

## A summer without camp is more than a *bummer*

This will be the year without summer camp for millions of American children.

Formal summer camps began around New England lakes in the 1880s, serving boys from elite urban families. Back-to-basics, cook-your-own-meals, outdoor camping experiences were viewed as the *antidote* to the "femininity" of the increasingly refined, wealthy home.

bummer 失望; 令人烦恼

antidote 解毒剂; 解药

The industry grew steadily, with more wealthy parents choosing a camp experience to fill lengthy summer breaks, and organizations such as the YMCA, YWCA and Camp Fire Boys and Girls helping to open experiences to middle-class children. *Philanthropists* and religious groups organized subsidized camps for the poorest urban children.

philanthropist 慈善家; 博爱主义者

Parents could choose from a variety of focused experiences, ranging from sports to arts. In 1925, more health and lifestyle-oriented camps popped up, including the first camp for children with Type 1 diabetes, which promoted diabetes self-care and independence. Others oriented around religion or political ideals. As late as 1956, there were 27 explicitly communist camps in New York.

Camp was both traditional — promoting the benefits of a return to nature, with *rustic* architecture to emulate America's imagined pioneer past — and *thoroughly* modern, with camps marketing themselves as modern institutions embracing the latest developments in education theory.

rustic 乡村的; 淳朴的

thoroughly 彻底地; 完全地

Going to camp became a rite of passage within many families and an established part of American culture. The summer camp has been featured in a variety of forms, including R.L. Stein's "Goosebumps" series, several episodes of "The Simpsons" and the cult-hit film "Wet Hot American Summer" and has continued to form part of a distinct American youth culture.