

Southwest Ramblin's

Summer camp is coming up so fast that I hope that everyone is prepared because it is on its way. I know that I am working long hours to get ready. One thing that has been on my mind lately is the importance of being prepared for the unexpected staff surprises and having late-hire training information ready to go at a moment's notice. Last year for me, I had several staff either drop out just before the season, not show up at all, or the need for staff to trade positions mid-season. Late-hire training has helped with providing safety guidelines and provides continuity of policies and complies with Standards. I have a notebook with each position's job description, safety and emergency procedures, certification/observation notes, and camp policies ready to go if I need them. I hope everyone has a safe and fully-staffed summer season.

Jared Knight
Southwest Section President

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

Summer is here...are you ready for your visit? Visitor assignments were sent out on June 8th. Lead visitors—don't forget to get in touch with your associate visitor and the directors of the camp(s) you will be visiting ASAP. Also, it is recommended that you schedule a pre-visit with the camp director to go over documentation before the visit.



Questions? Contact Matthew Hurtes, Standards Chair, at kc4yy2@hotmail.com or (801) 232-3656.

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

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Executive Director's Thoughts

As I sit here thinking about the summer camp season, it comes to mind the impact the gas prices are making on our camps. In our section alone, we have had some long standing camps close in recent years and I know of at least one that the deciding factor was gas pricing.

When you think about what it takes to get a child to camp this has to be a consideration. Many camps do not use busing and rely on parents to get the children to their facilities. For those that use busing, that cost is going to be passed on to families in terms of higher fees.

With the gas prices what they are (and what they are going to be) you have to wonder how many families will chose not to send their children to camp.

It is sad, indeed, to think that something like fuel can impact even children. Camps that have travel programs may be forced to decrease or even eliminate these programs while others that just do outings many chose not to.

This may not be all bad. We might be headed back to the basics where camp staff had to think up activities to engage children. Now is the time to make sure your staff understand the reason they are at camp and get them engaged in the true meaning of a wonderful camp experience for all - campers and staff alike!

Have a Ball with the D'Backs!

The Arizona Diamondbacks are excited to host Camp Day – 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 23.

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

Membership Discount!

The National office is currently working on a plan to offer camps a discount if they purchase multiple memberships for their camp staff. Camp Directors: keep on eye on your email box for more information.

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

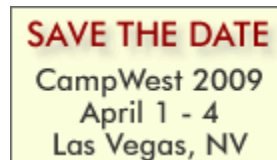
Upcoming Education Events and Trainings

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

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

No trainings are scheduled for this summer. Keep an eye out for fall events!



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:

ACA's New Membership Model Takes Effect July 1

In ACA's new membership system, everyone has access to the same great resources and learning opportunities at the same individual membership rate of \$200.

How to Start Saving on Fuel Costs Today at Camp!

ACA polled a number of camps across the country to determine how they were dealing with the perplexing issue of rising fuel costs and to accumulate the following list of energy-efficient ideas and methods camps are currently using to curb increasing fuel prices and the subsequent consequences of higher food prices and declines in the economy.

AED's May Save a Life at Your Camp

The American Red Cross reports that more than 300,000 people suffer from sudden cardiac arrest each year. Increasing the chance of survival if such an emergency occurs in your camp can be achieved by having at least one person in each camp trained in the proper usage of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and having an AED readily available.

Train Your Staff Online With ACA e-Institute Courses

Debuting this week is a three-part series revolving around the reduction of injuries and illnesses in camp. The courses were developed based on early results from the Healthy Camp Study, a five-year monitoring study of injuries and illness in U.S. camps.

Healthy Camp Study Enrollment Now Open

Want to gain a powerful risk management tool for identifying and assessing injuries and illness at your camp? Enroll your camp in Year 3 of the Healthy Camp Study today.

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.



Southwest
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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.

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