

In Memoriam

Betty van der Smissen, Re.D., JD



- For over 50 years, Dr. Betty van der Smissen had dedicated her professional life to excellence in programming and research in outdoor experiential education, organized camping and leisure services.

Dr. van der Smissen was an



- International authority on risk management
- Kurt Hahn Award Receptient
- Accreditation leader for AEE, ACA, and NRPA
- Research Visionary & Mentor

Betty emphasized a proactive approach to risk management.

- Don't let the fear of liability deny any participant:
 - The right to take risks
 - The right to fail
 - The right to make decisions and accept results
 - The right to a meaningful relationship with others
 - The pursuit of well being and peak experiences and growth

According to Betty,

- ◎ “Quality outdoor programming that makes a difference in the lives of children and adults rests with our ability to assess and validate its benefits through research”.



Betty van der Smissen, Re.D., JD

- Betty was an icon, mentor and friend. She changed all of us by her devotion and brilliant intellect. But most of all she was a model of "servant leadership" that made a difference in the lives of others. She was a beacon on the hill that one could always count on to stand for ethics and caring.

The van der Smissen Research Endowment

- To continue Dr. van der Smissen's life's work and to further research related to outdoor program benefits for children and adults, the Association for Experiential Education has created the van der Smissen Research Endowment.
- This endowment will fund research grants in outdoor programming each year.

Your contribution will:

- Honor the invaluable contributions Dr. van der Smissen has made to the profession over a lifetime.
- Emulate her belief in the importance of “giving back” professionally.
- Demonstrate your belief in the importance of quality outdoor programming to human development.

To Make a Contribution

- Go to the following website:

http://www.aee.org/files/en/user/cms/van_der_Smissen_Pamphlet_final.pdf