

Southwest Ramblin's Recently, I attended a meeting that focused on growing the American Camp Association nation-wide significantly in the next twelve years. In order to accomplish this there would be a lot of steps to get the ACA message out to non-member camps of the benefit of being an accredited camp (that will increase the number of participating camps) and to get the message out to parents to promote the long-lasting value of having their children attend summer camp. The impact that these efforts would go way beyond the camping movement as we impact more children and their families by educating them through camping in the following ways: The importance of nature education by being outside in a camp environment, being a good citizen by being a part of a camp community, and learning integrity and character development from the leadership of mentoring and loving young adult camp counselors. So how do we grow the Southwest Section? – One camp at a time! (By increasing camps that are ACA accredited we will grow the campership as well, as more children are involved we will get noticed by educators, parents, and community leaders who will see the value of camping and invite more children to benefit from this experience – thus increasing the number of children attending camps.)

If we each focus on letting our peers who are not involve in ACA know of training events, educational conferences, networking opportunities, and the value of the ACA accreditation process anytime the opportunity arises we are advancing forward. One step that I would like to lead out on is getting a small table top display to all ACA camps in the Section that are accredited and who attend winter and spring college campus job fairs so they can display these place cards at the front of their booth to create a dialog with other camps that are attending job fairs. I will be working with district chairs in each of the states in the Section to distribute these ACA table top displays as well as written promotion on the American Camp Association. I appreciate all of the hard work that members of this Section do to further the cause of youth develop through organized camping –

Thank You!

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



It's Election Time

Each year we are required to hold an election for board members. This year two positions are being elected: Secretary and Nominations & Awards. The ballot will be online so be sure to take a couple of minutes to cast your vote.

Char Bowman is the incumbent Secretary. She has been involved with the American Camp Association for over 20 years and has held the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Standards Chair. Char is retired from Girl Scouts where she was the CEO at the Albuquerque Council.

Pam Swanson is running for Nominations & Awards Chair. Pam is the Executive Director of Lions Camp Tatiyee located in Lakeside AZ. She has directed the camp for many years and effectively evacuated the camp twice because of eminent fire hazards. Pam is a former school teacher and has extensive experience working with challenged children and adults. Her expertise in working with the community will be a valuable asset to the board.

You will be receiving an email with a link to the ballot. It will require your membership number so if you don't know it, contact Ginger Pauley at swcamps@qwest.net or call 1-800-265-1917 and leave a message.

Ballots must be in by December 29th, 2008.

What's Inside

Annual Meeting Philmont Scout Ranch ...	page 4
Executive Director's Thoughts	page 3
Membership Update.....	page 2
News From National.....	page 4
Standards Corner	page 2
Upcoming Events & Trainings.....	page 2

Membership Update

Southwest Section’s current camp membership is 50 (of which 48 are accredited camps). Our current membership is 154.

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.

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

Have a course or event to add? Looking for a training not listed? Need more information? Contact Tom Dinkins, Education Chair, at (520) 299-2436.

Standards Corner



By now you should have received your letter confirming your accreditation status if you were visited this past summer. If you have not received the letter, contact Char Bowman at crbatphx@cox.net.

Several letter were returned due to incorrect addresses in the national database.

Congratulations to the following camps that successfully achieved accreditation this past summer.

Camp Name	State
American Wilderness Leadership	AZ
Friendly Pines Camp	AZ
Orme Ranch Camp	AZ
Pine Canyon 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
Foxtail Girl Scout Camp	NV

Camps due for an accreditation visit this summer are:

Camp Name	State
Arizona Camp Sunrise	AZ
Camp Cloud Rim	UT
Camp Elliott Barker	NM
Camp Honor	AZ
Camp Kostopulos	UT
Camp Ponderosa Ranch	AZ
Camp Rainbow	AZ
Charles Pearlstein	AZ
Chauncey Ranch	AZ
Faith Adventure Camp	AZ
Manzano Mountain Retreat	NM
Mingus Mountain Camp	AZ
Montlure	AZ
Navajo Trails Adventure Camp	UT
Philmont Scot Ranch	NM
Rancho Del Chaparral	NM
Tonto Rim Christian Camp	AZ

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 There will be a Standards Update Course on Wednesday, January 14th from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. in Albuquerque. The place to be determined. Watch for the announcement!

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

If you received a message that you haven’t signed the current *Statement of Compliance* please be sure you get it done so your camp does not lose its accreditation status at the end of the year.

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation’s not to utter words, but to live by them.

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963), 35th President of the United States



Executive Director's Thoughts

It is a particular difficult time that the camping industry is embarking on this year. With so many people losing their jobs because of the economy, camp probably will not be at the head of the list of things for children to do this summer. Money is bound to be tight and although many families will choose to do things with their children that keep them closer to home, that may not necessarily include camp. Camps are going to have to be more creative in their marketing in order to intrigue parents enough to send their children to camp. Parents may have to be more creative in finding ways to finance the camp experience for their children.

Even with all the challenges camps and parents are facing this year, it is important to remember how wonderful a summer at camp is for a child. Let's all think out-of-the-box for ways to entice families to consider camp as a great way to instill values, have fun and meet new friends.

Welcome New Members!

The following people have joined our section in the last couple of months.

Ashcraft, Chelsea	Children's Choice Child Care Services, Inc	NM
Gustafson, Christy	Children's Choice Child Care Services, Inc	NM
Knox, Kay	Children's Choice Child Care Services, Inc	NM
Troxell, Chris	Student Member	NV

Donations Made Easy!

Each year our section has a funding drive. The dollars donated go into a fund to help camps with the accreditation process by providing mentors or educational opportunities for members. Look for your letter soon.

News from National

A Strategic Roadmap to 2020

With the 20/20 Vision in mind, your national board has adopted a plan that details how we will reach our preferred future. Just as a driver would not set out upon a long trip without a roadmap (or at least a good GPS), our board has looked closely at where we are and where we want to be by the year 2020. The Board has developed a plan on how we will get there, which we call our [Strategic Roadmap to 2020](#).

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 November/December 2008 issue are:

[20/20 Vision](#)

[Partnership with College News Directs Thousands to ACA Employment Center](#)

[New Partnership With Teach For America](#)

[ACA Video Contest — Vote for Your Favorite!](#)

[November/December Digital Camping Magazine](#)

[Mary Ennis Retires After Fifty-Three Years of Service to ACA](#)

[Enter the J. Wendell and Ruth T. Howe Golden Lens Photography Contest](#)

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

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:

Ginger Pauley, Executive Director, swcamps@qwest.net



Annual Meeting
January 16, 2009
Philmont Scout Ranch

The **American Camp Association Southwest** will conduct their Annual Meeting on Friday, January 16, 2009 at Philmont Scout Ranch located near Cimarron, New Mexico.

The Annual Meeting will take place at 10:00 am at the Philmont Training Center.

The Keynote Address will be given by Keith Gallaway, Director, High Adventure Division of the Boy Scouts of America and General Manager, Philmont Scout Ranch.

A **Silent Auction and Raffle** will take place to raise money to support the "I Believe Camping" Fund which is designated money for helping with camp education opportunities. All donations of items to the Silent Auction and Raffle

A banquet dinner will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

ACA Members and Guests are invited to visit Philmont Scout Ranch Thursday and Friday, January 15 and 16. A \$50.00 fee will cover the cost of three meals, lodging and an evening cobbler cookout.

Thursday – January 15

Afternoon – Arrive at the Ranch and Check-in at the Philmont Training Center

5:30 pm – Dinner

7:30 pm – Campfire – Cowboy Singing – Cobbler Cookout

Friday – January 16

7:00 am – Breakfast

Philmont Tours – Museum, Base Camp, Tooth of Time Traders, Villa Philmonte.

Introduction to American Camp Association

10:00 am – Annual Meeting of ACA Southwest

Key Note Address

Keith Gallaway, Director, High Adventure Division, BSA

Banquet

Silent Auction – Raffle

Afternoon – Philmont Tours - Museum, Base Camp, Tooth of Time Traders, Villa Philmonte

For those who **only** will attend the Annual Meeting Banquet the cost is \$10.00.

Reservations for this event will be coordinated by ACA Southwest

To obtain additional information about Philmont Scout Ranch contact:

Mark Anderson, Director of Program at 575-376-2281 or mark.anderson@scouting.org.



Annual Meeting
January 16, 2009
Philmont Scout Ranch

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Camp/Association: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Meals & Lodging # _____ Annual Meeting Banquet only: # _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ \$ _____

Mail Remittance to:

American Camp Association Southwest
2474 E. Oakland Street
Gilbert, AZ 85295-9137



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Gilbert, AZ 85295-9137

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

Executive Committee

Jared Knight
President
Aspen Grove BYU Alumni Camp
RR3 Box E-10 Sundance
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Nancy Pianka
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Charlotte Bowman
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Board Members

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Complaint Resolution Chair
Philmont Scout Ranch
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manderson@philmontscoutranch.org

Phil Beam
New Mexico District Chair
YMCA Camp Shaver
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Katie Dailey
Grand Canyon District Chair
Girl Scouts of Arizona Cactus-Pine
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Tom Dinkins
Education/Public Relations Chair
4536 E. LaEstancia
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Standards Chair
YMCA Triangle Y Ranch
Camp & Retreat Center
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Nomination & Awards Chair
Girl Scouts of Utah
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