks which will carry further their exploration of the social and economic problems of the region.

The following regular Work Camps will be conducted this Summer...
THE LOCATION—The camp will be located at Penn-Craft, a new rehabilitation community recently started by the American Friends Service Committee, near Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in the center of the bituminous coal district.

THE WORK PROJECT—Under the direction of the Penn-Craft staff, the Work Camp will assist the miners in building roads, quarrying stone, in masonry and carpentry work, and will join in community recreational activities. There will be special opportunities for girls to assist in craft and nursery school work.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—The bituminous coal industry is going through the throes of major retrenchment and reorganization due to rapid mechanization of the mines, and to increased competition with coal substitutes. The camp will discuss the problems of government control, mechanization, displacement of labor, and union organization, but will center its attention on possible means of community rehabilitation throughout the coal area. There will be opportunities to inspect mines, attend union meetings, and visit nearby Federal Resettlement projects. Discussion leaders will include authorities on the coal industry, representatives of the coal operators, union officials, rank and file miners, and representatives of the National Labor Relations Board.

SIZE OF CAMP—20 men and women.

THE LOCATION—Cooperstown, N. Y. is about 60 miles west of Albany, in the once prosperous farming and hop raising Otsego County. About one-third of the land is in timber. The county is now the center of a new and enterprising cooperative forestry experiment. The cooperative is under the advisory direction of the New England Experiment Station of the United States Forest Service.

THE WORK PROJECT—The camp will work with the Otsego Forest Products Cooperative Association, a cooperative consisting of about 300 farmers each of whom owns 10 acres or more of woodland. Projects will consist of painting, carpentry, landscaping about the sawmill, making time studies for efficiency in the mill, levelling a storage yard for lumber, and doing demonstration clearing of young timber under the direction of trained foresters.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—Cooperative leaders and agricultural and forestry experts will meet with the camp for discussions of the problems of the area. These include soil erosion, the movement of industry away from the smaller communities, the decline in agricultural income, the exploitation of forest resources, and the contribution which farm-forest cooperatives may make to the solution of these problems.

SIZE OF CAMP—16 men and women.

Sponsored by the Joint Work Camp Committee of the New York Yearly Meetings of Friends.
Circle Pines Work Camp  
Lake Stewart  
Cloverdale, Michigan

THE LOCATION—The camp will be located at the new Circle Pines Center on Lake Stewart, near Cloverdale, Michigan.

THE WORK PROJECT—For the past two years the Central States Cooperative League has conducted an educational and recreational camp, Circle Pines, at Chief Noon Day Camp, one of the National Park Service Camps in Michigan. Recently the League purchased a 283 acre farm at Lake Stewart, Cloverdale, Michigan, and plan to construct their own camp. The work camp will work with people from different cooperative groups in the middle-west and Canada, in building this new educational center.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—Outstanding leaders of the cooperative movement will be available to lead discussion on the cooperatives and on their implications for American life. The camp will visit many of the cooperative enterprises in this part of Michigan.

SIZE OF CAMP—20 men and women.

Macedonia Work Camp
Habersham County, Clarkesville, Georgia

THE LOCATION—The Macedonia Community is located in the southern Appalachian Mountains in northeastern Georgia. As a community it is struggling to deal cooperatively with problems of soil depletion, economic disorganization, and consequent rural poverty.

THE WORK PROJECT—The projects undertaken by the camp are designed to further the basic principles of this experimental community. The camp will assist in building a dam for community power development, constructing terraces, extending pastures, developing a dairy, introducing scientific forestation, landscaping homes, and developing cooperatives.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—Important leaders from local cooperative associations, and from federal and private agencies working in rural rehabilitation will visit the camp for discussions of rural community rebuilding. Proximity to the T. V. A., to the Habersham N. Y. A. Resident Center near Clarkesville, and to other community experiments in the central south offer a rich laboratory for comparison.

SIZE OF CAMP—20 men and women.
Flint Work Camp
Flint, Michigan

THE LOCATION—Flint is one of the large centers of automobile production in Michigan. The Buick, Chevrolet, and two of the Fisher Body plants are located there.

THE WORK PROJECT—The work project will be in connection with recreational activities in the city. The camp will prepare playgrounds by making and installing equipment, will supervise recreational activities, and conduct backyard playgrounds for small children. It is expected that in one area a local community council can be created to assist in building and maintaining a recreational development. This will mean work with local people who are factory workers of average income.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—Discussions will center around such problems of the automobile industry as production, distribution, and labor relations. Particular attention will be given to the effect of these problems on the economic life of Michigan in general and of Flint in particular. Discussion leaders will include representatives of General Motors and of the United Automobile Workers. Visits will be made to automobile plants, union meetings, and to new community developments near Pontiac and Ann Arbor.

SIZE OF CAMP—16 men and women.

Delta Work Camp
Rochdale, Miss.

THE LOCATION—The camp will be located on the Delta Cooperative Farm, about 90 miles south of Memphis on the Mississippi River in the heart of the cotton belt.

THE WORK PROJECT—The camp will assist with the development of a new drainage system, and in clearing land at the Delta Farm. There will be opportunities for work with a progressive school for the Delta children, and for close participation in the life of the Cooperative Farm community.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—The South is faced with staggering changes in its cotton economy brought about by wide fluctuation in the cotton market, soil depletion, displacement of share croppers, and possible use of the cotton picker. Leadership for the discussion of these problems will be provided by Southern agricultural economists and planters, members of the staff of the Delta Farm, representatives of federal agencies dealing with cotton production and control, and leaders of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Visits will be made to large cotton plantations and to Federal Resettlement projects.

SIZE OF CAMP—20 men and women.
New Hampshire Work Camp
North Weare, N. H.

THE LOCATION—North Weare is situated in southern New Hampshire and has been a typical New England farming town devoted to poultry and dairy farming with a side line of wood-turning.

THE WORK PROJECT—In September 1938 the New England hurricane seriously damaged the town. Two dams broke, flooding the river valley. A large part of the marketable timber of the town was damaged and one woodworking plant was destroyed. The project for the camp will center around clean-up work in the river valley which is strewn with the uprooted trees and planks from demolished buildings deposited by the flood waters of the Piscataquog River. This river runs through the center of the town and the uncleared debris constitutes a depressing influence on the town and is a minor health hazard.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—Discussion will center around the problems of pacifism in a non-pacific world. An attempt will be made to explore the implications of pacifism for social and economic problems as well as for international relations. Consideration will be given to the problems raised by the shift of industry in New England from smaller to larger communities.

SIZE OF CAMP—20 men and women.

(Migrant Work Camp
Delano, California)

THE LOCATION—The camp will be located at Delano, California in the San Joaquin Valley. Delano has many different racial groups and is centrally located in an area facing perplexing problems involving migratory labor.

THE WORK PROJECT—The camp will assist in the building of new facilities for community recreation and social life in an area of the city which includes Russian, Negro, Oriental, Mexican and White groups.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—Attention will be centered on the problems of migratory labor in the San Joaquin Valley, and on the accompanying problems of large scale farming and farm labor organization. Special attention will be given to the possibilities of cooperative and subsistence farming.

SIZE OF CAMP—20 men and women.

(Held in cooperation with the New England Office, American Friends Service Committee, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge, Massachusetts.)

The possibility is being explored of a Work Camp near Reading, Pa. which might assist with the building of a worker's educational center.
In addition there will be...

Four Advanced Work Camps

During the last two years of the work camp development there has been an increasing interest on the part of those who have spent a summer in one of our regular work camps, to participate in more advanced work. To meet this need the Committee now offers a group of four advanced camps.

They will be located in communities where the pattern of economic rehabilitation is less fully worked out and where there is an opportunity for a more pioneering experience. The camps will be smaller in size and their program will be somewhat more flexible than in the regular camps. They will be open to those who have been in Work Camps in previous years and to those who have had a somewhat similar experience and who are concerned to explore the possibilities of community rehabilitation on a constructive, non-violent basis.

The following Advanced Camps will be conducted...
**Soddy, Work Camp**  
**Soddy, Tennessee**

THE LOCATION—Soddy is a stranded mining town located about 20 miles north of Chattanooga on the west side of the Tennessee River. It is within about 6 miles of the Chickamauga Dam (T. V. A.) and will be situated on the new Chickamauga Reservoir.

THE WORK PROJECT—The T. V. A., the Tennessee State Planning Commission and the W. P. A. have recently undertaken a joint rehabilitation program in the Soddy area designed to improve the lake waterfront and to enable the town to derive considerable income from recreational opportunities. Plans for this development were drawn up cooperatively by a group in Soddy and several members of the 1938 T. V. A. Work Camp. This year’s camp will share in the development by assisting with the construction of a park development to be used jointly by the people of Soddy and the visitors to the Lake. Playground equipment will be constructed and assistance will be given to recreational and study groups in the town.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—Attention will be centered on the possibilities provided by the T. V. A. and the Tennessee State Planning Commission for community rebuilding in the Tennessee Valley. Discussion leaders will include representatives of these organizations, of cooperative groups, and of a number of private agencies working in the field of rural reconstruction. Visits will be made to Cumberland Homesteads, the Highlander Folk School, and Ravenscroft, Tennessee.

SIZE OF CAMP—12 men and women.

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**Merom Work Camp**  
**Merom, Indiana**

THE LOCATION—Merom Institute is located at Merom, Indiana on the Wabash River about 30 miles south of Terre Haute.

THE WORK PROJECT—The camp will work with the Merom self-help cooperative in its regular gardening and farm program. Additional projects will include assisting with the building of new dormitory space and the reconditioning of the old college building. These increased facilities will be used by the Institute in its program of cooperative and adult education.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—As a typical middle western farming region the area around Merom faces problems of decreasing farm income with accompanying problems of increased need for relief and long-range community rehabilitation. The camp will give special attention to the relationship of these problems to the rural church, and to the means by which the church can become an effective instrument in the rebuilding of rural life. Discussion leadership will include members of the staff of the Merom Institute, of the cooperative movement, and representatives of the rural life interest of the Congregational, Quaker, and Brethren church groups.

SIZE OF CAMP—16 men and women.
Scotts Run Work Camp
Scotts Run, W. Va.

THE LOCATION—Scotts Run is located about six miles southwest of Morgantown, W. Va. It is a mining run about eight miles long which includes several different coal camps.

THE WORK PROJECT—The camp will assist in the construction of a swimming pool and will work with the Scotts Run self-help cooperative in its gardening and bakery activities. There will be an opportunity for the members of the camp to help in community recreational activities and to study the problem of housing.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—The soft coal industry is going through the throes of retrenchment. This is combined with a high degree of mechanization and has created serious problems of relief and unemployment for those displaced from the industry. Discussions will center on these problems and on the contribution to this situation which can be made by self-help cooperative gardening and housing activities.

SIZE OF CAMP—12 men and women.

Chicago Work Camp
Chicago, Illinois

THE LOCATION—The camp will be located in the Fifth Ward in Chicago. This ward extends from Lake Michigan westward through the university district into a Negro section of the city. In a special way this district is faced with problems of the city political machine and of Negro-White relations.

THE WORK PROJECT—The camp will assist in playground and recreational work in the Fifth Ward. The activities of the camp will be related to the work of Paul Douglas, the new member of the Chicago Board of Aldermen from this district.

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION—Attention of the camp will be centered on the problems of Negro-White relationships in the Fifth Ward. Special attention will be given to the political problems faced by an independent reform movement as it attempts to deal with a large city machine.

SIZE OF CAMP—12 men and women.

Address communications to:
Jeannette Stetson
Mid-West Office
American Friends Service Committee
633 South Maple Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois
Who Should Apply:
Only those who are willing to:

- Live cooperatively as a part of a group.
- Do hard physical labor.
- Impose self-discipline as a member of a democratically organized group.
- Study sympathetically the social and economic problems of the area in which the camp is located.

Pertinent Facts
Each camp will be under the leadership of experienced directors. People from many parts of the United States will be included in each camp. Several camps will include people from other countries. Campers should bring work clothes, work shoes, towels, mirror, toilet articles, bed linen, one blanket, and pillow if desired. A nurse will be available in each camp. Each student must be inoculated against typhoid before arriving at camp.

Camp Expense
Work Camps are experiments in simple and cooperative living with all members sharing the responsibilities of camp life. Thus the average cost of conducting the Work Camp program is about $100 per student. It is our hope that those students who are able to carry their full share of the cost will do so. However, if the regular camp fee were set at this level, it might discourage many students from applying. Therefore, the regular fee for the camp period is set at $75. Some scholarship assistance is available for well-qualified students who would otherwise be unable to pay the regular fee.

Five dollars of the regular fee must be deposited when the applicant is accepted. This deposit will be refunded in case withdrawal is necessary and written notice is given before June 1st. The balance of the fee is due at the Philadelphia office by June 28th, the day the camps open.

For further information and for application blanks,
write to
WORK CAMP COMMITTEE
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
20 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
The American Friends Service Committee

representing the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) was founded in 1917 and has engaged in many projects to promote international and industrial understanding, and to afford students opportunities for constructive patriotic service. Its relief work in war areas following the World War and its more recent work in depressed industrial sections of the United States, have been participated in and supported by Americans of all denominations. In addition to its projects for college and university students, such as the Work Camps, the Student Peace Service, and the Philadelphia Service Group, the Committee conducts International Centers in Europe, sponsors a Homestead Project in the Pennsylvania coal fields, conducts Institutes of International Relations in various parts of the United States, and has recently organized a German relief and refugee service.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution to this announcement made by the sketches by Dorothy Waring and by the photographs taken by Lewis Hoskins and other campers.