

Non-book Resources and Other Suggestions For Family Recreation

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Biographical Information

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The following resources are useful for faculty when incorporating the important issues related to family recreation into professional recreation education courses:

Focus on the Family, is a Christian organization located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It was founded by psychologist and author Dr. James Dobson; and publishes a number of materials that are of use to families. They have created approximately 200 first quality radio adventures for family listening. These stories are great for reliving the radio era with themes that have have current content. The series entitled, "Adventures in Odyssey" have many lessons including dating, respect for parents, camp experiences, and anger. There are also tapes that deal with historical events such as Thanksgiving, the Civil War, and the Vietnam War. Most of the stories have a Christian message, but some tapes have been created for use in secular situations and in the public schools. They are aired over radio stations throughout the country and tapes are available for purchase directly from Focus on the Family. These tapes are "Disney quality" and enjoyed by young and old alike.

The dramas are written for children between the ages of 8 to 12 and are great for stimulating family discussions and interaction. A fire in the fire place, a fresh popped bowl of popcorn and one of these very well written and produced episodes in the boom box make for a great evening of family fun. I am sure that Grandparents will have a few stories of their own to share at this family gathering.

Focus on the Family has produced books and video tapes using the same characters and ideals. Focus on the Family also distributes a paperback book entitled, *Finding Dollars for Family Fun: Creating happy memories on a budget* by Gwen Weising. This information is useful for families on a very tight budget. I have found this text useful in helping students understand the dynamics of family budgeting for recreation. Focus on the Family, as an organization, is an excellent source for demographic and topical information about contemporary youth and families.

Focus on the Family
8605 Explorer Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
1-800-A-FAMILY

The National Parks of America CD-ROM is a great multimedia tool to promote family camping in National Parks. The compact disk can be interchangeably used on a Macintosh or Windows operating system. It includes high quality photos of our national parks that can be displayed instantly. Using a large screen monitor is useful to display the information to a large group. Search options are also available for families to selected their favorite activities such as backpacking or canoeing. Other information such as weather conditions and directions are also included. A special feature entitled "Travel Plan" allows the computer user to plan the perfect family trip utilizing national parks. The dazzling photographs are crystal clear and display complete with compact disc sound. This multimedia display makes for an entertaining and useful motivation tool for family outdoor adventure. This software is available from: National Parks of America (CD-ROM), Multicom Publishing, Inc., 1100 Olive Way, Suite 1250, Seattle, Washington 98101.