



A Tree Talk by Vin Broderick in 1986

Service: We are at Pasquaney to leave it. And once we leave it, to live it: To take what we learn to other places and people — to serve them. Campers and counsellors who leave here go on to serve in a variety of ways. Some go into government; some serve through their businesses; some go into foreign service and the Peace Corps. But service to others is not limited to going to other countries or working on a national scale. Often the most valuable service can be performed on the quiet, individual level.

Setting a good example is probably the most effective way of teaching values and serving the community. A writer named Fred Buechner wrote that “in the last analysis it is not so much their subjects that the great teachers teach as it is themselves.” Giving each other the richness of our best selves is the best way we can serve.

Service is not something that is loud or publicized. The most effective service is often the quietest. In the lesson, Elijah found God not in the earthquake or the wind, but in a whisper. As the hymn says, it is not with the loud clashing of swords, but in deeds of love and mercy that the heavenly kingdom comes.