



# CITY OF ATLANTA

DEPARTMENT of PARKS

Office of General Manager

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

JACK C. DELIUS  
GENERAL MANAGER



June 27, 1967

TO: Mayor Ivan Allen

FROM: Mr. Tom Christenson, Director, "Operation Champ"

SUBJECT: Program of "Operation Champ"

Atlanta's "Operation Champ", sponsored jointly by Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department and the Economic Opportunity, Atlanta, is a sports and cultural program provided for locations in twenty-three crime infested and racial trouble areas. The ideal of the program is to aid the children to develop social soundness, emotional stability, cultural interest, and physical fitness. In addition the aim is to curtail indirectly the high crime rate and racial tension. This ideal is approached by providing supervised recreation and cultural trips for the areas.

The program is headed by a project director and assistant who coordinate the activities of the 23 areas and plan all cultural and swimming trips. Four program supervisors directly supervise the 23 areas which are divided into four general districts in the city. They act as go-betweens between the project director and the area counselors. Each area has two recreation leaders who work as counselors in the individual area and keep the area supervised Monday through Saturday from 10:00 A. M. to 9 P. M.

The individual area activities include mass games, individual instructional games, arts and crafts, dramatic productions, folk dancing, rhythmical games, group singing, and a variety of other activities, depending on the individual talents of the recreational supervisors. Many areas work closely with the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts in an attempt to establish new troops that will continue through the year. Special area events such as bicycle rodeos, pet shows, and treasure hunts encourage the children to develop a feeling of fellowship. The children should enjoy the afternoon snack of milk and cookies delivered daily.

Because of the tremendous cooperation and the donation of time by many people, a variety of educational trips has been planned for the areas. Each area goes for a "free" swim twice a week for six weeks. Many of our children will receive free bowling lessons from city establishments. The Atlanta Braves and Chiefs cooperate with us by presenting periodical sports clinics and providing



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unlimited tickets to both Brave and Chief ball games. Our children will hear lectures by the curator of the zoo, the Atlanta Horticulturist, and our Entomologist. New ideas and projects will be followed up by the area leaders through activities such as transplanting flowers in the housing projects, collecting and mounting insects, identifying trees and birds.

The children will travel to various local industries, amusement parks and local entertainments including the Coca Cola Bottling Company, Mathis Dairy, the Atlanta Journal, Chastain Park, children's theaters, Cyclorama and Grant Park Zoo, and Grant Park green house. On many of the trips the children will be provided with a hot lunch. Hopefully the many experiences created by the cultural trips will add greatly to the underprivileged children's education.

"Operation Champ" undoubtedly will not solve all of the problems of the high-crime rate, underprivileged areas. But through our personnel's combined efforts to provide supervised recreation and cultural trips, we hope to benefit the background of some of these children.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tom Christenson*

Tom Christenson  
Director  
Operation Champ

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cc: Mr. Jack Delius, General Manager  
City of Atlanta Department of Parks  
  
Miss Virginia Carmichael, Director  
City of Atlanta Department of Recreation