

## Outside Use Continuum

Each person can identify where he or she feels the greatest comfort at the present time.

Lines will tend to overlap.

<b>Insider: Today's Child/Youth</b>	<b>Insider/Outsider</b>	<b>Outsider</b>	<b>Outsider Plus</b>
<p>Seldom ventures outside except to school (bus), mall.</p> <p>Seldom plays outside. Inside life consists of TV, web, computer games, email, cell phone.</p> <p>Reasons may be society driven: communities outlaw unstructured outside play; unsafe urban areas for play.</p> <p>Parent driven: fear of diseases from the woods; parents under age 40 have little outside experience or interest in outdoors.</p> <p>Reason may be personal: doesn't like dirt, afraid of unknown in woods.</p> <p>Experiencing a "de-natured childhood." (Richard Louv)</p>	<p>Lots of inside still.</p> <p>Might venture outside to skateboard. If older may run for fitness, may even ski, usually with headphones. Little personal value in nature sounds or nature generally.</p> <p>May enjoy <i>Animal Planet</i> on TV, may read books about nature.</p> <p>Drives through national parks with parents, stays in motel.</p> <p>Really doesn't like dirt, bugs, but may consider summer camp.</p>	<p>Few inside attachments that can't be set aside temporarily, for example, going to camp for a week.</p> <p>Likes to play outside, builds forts.</p> <p>May live in a rural setting – having pets, farm animals. May live in suburbs. Parents may have garden.</p> <p>Family may go on outside-oriented vacations – camping.</p> <p>Likely enjoys school &amp; community sports – soccer, volleyball, softball.</p> <p>Goes to camp in summer. Likes camp activities – ones duplicated from back home, plus things such as archery, swimming, boating, group games.</p> <p>Can appreciate the place of God and us in creation; can develop a sense of wonder, if this is a focus of the camp.</p>	<p>Inside attachments can be readily set aside.</p> <p>Participates in ropes course, climbing wall, high adventure outdoor challenge.</p> <p>Enjoys experiences such as hiking, rafting, canoe tripping, rock climbing, biking, photographing nature.</p> <p>Outward Bound, NOLS, Christian Adventure Association (CAA), and Christian camp wilderness programs.</p> <p>Is becoming more reflective, enjoys solitude, yet can enjoy the camaraderie of friends.</p> <p>Can appreciate the spiritual in the natural, because of camp focus.</p> <p>For those into extreme sports, the physical challenge may block out any appreciation of outdoors.</p>
<p>Me:</p>	<p>Me:</p>	<p>Me:</p>	<p>Me:</p>
<p>My Camp:</p>	<p>My Camp:</p>	<p>My Camp:</p>	<p>My Camp:</p>

### Consider these questions:

Where were you as a youngster?  
 Where are you now?  
 Where would you like to be?

Where is your camp program now?  
 Where would you like it to be?  
 Where would you place each camper group?

Gary K. Fawver

George Fox University professor emeritus  
[gfawver@georgefox.edu](mailto:gfawver@georgefox.edu)

© 2006