

Southwest Ramblin's

One of the best benefits to being apart of ACA is the opportunities to interact and network with other camp professionals. There are many opportunities to do so on the district or section level. Tonight I am going to a meeting for the Utah ACA District for Evacuation Plans for camps. I have been to other such meetings recently to discuss camp staff training and orientation meetings, camp marketing materials, risk management, and employment trends for summer employers. Another benefit comes when one organization opens up its formal training meeting to the ACA community for trainings and certification such as American Red Cross First Aid/CPR or Lifeguard trainings, CHA certification, and Leave No Trace training. There are many opportunities available in all four states of the Southwest Section of ACA. Contact your district chair in your state to find out available trainings and education sessions.

Jared Knight
Aspen Grove Family Camp
Manager of Programs
Southwest Section President

Welcome New Members

Member Type	Name	Camp/Company
Associate	David Skokuson	
Professional	Rochelle Clayton-Cordova	WOW New Mexico Youth Corp

Upcoming Events

Standards Update Course, PhxMarch 3 07
 Basic Camp Directors Course Las Vegas.....March 10-14 07
 Board Meeting Las Vegas, NVMarch 13-14 07
 CampWest Las Vegas, NV.....March 14 -17 07
 Associate Visitors Course TBD..... March 30-April 1 07
 Section Training offerings..... Website

"Progress is impossible without change; and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

~ George Bernard Shaw

SAVE THE DATE!

CampWest Conference
 March 14-17, 2007
 Las Vegas, NV

"The Social Landscape of Camp: Building Positive Relationships"

March 14 -17, 2007
 Las Vegas, NV

Join us at the biggest Camp Conference in the West! Our speakers this year include Faith Evans, Chris Thurber, and Jim Cain, who will be joined by a host of other presenters ready to help you build positive relationships at camp. Interest session topics range from camper and staff development to health care and food service management.

Hurry! Early Bird Registration ends February 16th! Register today to receive the lowest conference and hotel rates!

For more information and an updated list of all presenters, please visit our website at www.campwest.org. Any questions can be directed to Becky List, CampWest chair at beckylist@myfastmail.com. See you in Vegas!

The section board will be holding a meet and greet on Thursday night, March 14th. Be sure to attend and meet your board members and get a chance to give us some input on where you would like to see the section head.

Things to do at CampWest:

Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at CampWest, Las Vegas, NV

9:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Standards Course--FREE

9:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Standards Update Course--FREE

9:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 Visitor Update Course--FREE

In addition, a New Director Orientation (NDO) will be held from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm on March 14th.

A special eight hour session for seasonal or new camp directors, assistant directors, program directors or persons that have been in other administrative positions and are considering directing camp. This is an overview of all the aspects of the director's job with ht primary focus on summer operation. It is an interactive session that includes risk management, camper behavior and staff training and supervision.

\$60/ACA Member, \$70/Non-member

Standards Corner

Standards Update Course

Who should attend?

All visitors and at least one person involved in camp operations.

When will it be held?

Saturday, March 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where will it be held?

3130 East Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008

You will receive your new Standards Book at the training!

Plan on bringing your lunch, drinks will be supplied. Dress comfortably and bring something to write with so you can take notes.

This summer the camps listed below are due for accreditation visits. The new standards will be used and someone involved with the camp operation must attend a standards update course.

Camp Name	City	State
Anytown Camp & Conference Ctr	Prescott	AZ
Camp Sky Y	Prescott	AZ
Camp Wamatochick (Camp Fire)	Prescott	AZ
Kids Kamp	Tolleson	AZ
Lions Camp Tatiyee Inc	Lakeside	AZ
Maripai	Prescott	AZ
Mingus Springs Camp	Prescott	AZ
Saguaro Camp Cherith	Payson	AZ
Shadow Rim Ranch	Phoenix	AZ
TJCC Summer Camps	Tucson	AZ
Willow Springs Program Center	Prescott	AZ
WOW in AZ Inc Youth Camp	Glendale	AZ
Bishop Stoney Camp	Santa Fe	NM
Camp Enchantment	Albuquerque	NM
Lone Tree Ranch	Capitan	NM
Camp Hobe'	Salt Lake City	UT
Camp Trefoil Ranch	Provo	UT
FCYD Camp Utada	West Jordan	UT

The Associate Visitors course will be held the last weekend in March. Anyone that is interested in becoming a visitor, this will be your opportunity to get your training. The course will be held at a camp and is approximately 16 hours so it will require two days. There is a Standards Course application attached to the newsletter. Please contact Char Bowman, Standards Chair, via email at crbatphx@cox.net or 623 444-9012 to let her know of your interest and mail the application to her. There will be a minimum cost for the course to cover food and lodging. Becoming a Standards Visitor is a wonderful way to network with your fellow camp professionals.

All currently accredited camps and current visitors receive their new standards guide when they attend the update training. This is provided by the section. If you need more than the one book, you can order it through the ACA bookstore.



Executive Director's Thoughts

I just don't know where the time has gone. The holidays are over and everyone is really gearing up for the summer. The biggest change affecting our camps this year is the new standards. We are making a big push to get everyone up to speed on the changes so there won't be any surprises during a visit.

I am sure you all notice that no matter how much things change, camp is generally stable. It is a place for children to enjoy what they may not get at home – the out-of-doors. The staff you hire contribute to the entire experience a child has at camp. With everything we have to watch for now it is a scary proposition when hiring staff. Will they be good with children? What is their background? Have they had any trouble with the law? Do they get along well with others in a close situation? Are they responsible? So many questions. In general I believe most camp directors are good judges of character or they would not continue to be in the business, but staffing has become a really scary business. The opportunity that the national office has brought to the organization through ProtectScreen is an excellent way to give everyone more piece of mind. Take the time to check out the program.

Education News:

Please help build our ACA Southwest Education Calendar! If you have any certification courses, educational events, or trainings that you can make available to ACA members, please e-mail Stephanie Hiatt at shiatt@appointment-plus.com with the details, including cost and contact information. We will post them to our website and also send e-mail reminders.

Please check our section website for current education opportunities: www.acasouthwest.org

Membership Update

Southwest Section's current camp membership is 48 of which 48 are accredited. Our current membership is 134. If you know of someone interested in becoming a member or who may be interested in having their camp accredited have them contact Ginger Pauley, Executive Director, at 1 800 265-1917 or swcamps@qwest.net.

Students have a specific category at a discounted membership fee. Visit www.ACAcamps.org for an application.

State Camp Regulations

Check out this site, www.ACAcamps.org/publicpolicy, for complete information about camp-related regulations in each state. The data provides active links to the regulations and information in each state. You will be able to sort by state and the information indicates whether the state allows FBI records checks and information on how to access driving checks in each state complete with costs and links to forms

News from National

Keep your information current!

Members can now update their own personal information right on the Web, www.ACAcamps.org/campupdate or call 765 342-8456 ext. 327 to have a form faxed to you. Have your camp's ACA number and fax number handy. This information is updated real time—right into the database.

ACA Camp Liaisons can update information about their camp that is printed in the Guide and appears on the Web in the *Find A Camp Section*.

Share the Message About ACA Accreditation

We encourage you to take advantage of all the online [ACA-Accreditation Marketing Tools](#)—display your camp's ACA-accreditation logo proudly and properly! Click on "Share the Message" for your online resource for accreditation marketing.

From proper logo use, press releases, and key messages to links to ACA's parent information site, www.CampParents.org, and more, find out everything you need to know about accreditation at www.ACAcamps.org/accreditation.

IRS Launches Online Workshop for Exempt Organizations

The Internal Revenue Service has launched a new Web-based version of its popular Exempt Organizations Workshop covering tax compliance issues confronted by small and mid-sized tax exempt organizations.

The free online workshop, *Stay Exempt: Tax Basics for 501(c)(3)s*, consists of five interactive modules on tax compliance topics for exempt organizations

You can access this new training program at www.stayexempt.org. You can complete the modules in any order and repeat them as many times as you like. The online-training Web site doesn't require registration and visitors will remain anonymous.

Source: Nonprofit Risk Management Center, e-News, January 31, 2007.

"Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better."
~ Richard Hooker



Get It FREE – FREE - FREE

ACA Health Forms, Staff Applications, and Voluntary Disclosure States are now *free* to members to download at www.acabookstore.org/pdfForms.cfm.

PROTECTScreen Launch

After much positioning, the American Camp Association (ACA) has been given an unparalleled opportunity by being selected to participate in the [PROTECT Act pilot criminal background check program](#). This program allows direct access to the FBI criminal database for camp volunteers. The pilot program allows participating camps to submit fingerprints of their volunteers to the FBI. The FBI sends the criminal records report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). NCMEC reviews the records and makes a determination of whether the volunteer meets the criteria of the pilot to serve as a volunteer. Camps then use the determination to make their decision to use a volunteer or not. The cost is \$18 per volunteer and the turn-around time is one week or less.

Participation in the program is very important not only for camps but also for ACA. Camps that work with volunteers should be strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. This program bypasses state access barriers and allows direct access to the FBI. This is otherwise not allowed in most states. It places ACA in a program that has the support and the ear of Congress. It recognizes ACA as a player in the youth development field. As we build the number of our checks processed, it will establish credibility for us as an organization and help us determine any specific issues related to our "industry." It positions us to influence the expansion of the program and be the first in line when the barriers to staff participation have been removed.

For more information on PROTECTScreen, go to: www.ACAcamps.org/publicpolicy.



2474 E. Oakland St.
Gilbert, AZ 85296-9137

SAVE THE DATE!
CampWest 2007
March 14 - 17
Las Vegas, Nevada

Who are and How do you contact your Southwest Section board? The following is a current list of Board members. If you have a need that is not being met, a question, an idea or concern, please contact any of the board members. We are here to serve you and we'd like to hear from you. The Section Board meets three times a year to serve the needs of its membership.

Southwest Section Roster-ACA

Executive Committee

Jared Knight, President/
Aspen Grove BYU Alumni Camp
RR3 Box G-IS
Alumni House BYU
Provo, UT 84604
H) 801/226-3173
W) 801/378-6739
Fax 801/378-2241
Email: Jared_Knight@BYU.edu
Email: Jaredknight@msn.com

Nancy Pianka
Vice President
20 Teypana Drive
Tijeras, NM 87059
H) 505/206-9602
Email: mtncchip@msn.com

Charlotte Bowman,
Secretary/Standards Chair
P.O. Box 2086
Sun City, AZ 85372
H) 623/444-9012
Cell 602/999-3848
Email: CRBatPHX@cox.net

Donald Brown, Treasurer
4800 Gates Pass Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85745
W) 520/620-1220
Fax: 520/18-3538
Email: dbrown@safariclub.org
Email: Pbrown98@cox.net

Board Members

Mark Anderson
Complaint Resolution Chair
Philmont Scout Ranch
17 Deer Run Road
Cimmaron, NM 87714
H) 505/376-2737
W) 505/376-2281
Cell 505/447-2372
Email: manderson@philmontscout ranch.org

Phil Beam
New Mexico District Chair
YMCA CampShaver
4701 Montano Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-2427
W) 505/829-3572
Fax: 505/829-3516
Email: phil@campshaver.com

Tom Dinkins
Public Relations Chair
4536 E. LaEstancia
Tucson, AZ 85718
H) 520/299-2436
Cell 520/490-4117
Email: tom dinkins@comcast.net

Doug Grimm
Grand Canyon District Chair
Camping Services YMCA
Valley of the Sun
5725 S. Senator Hwy.
Prescott, AZ 85303
W) 928/445-1385
Fax: 928/445-1908
Email: dggrimm@vosymca.org

Stephanie Haitt
Education Chair
Whispering Pines Adventures
10604 E. Acacia Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
H) 480/502-9252
Email: shiatt@appointment-plus.com

Lisa Hardin-Reynolds
Utah District Chair
Girl Scouts of Utah
P.O. Box 57280
Salt Lake City, UT 84157-0280
H) 801/355 0981
W) 801/265-8472 ext. 22
Fax 801/261-1213
Email: lhardin@gsutah.org

Matthew Hurtes
Nominating/Awards Chair
622 Wall Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
W) 801/743-7131
Cell 801/232-3656
Email: kc4yy2@hotmail.com

Becky List, CampWest Liaison
65 Homestead Blvd.
Mill Valley, CA 94941 (temporary)
Cell 415/497-1081
Email: beckylist@myfastmail.com

Ginger Pauley
Executive Director
2474 E. Oakland St.
Gilbert, AZ 85296-9137
H) 480/279-1025
W) 480/557-1142
Cell 480/518-5028
Fax 775/993-5717
Email: swcamps@qwest.net

american **CAMP** association®

THE VISITOR JOB DESCRIPTION

PREREQUISITES

1. At least 25 years of age
2. Current ACA member
3. Successful completion of the Associate Visitors Course
4. Successful completions of the required visits under the supervision and evaluation of a Visitor-Mentor (the number of required visits determined by the Associate Visitor Course Instructor – a minimum of two)

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Maturity and good judgment
2. Understanding of camping operations
3. Willingness to participate in training and updates/refreshers, and to conduct standards visits
4. Relates well to camping professionals
5. Objectivity, patience and, willingness to learn
6. Capable and ready to assume ultimate authority during the visit for compliance decisions and applicability of specific standards and sections of standards.

CERTIFICATION – Based on:

1. Satisfactory completion of supervised visits
2. Demonstrated ability to assume full responsibility and ultimate authority for visits
3. Endorsement of Section Standards Chair, Section Standards Committee, and Section Board
4. Indication by the candidate that s/he is ready to assume full responsibility for visits and/or for supervising Associate Visitors on his/her training visits

RESPONSIBILITIES:

When Visiting

1. Observe all aspects of camp operation.
2. Assist camp staff/Director/committee in improving their own observation skills regarding the camp.
3. Interpret the Standards as related to each camp visited.
4. Correct and update the Camp Profile information for the *Accreditation Process Guide*.
5. Along with the Director and second Visitor, complete the scoring and comment forms accurately and completely, securing all required signatures. The person designated as the Lead Visitor is the final authority on scoring.
6. Distribute completed forms as directed to the Camp Director, the Section Standards Chairperson, and the national office immediately following the visit.
7. Provide information as needed in Review Process and/or Appeal Process.
8. Attend Standards Update or Refresher at least once every three years, and conduct a visit at least every other year.

When Serving as the Lead Visitor

1. Contact the other person(s) assigned to the visit and Camp Director to make arrangements for the date and time of the visit.
2. Arrange a written documentation preview (WDP) with the Director.
3. Assume ultimate authority on matters related to scoring and compliance.
4. Determine how the visit will be conducted – with visitors viewing separate areas, as a team, etc.
5. Complete ICA Response Form, send to Section Standards Chair, and be available for ICA follow-up.
6. Write a thank-you note to the camp director following the visit.
7. May be appointed as a mentor.

When Serving as a Mentor

1. Discuss with the Standards Chair appropriate goals for the Associate Visitor assigned to you.
2. Plan the visit to help the Associate Visitor gain new experiences and increase skills.
3. Evaluate the visit and the Associate Visitor's performance with that individual.
4. Share the Associate Visitor's progress with the Standards Chair.

american **CAMP** association®

Name:		
Address:		
Telephone: (Home)		(Work)
Email:		
ACA Section:	ACA Member #:	# Years ACA Member?
Previous ACA Section membership:		
Experience in Organized Camping:		
Educational Background:		

Candidate submits application to Section Chair Person(s)

Step 2 – Section Endorsement

The above named applicant has been duly approved as a candidate for training as an Associate Visitor.
Standards Chairperson Signature: _____

Date: _____

Section standards Chair submits application to Instructor

Step 3 – Instructor Endorsement Upon Candidate's Completion of Training

The above named applicant has satisfactorily completed Associate Visitor Training at (location)

On (dates) _____ and is hereby recommended for certification as an Associate Visitor. To complete training, the candidate must satisfactorily complete at least _____ visits with supervision and evaluation by a Visitor Mentor.

Instructor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Instructor submits application to Section Board

Step 4 – Section Endorsement of Certification

The Board of ACA, _____ Section certified the above named candidate as an associate Visitor at its (date) _____ meeting.

Section President Signature: _____

Date: _____

Immediately following the certification, application should be forwarded to the national ACA office for coding and permanent record keeping.