

Abstract

The objective of this study is to determine if attendance at a two week, residential, all-boys or all-girls summer camp is significant in altering campers' attitudes toward women. This study involves the review of questionnaire data previously collected by two residential summer camps during the summer of 2010. Questionnaires were administered pre-camp and post-camp to 43 boys and 108 girls between the ages of 8 and 15. Campers' attitudes toward women were measured using the Attitudes Toward Women Scale for Adolescents (AWSA), designed to measure beliefs regarding the roles, rights, and responsibilities of women as compared to those of men. Campers' scores on the AWSA will be compared pre-camp and post-camp, by gender, by camp experience, and by age. Previous research and literature suggest the results of this study will include more egalitarian attitudes toward women among girl campers as compared to boy campers, as well as more egalitarian scores among girl campers post-camp as compared to pre-camp and more egalitarian scores among boy campers pre-camp as compared to post-camp. Girl campers who have attended the camp prior to the summer in which the questionnaires were collected are expected to score more egalitarian as compared to girl campers for whom this was their first summer at the camp. Boy campers who have attended the camp prior are expected to score more traditionally as compared to boy campers for whom this was their first summer at the camp. For both boy and girl campers, older campers are expected to hold more traditional attitudes toward women than younger campers. The results and conclusions of this study will supply the participating all-girls camp and all-boys camp with a plan for improving the camp program.