

Southwest Ramblin's I hope everyone had a productive and safe summer and I'm sure you are all starting to look ahead to next year. The following is a story that makes me laugh and reminds me of the importance for camp administrators and staff to keep moving forward with a positive attitude and a smile.

A lady woke up and looked in the mirror and noticed she only had 3 hairs on her head. She said great I think I'll put my hair in a braid today and she went off and had a great day. The next day when the lady woke up and looked in the mirror to do her hair, she only had 2 hairs on her head and so she said I think I'll part my hair down the middle today, and she went off and had a great day. The third day the lady woke up and looked in the mirror and noticed she only had one hair on her head, so she said I think I'll wear a ponytail today and she went off and had a great day. The fourth day the lady got up and looked in the mirror and she was completely bald. She threw both hands up in the air and said "Yeah!" what an easy hair day and she was happy.

Jared Knight
ACA Southwest President

Interested in being
a Board Member?

The ACA Southwest Section has
several vacancies and we're looking
for a few good folks to fill them!

Contact Jared Knight, Section
President, for more information at:
Jared_Knight@BYU.edu

Standards Corner

A great big THANK YOU to all of the standards visitors who volunteered their time to visit camps this summer. In 2008, camps were visited in all four of "our" states (Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah) as well as Wyoming and Mexico (yes, the country of Mexico!).



For an added bit of trivia, the Southwest Section also oversees a camp in Minnesota and one in Florida—go figure that one out!

Are you interested in becoming a visitor? Do you know someone else who is? Please contact Char Bowman and let her know what geographic part of the section you'd like to see a training offered in. You can find her at: CRBatPHX@cox.net

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Executive Director's Thoughts

From what I have heard so far it was a good summer for most and I hope your camp is one of those.

I applaud the staff that work at camp. It is my belief that anyone that works at camp is special. They have a gift for giving of themselves and a desire to contribute to the molding of today's youth. Working at a camp is a growth experience for the counselor, specialist, directing staff as well as the support staff such as; cooks, nurses and site managers. We have all had the opportunity to learn from others, but summer camp puts everyone in such close proximity you can't help but learn from the experience.

For many, summer camp is just a job or experience, but little do they know how over the years, they will think about something they did at camp and come to realize if not for that time they would not have had that experience. I know I decided to work at camp because of the wonderful experience I had as a child. Although not a glamorous job, it is fulfilling. So, again, my hat is off to camp staff for the many unselfish hours they contribute to the growth of children and their own personal growth.

Ginger

Membership Update

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

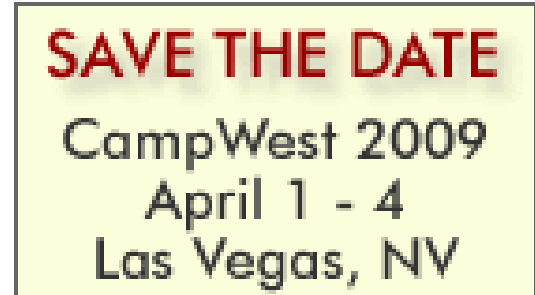
Are you a student? You can be an ACA Member for just \$35 a year! And students get to attend the ACA National Conference for FREE! Visit www.ACAcamps.org for an application.

Upcoming Education Events and Trainings

Check out our website at www.acasouthwest.org/training for the most current list

The next few months are a little slow in the education department, but check out www.acacamps.org/education/calendar for trainings and conferences around the country.

And mark your calendars for CampWest Conference 2009!



Consider Presenting at the 2009 National Conference

We are seeking session proposals from camp and youth development professionals with knowledge, experience, case-specific lessons-learned, and teachable techniques that will benefit our national conference audience. Proposals are taken online, at www.ACAcamps/conference and are **due by September 15**. Our Conference Program Review Team, led by Program Chair, Dayna Hardin, will begin their review, immediately following the deadline. Selected presenters and co-presenters receive a substantial discount on registration. The Power of the Experience is strengthened by your program contributions.

News from National

Discover the Power of the Experience at the 2009 ACA National Conference--February 17-20 in Orlando, Florida.

Visit <http://www.acacamps/conference> for more information, including how to register, the schedule-at-a-glance, and more!

Are you a college student looking towards a future in the Camp Industry? Check out the Student Camp Leadership Academy!

The next Student Camp Leadership Academy (SCLA) will take place November 7-9, 2008, at Camp White Eagle in Leaf River, Illinois (thirty miles from Rockford, Illinois). College students wanting to attend SCLA must apply and be approved to participate through their ACA local offices regardless of where the funding for the students' SCLA fee is coming from (even if the student is paying for himself or herself). For further information, application deadlines, or application packets for the 2008 SCLA, please visit the SCLA Web site: www.ACACamps.org/scla.

For more details about SCLA, including curriculum, history, and alumni testimonials, see the article, [The Student Camp Leadership Academy: Developing the Next Generation of Camp Professionals](#).

Get some good photos at camp this summer? Enter the J. Wendell and Ruth T. Howe Golden Lens Photography Contest!

Send us your favorite photos that depict the camp experience and represent the best practices in the field. Include with each submission the photographer's name, camp name, contact address, and phone number. You must complete an online photo release form with each submission. Visit www.acacamps.org/campmag/photo_release for details.

Mail to: □
Camping Magazine/ACA
5000 State Road 67
North □ Martinsville, IN 46151 □ □
Or, e-mail magazine@ACACamps.org

Deadline for submissions is November 30, 2008.

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.

Is Your Camp Being Visited in 2009?

If so, it is not too early to be reviewing your written documentation, your hiring policies, policies regarding staff and camper possessions, etc. Also, make sure someone who will be involved in the preparation of your materials and on site the day of the visits attends a Standards Course. More than one person from a camp may attend a Course for no charge. Please make sure you have reviewed the revised Standards and Interpretations www.acacamps.org/accreditation/interpretations.pdf

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.



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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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