



Gift for the Next 100 Years

Grief Camp Project for victims of The Tohoku Region Pacific Coast Earthquake

UPDATE Vol.2 June-2011

Grief Care and Camp Camp Academy 2011 Vol.1

NCAJ conducted a workshop on Grief Camp, "Grief Care and Camp" on 21st of May. More than 120 people got together and learned about the actual condition of the suffered area and basic of grief care.

Mr. Toyoshi Sasaki (Chief of KURIKOMA nature school) reported their support action at the impacted area. A group called RQ center (<http://www.rq-center.net/wp/lang/en.html>) has spread their activity using their network of nature schools.

I have been busy on the backup activity since the earthquake. I moved to some points, opening the volunteer centers in the suffered area. The demand changes quickly from day to day. According to the changes, we have to change the system of the activity everyday. This kind of flexibilities requires the humanity of each one. I believe we can strengthen the humanity through camping.

A good camp has the best balance of organizational strength and humanity. In this point of view, I think camp is put to the test. Have we brought up the people with strong humanity? Can we operate the flexible system? I've been asking myself since the 11th of March.



RQ staffs take care of children

Mr. Tatsuya Konishi (Chief Researcher of Institute of Grief Care) gave a lecture for basic understanding of grief care.

I think there are many elements of grief work in camp. Self-exposure is one of the most important processes and there are many opportunities for it in camp. Regular life pattern of camp may be useful to recover the ordinary life. And especially for children, it's very important to feel that they are protected securely. This must be an advantage of the camp setting.



Evacuation in a poor condition

Grief care and camp have many common skills such as attentive hearing, empathy and flexibility. We feel sure that our Grief Camp Project will be helpful, and at the same time we need to learn much, much more.

More than 20,000 children forced to change schools

For the damage by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear plant accident, more than 20,000 children have to change their schools. Many schools receive other schools' students, and they have to study in poor conditions. Also, many children must study far away from their familiar places. In this situation, it's not easy for us to get to know the children for whom we will organize camps. We need a very long term action.

We ask you to...

- Provide information about previous grief camps
Research about the camps, articles about the camps, staff training materials, etc., are welcome.
- Donate to support the project
Donations are being accepted through the ICF website: <http://www.campingfellowship.org>

Contact : National Camping Association of Japan

Executive, Tatsuya Kanayama

e-mail : kanayama@camping.or.jp

The full project plan is available at http://www.camping.or.jp/grief_camp_ncaj.pdf



NCAJ
National Camping Association of Japan

**ARIGATOU means "incredibly rare", thus it's MIRACLE.
It's a miracle that we have you in the camping community. ARIGATOU !**