



Mountains and Mesas

April 2008

Southwest Ramblin's

I just returned from the American Camp Association's Council of Delegates meeting in Nashville and I was impressed of the foresight that the ACA national board is taking in collaborating with all of the ACA sections for impressive goals and objectives to benefit children and youth nationwide. The main initiative we are planning for is called *20/20 Vision* which through many goals and strategic planning will bring the number of children and youth served in ACA accredited camps to 20 million by the year 2020. This focus will also invite other youth development leaders in our states, community and nation to join forces with ACA to better serve the needs of children and youth. One need that is at the frontline of youth development is the critical need for children to be impacted by outdoor education and recreation. Camp nature activities and involvement where children interact, learn, and understand their natural outdoor world is so crucial for their overall development. Companioned with this significant emphasis is the need for children and youth to be physically active in the outdoors and to get the needed exercise to be healthy and to develop life-long skills of exercise and to embrace life-long hobbies and interests involving nature appreciation and respect. I am excited for the future of the American Camp Association's vision and I am thrilled to be a part of the ACA Southwest Section and for the great and important programs that we are undertaking and will continue to undertake in the coming years. Thank you for being involved in this great movement!

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

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Coming in the May issue of *Mountains and Mesas*:

- Staff Training Ideas
- Making your Dining Hall Vegetarian-Friendly
- How to Assess Your Waterfront Staff
- And more!

Welcome New Members!

Member Type	Name	Affiliation
ACA Liaison	Ariana Vigil	American Cancer Society
Staff Member	Alexa Rubin	Unknown
Staff Member	Ben McLenna	Girl Scouts of the USA
Business Liaison	Brad Magill	Unknown
Staff Member	Carl Boyles	Boy Scouts Of America
Student Member	Crystal Moore	Unknown
Staff Member	David Rivera	Girl Scouts of the USA
Other	Geoffrey Lavell	Unknown
Other	Joseph Seelbaugh	Camp Fire USA
Student Member	Julie Power	Unknown
ACA Liaison	Kristy Gropel	Unknown
ACA Liaison	Laura White	Independent Not-For-Profit
Staff Member	May DooH	Girl Scouts of the USA
Staff Member	Richard Bourlon	Boy Scouts Of America
Staff Member	Ryan Klindtworth	Unknown
Owner/Director Member	Shannon Martin	Unknown
ACA Liaison	Shirley Whalen	Woodmen Of The World
Student Member	Tim Graf	Unknown
Staff Member	Tim Hilgendorf	Baptist, American
Business Liaison	Tim Lunt	Unknown
Staff Member	Yvette Gonzalez	Unknown

This is YOUR newsletter...
...so tell us what you think!

What kind of information do you need or want from a section newsletter?

Ideally, how often would you receive a section newsletter?

What is the best way for you to receive information from ACA Southwest?

Do you receive "Inside ACA"—the national ACA monthly newsletter?

What other support can the section provide you with?

Please send any thoughts, ideas, complaints, or submissions for future issues to:

Becky List, Education Chair
ACASouthwestEducation@gmail.com

Standards Corner



It's that time of year again! Letters were sent to the directors of camps to be visited this summer and to all visitors on April 6th. Please return them to Matthew Hurtes, Standards Chair, by **April 28th**.

If you did not receive a letter, or if you have any questions, please contact Matthew at kc4yy2@hotmail.com or (801) 232-3656.

Camps due for an accreditation visit this summer are:

Camp Name	State
American Wilderness Leadership	AZ
Friendly Pines Camp	AZ
Orme Ranch Camp	AZ
Pine Canyon Camp	AZ
Reality Ranch Military Camp	AZ
Sombrero Day Camp	AZ
WOW Arizona Inc. Youth Camp	AZ
YMCA Triangle Y Ranch	AZ
Camp Rising Sun	NM
Fort Lone Tree	NM
Lone Tree Lakeshore Camp	NM
Lone Tree Mexico Mission	NM
WOW New Mexico Youth Corp	NM
YMCA Camp Shaver	NM
All Star Adventure Camp	NV
Foxtail Girl Scout Camp	NV

Is your camp being visited this summer? If so, it is not too early to be reviewing your written documentation, your hiring policies, policies regarding staff and camper possessions, etc.

Do you have the new (2006) Accreditation Process Guide (APG; aka "Standards Book")? If your camp has not received a copy, please contact Ginger Pauley, Executive Director, at (800) 265-1917 or swcamps@qwest.net

Also, please make sure you have reviewed the "List of Changes to the ACA Accreditation Process Guide (2006)". This document contains all of the pages that have revised standards—you can just print them out and put them right into your APG. You can find the PDF file online at:

www.acacamps.org/accreditation/interpretations.pdf

It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference.

-Tom Brokaw

Executive Director's Thoughts

The holidays have come and gone and Spring is already here. Camps have begun sprucing up for summer and directors have begun hiring staff. Camp is just around the corner!

It's getting harder and harder to hire summer staff for camp. Not only do salaries enter into the mix, but school years have also changed. Many of the teachers that worked summer camp in the past are now working at a teaching position in the summer. More and more of the cities are adopting year-round school. Just where does that leave camps for staff? Many of you are struggling. Students are also looking for higher paying positions for the summer and when fast food restaurants are paying \$9.00 or more for part-time help, it is hard to entice staff with typical camp pay. Staff are at a premium.

Membership Update

Southwest Section's current camp membership is 52 (of which 48 are accredited camps). Our current membership is 142 people.

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 (800) 265-1917 or swcamps@qwest.net

Are you a full-time student? You can be an ACA Member for just \$35 a year! And students get to attend the ACA National Conference for FREE! Visit www.acacamps.org/membership to join

Have a Ball with the D'Backs!

The Arizona Diamondbacks are excited to host two Camp Days – June 19 and July 3 – in 2008. Camp Day participants receive discount seat prices at their choices of two games. You are welcome to bring your own bag lunches to the game and free bus parking is available.

Ticket orders must be received by the Diamondbacks Group Sales Office by June 9 (for the June 23 game) or June 23 (for the July 3 game).

In addition, one camp leader and a guest per camp are invited to attend a complimentary reception in the VIP Party Suites (snacks and beverages provided). You'll get a chance to meet other camp day leaders while you cheer on the Diamondbacks.

Contact the Group Sales Office at (602) 462-4600 and be sure to mention you want to attend Camp Day.

Check out the diamondbacks online at www.dbacks.com

Upcoming Education Events and Trainings

Check out our website at www.acasouthwest.org/training for the most current list and for detailed information about these and other trainings

April 23 - ServSafe Certification Course

Fawnskin, CA

www.acasocal.org/training

April 28-May 7 - Wilderness First Responder Course

Winter Park, CO

www.acacamps.org/rm/education

May 5-9 - Level 1 Challenge Course Facilitator

Near Santa Cruz, CA: \$550 (includes meals and lodging)

www.challengeworks.com/pages/training

May 9-11 - Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR Course

Phoenix, AZ: \$120 ACA/\$150 non-ACA

May 10 - Small Craft Safety/Canoe Course

Phoenix, AZ: \$20 ACA/\$25 non-ACA

May 11 - Emergency Response Challenge

Phoenix, AZ: \$55 ACA/\$70 non-ACA

May 11 - Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR Challenge

Phoenix, AZ: \$40 ACA/\$50 non-ACA

May 11 - CPR/Professional Rescuer Challenge

Phoenix, AZ: \$20 ACA/\$25 non-ACA

May 18-22 - Level 1 Challenge Course Facilitator

Torreon, NM: \$500 (includes meals and lodging)

May 20-23 - NRA Basic Firearms Instructor

Jackson, WY

May 23 - NAA Level 1 Archery Course

Prescott, AZ

May 24 - NAA Level 1 Archery Course

Los Angeles, CA: \$80 ACA/\$90 non-ACA

www.acasocal.org/training

May 25 - NAA Level 1 Archery Course

Van Nuys, CA: \$80 ACA/\$90 non-ACA

www.acasocal.org/training

May 26-27 - Wilderness First Aid Course

Winter Park, CO

www.acacamps.org/rm/education

May 31 - NAA Level 1 Archery Course

San Diego, CA: \$80 ACA/\$90 non-ACA

www.acasocal.org/training

A Busy, Conference-Filled Spring

Whew! Is it really mid-April already? Now that my taxes are done, I finally have a few minutes to go through the pile of handouts and notes I accumulated at 3 (yes, 3!) ACA Conferences this spring.

As an ACA Student Member, I'm fortunate to be able to attend the National Conference for free, which is a pretty good deal. Jared talked a bit about ACA's 20/20 Vision project in Southwest Ramblin's (see page 1), and Peg Smith, the CEO of ACA, had a great closing keynote speech that outlined why ACA and camp are so important to today's society.

Of the 40 million 5-14 year-olds in the US, about 10 million go to camp—and only 3 million of them attend ACA-accredited camps. We as an organization need to get the public to understand and embrace camp because, as Peg pointed out, "It's not about camp; it's about making people better".

You can see the full transcript of her keynote at: www.acacamps.org/handouts/Smith%20Peg%20-%20The%20Strength%20of%20Many%20Voices%20Keynote.pdf

Or watch it on the ACA website (it's about 20 minutes): www.acacamps.org/member/video/pegkeynote.html

I was happy to see many of you at CampWest in early April. While Las Vegas may not seem like the first choice for a camp conference, all of us from the northern reaches of the country certainly appreciated the sunshine. Many thanks to all of you who volunteered your time or equipment, and to those who came to the section gathering on Wednesday night. While the location has yet to be announced, go ahead and start mark the dates for next year's conference—April 1-4, 2009—on your calendar, and we'll post more information as soon as it becomes available.

My final stop on the ACA Conference stop circuit was at Mid-States, held in the Chicago suburbs. I didn't expect to see many people from our part of the world there, but actually met someone who recently started at the University of Utah—and wanted to get more involved in the section. Apparently we as an organization need to find better ways to reach students in the recreation programs at local universities. If you have a connection with a program in one of the states we serve, please let me know—and keep spreading the word about ACA!

Have a course or event to add? Looking for a training not listed? Need more information? Contact Becky List, Education Chair, at (415) 497-1081 or ACASouthwestEducation@gmail.com

News from National

Are you reading *Inside ACA*, the monthly ACA electronic newsletter? If not, you should be! Every month, you'll get an email with dozens of articles, which include everything from the latest in ACA research to relevant issues to standards news. Some of the topics in the April, 2008 issue are:

[Expand Your Resources: Enroll in ACA's e-Institute](#)

[New Camp Sites, Facilities, and Programs Research Results Now Available Online](#)

[Seeing ACA Through a 20/20 Lens](#)

[NEW Material on ACA's Camp Regulations by State Web Site](#)

[Grants for Summer and Afterschool Meals](#)

[Children & Nature Awareness Month – April 2008](#)

All ACA members should be receiving the newsletter automatically. If you're not, you can subscribe at: www.acacamps.org/inside/subscribe

State Camp Regulations

Are you confused about camp-related regulations in your state? ACA has a page where you can get everything you need in one spot. It also includes whether each state allows FBI records checks and information on how to access driving checks—complete with costs and links to forms. There's also a link to a PDF that compares the regulations of all states. Find it online here: www.acacamps.org/publicpolicy/regulations

Donations Made Easy!

ACA is a public charity and needs your help. Currently, only 34 percent of the operating budget is funded by membership dues and camp fees. The rest is dependent on the generous contributions of many to promote the work you do. Now it's easier than ever to donate! Log on to www.ACACamps.org/support and give through our easy and secure online donation form.

NEW FORMS for ACA Members and Camps

The Association for Camp Nurses (ACN) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently joined together to develop two new medical forms for camps to use with their camper population. One form is a four-page camper health history; the second form is a one-page medical recommendation form to be completed by the physician. These two forms used together are equivalent to the old "Green Form" for campers and will meet the current ACA Standards for HW-2 and HW-6.

The ACN has also developed several additional forms to be used as a template and/or a sample for camps. These include: Health History Form for Camp Staff, Medical Recommendation for Camp Employee, Request for Additional Information about Your Child's Asthma, Health History Form for Short-Term Campers (three nights or less), Health and Emergency Information for Adult Campers, and Exemption for Immunization Request.

All of the above mentioned forms are available as a free download for ACA members. Several of these, as well as other forms may be purchased in a convenient 100 pack through the ACA Bookstore.

For description and additional information, visit: www.acacamps.org/members/healthforms

ACA-Accreditation Message Reaches More Audiences Through Business Affiliates

In new collaborative ventures between ACA and two Business Affiliates, Summercamps.com and Gocamps.com, the ACA-accreditation message is reaching a broader audience.

Summercamps.com features a prominent link to CampParents.org; offers a search function for ACA-Accredited® camps directly from its home page; displays the ACA-accredited logo; and provides information about what it means to be ACA accredited, promoting the value of ACA-accredited camps throughout its Web site.

Gocamps.com refers its site visitors to key messages describing what ACA accreditation means, and the ACA-accreditation logo is indicated with each ACA-accredited camp listing.

ACA encourages ACA-accredited camps listed with either of these online camp directories to confirm that ACA accreditation is part of their customized profile features. Please take advantage of this expanded opportunity to share the message of your camp's commitment to providing children with a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment.



Upcoming Events

Board Meeting in Phoenix AZ Oct 08
 Board Meeting in Albuquerque NM..... Jan 09
 Annual Meeting at Philmont, NM..... Jan 09
 CampWest Conference April 1-4, 2009
 Section Training offerings See Website

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.

American Camp Association Southwest Section Board Member Roster

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