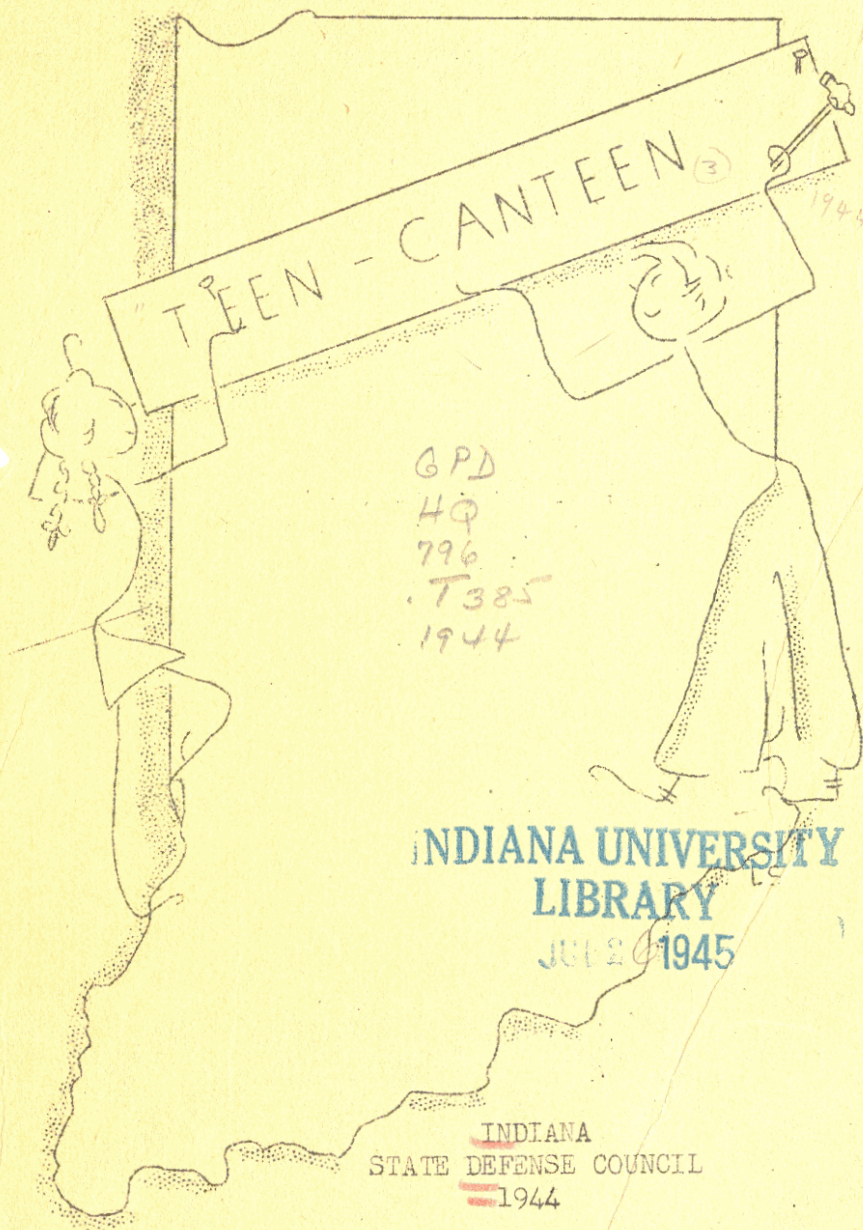


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INDIANA
STATE COMMITTEE ON THE CARE OF CHILDREN
IN WARTIME

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Indianapolis

Market 5361

Illustrated by Lucy Schulte

TEEN CANTEENS

I. INTRODUCTION

Teen Canteens or Youth Recreation Centers, called by expressive and eye-catching names, such as "Jive Hive" and "Rhythm Rocker" have been started or are being planned in many cities and towns in the state. Questions about the way to go about establishing such a center, and about plans for operation and program have been asked the State Committee on the Care of Children in Wartime as well as other state agencies and organizations. This pamphlet has been written in answer to these questions and to help local communities in establishing teen canteens.

Child care, recreation, or prevention of juvenile delinquency committees are functioning in many communities in the state. The plan to start a teen canteen may originate with one of these committees, with a request from teen age youth, or with a service club or other organization. If an over-all committee on the care of children in wartime, youth planning, the prevention of juvenile delinquency or a council of social agencies exists, the plan for teen canteens, if not part of the planning of that group, should be cleared with and have the support of that group.

All groups in the community planning with and for children and youth should work together.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. Committees

The cardinal principle in organizing a teen canteen is that teen age boys and girls should have a part in the planning. A youth committee and an

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adult advisory committee should be set up or both youth and adults should be represented on the same committee. In large cities where neighborhood canteens are contemplated, the committees may be set up on a neighborhood basis.

Groups represented on the committee should be:

Teen age boys and girls

Public schools

Private schools

Public recreation departments

Council of social agencies
or county welfare department

Juvenile court and probation department

Youth serving agencies, such as Y.M.C.A.,

Y.W.C.A., Scouts, boys and girls

Clubs and others

Churches

Civic organizations



Plan Together

B. Financing

It is important to have a sound plan for financing the teen canteen before it is established. A sub-committee on finance is usually appointed. Funds are needed in getting the canteen started for:

Renovation

Equipment

Remodeling (sometimes)

Funds are needed in the continuing program for:

Leadership and supervision

Rent

Utilities (heat, light, water, telephone)

Janitor Service

Juke box

Snack bar or soda fountain

Liability insurance

Some of the above items may be donated or be self-supporting.

Sources of financial support may be one or a combination of the following:

- Municipal government
- Recreation or park department
- Community fund
- School board
- Sponsoring organization (as: Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., service club, etc.)
- Membership dues
- Profits from snack bar, soda fountain and juke box
- Community drive for funds for teen canteen

It has been found practically impossible to support a teen canteen entirely on the membership dues and profits from the snack bar and juke box. A more satisfactory program can be developed if there is an additional source or sources of income.

C. Location and Facilities

A sub-committee is usually appointed to find a suitable place for the canteen. Representative young people should be members of this committee because the location must be acceptable to the youth using it.

Rooms might be available in the following places:

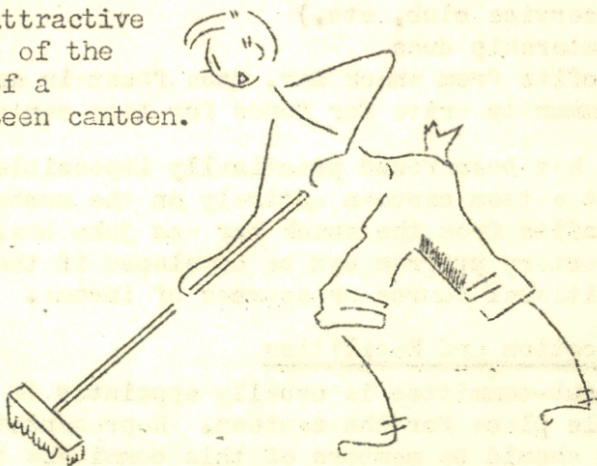
- Recreation building
- Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., or building used by other youth serving agencies
- School -- church
- Unused business or store building
- Any empty building in a suitable location which could be fixed up.

The building selected should have a fairly large room for dancing, snack bar, and refreshment tables and it is desirable to have smaller rooms for games, reading and hobby groups. It should be easily accessible to the young people who will use it. In large cities neighborhood canteens are recommended so that young people remain in their own neighbor-

hoods. It should not be immediately adjacent to places that may exert harmful influences on young people, like taverns, burlesque shows, etc.

D. Renovation

A clean attractive place is one of the requisites of a successful teen canteen.



Let the teen age boys and girls clean it up, decide how they want it decorated and do the job of redecorating. They should choose the furnishings and assist in securing them. If they have taken a leading part in the decorating and furnishing they will feel that it is really their center and they will take pride in keeping it clean and attractive.

E. Membership

A youth committee on membership with an adult advisor should be appointed. This committee will decide who is eligible for membership. Usually all high school students or all young persons between certain ages are included. A common practice and one which has worked out satisfactorily is to charge a small membership fee. The committee may wish to prepare an application blank and membership card. It is important that the fee be

low and the membership principles be democratic so that all young persons in the community who are interested may be members.

III. OPERATION OF THE TEEN CANTEEN

A. Administration

The original committee or committees of youth and adults may continue as the board of the teen canteen. If they have been one committee before, they usually divide now into an adult advisory committee and a youth committee which takes responsibility for running the canteen. The adult group assumes final financial and legal responsibility and may wish to incorporate under the non-profit laws of Indiana. The youth and adult groups may meet together regularly or occasionally.

Usually several committees are set up as part of the youth council. The director of the youth center and one adult advisor for each committee assist with the planning. The adult advisor should be chosen by the committee of youths. The following committees are desirable:

Executive committee, made up of the officers of the youth council and adult advisory group and the chairmen of the other committees.

House committee, to establish rules for the use of the center, conduct of members, etc.

Program committee, to plan the continuing program of the center with the help of the director.

Canteen committee, to have charge of food and soft drinks.

Membership committee, the same committee mentioned under II, E, should continue to function.

Maintenance committee, to have responsibility for keeping the building and equipment in good shape.

Public relations or publicity committee, the adult advisory group will have the chief responsibility for seeing that the center is understood and accepted by the public, but a youth committee for this general purpose, as well as to publicize special events, may be desirable.

6. Service committee, to plan community projects, either connected with the war or community service. Special committees, to plan special events such as dances, entertainments, events outside the center, etc.

B. Leadership

A paid director, either full or part time, is almost essential if the canteen is to be a success. The director assumes responsibility and gives continuity to the program in a way that is difficult to achieve with volunteer leadership. Volunteers will be needed, however, to assist with the supervision and leadership of groups.

The director should have training and experience in youth recreation work, if possible, and should have ability to plan and work with young people and not for them. His duties will include: working with all the committees in planning various aspects of center operation, giving leadership in planning and carrying out the program, keeping records and making reports, training volunteers for the duties they are to perform, supervising the maintenance and janitorial services, and looking after equipment and supplies.

Locating the canteen in the building and under the auspices of a youth serving agency such as the YMCA or YWCA will mean that trained leadership will be available from the agency and that many other responsibilities will probably be taken over by the regular building service.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the supervision and to lead groups and activities. Volunteers with special skills to lead different activities in which the boys and girls are interested, should be recruited, if at all possible.

C. Equipment

The equipment needed will depend on the use

that is to be made of the center. If dancing and refreshment is it's only activity, less equipment will be needed than if it is to be a recreation center with a variety of activities. It may start out with a limited program and expand as the boys and girls wish to increase the type of activities.

Essential equipment

- A good dance floor
- A juke box or piano (preferably both)
- A radio
- A snack bar
- Tables and chairs
- A lounge and reading area
- Tables for games
- Necessary office equipment for records

Desirable equipment and facilities

- Ping pong tables
- Pool or billiard tables
- Library
- Auditorium space
- Separate rooms for hobby groups
- Gymnasium
- Outdoor cooking facilities
- Outdoor activity area

D. Program Content

Let us repeat that the young people themselves should decide on and plan the program they wish to have at the center. An experienced director can suggest activities which they may not think of because their experience is limited, but the boys and girls must be interested before these things will "take hold".

The following are suggestive of activities that young people may enjoy in addition to dancing and lounging in the center:

Table games

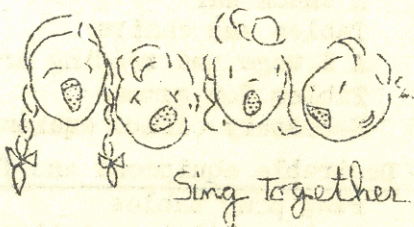
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Ping pong | billiards |
| pool | cards |

Arts, Crafts, Hobbies

Photography
 Radio
 Block printing
 Wood-working
 Painting
 Weaving
 Sculpturing
 Collections
 Metal work
 Model aircraft
 Natural history groups

Music

Community singing
 Choruses
 Orchestras
 Concerts



Dramatics

Plays	Radio skits
Pageants	Informal stunts
Puppetry	Movies

Social activities

Special parties and dances	
Square dances	
Folk dancing	Holiday celebrations
Mixed games	Hobby shows
Fairs and carnivals	
Scavenger and treasure hunts	

Educational activities

Discussion groups
 Debates
 Speakers on current problems
 Quiz programs

Sports and outdoor activities

Roller skating, ice skating

Badminton

Tennis

Croquet

Shuffleboard

Golf

Bowling

Swimming

Picnics

Bicycling

Hiking

Boating

Ball games of all kinds

Service activities

National salvage programs

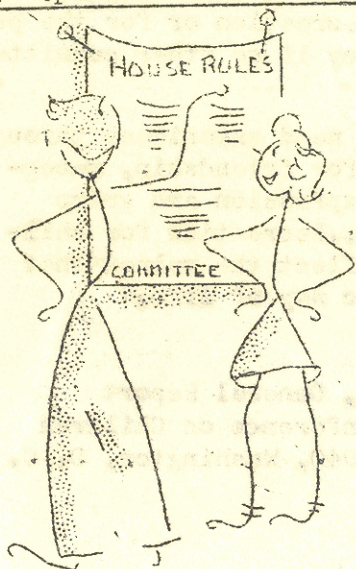
Bond selling

Blood donor recruiting

Civilian defense

Community services and drives

E. Operational Policies



The rules and regulations of the center are worked out and adopted by the Youth Council and adult advisory committee.

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They include:

- Hours of operation
- Rules of conduct in the center
- Rules for the use of equipment
- Penalties for rule violations

IV. CONCLUSION

Though each community will have to adopt the program of its teen canteen to suit its customs and needs, several points are worthy of re-emphasis in conclusion:

1. Give youth a part in the planning
2. Strengthen existing services
3. Develop neighborhood activities in large cities.
4. Secure capable leadership
5. Plan diversified activities
6. Secure community support

It should be pointed out that teen canteens are only part of a well rounded recreation program, though they fill a long felt need which had not previously been met in many places. A committee which has been appointed for the purpose of starting teen canteens might later broaden it's scope to include community wide planning for recreation or for the prevention of juvenile delinquency if no other committee is doing that.

* "All children and youth need experience through which their elemental desire for friendship, recognition, adventure, creative expression and group acceptance can be realized.....Recreation for children in a Democracy should reflect the values that are implicit in the democratic way of life."

* Children in a Democracy, General Report adopted by the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy, January 19, 1940, Washington, D. C.

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