

Southwest Ramblin's

Summer is here and this is a very busy time for camp professionals. This year especially there are many outside factors that are making getting ready for the camp season even more difficult such as economic factors, swine flu fears, minimum wage legislation, and for many camps complying with new safety laws concerning swimming pools. The American Camp Association has information available on its website to assist with many of these areas and is an excellent resource.

To better serve, unify and streamline the services that the ACA provides for camps, campers, and camp professionals new changes regarding consolidating resources are being planned and organized to function as one ACA unit throughout the nation. What that means for the Southwest Section is that we will be divided into a larger region(s) with an ACA executive and volunteers in a regional role as well as local volunteers in each of the states.

A proposed map was sent to the section presidents May 1st highlighting suggested regions. The map divides our current section in half by including Utah and Nevada into a western region and putting Arizona and New Mexico with Texas and Oklahoma.

In response to this, a formal request to the ACA National President, CEO, and the 20/20 Task Force was sent by the six current section presidents of the western United States on May 6, 2009. The following is part of this request:

The presidents of the six western sections (Southwest, Southern California/Hawaii, Oregon Trail, Evergreen, Northern California, and Rocky Mountain) met today to prepare for the May 12th conference call with the 20/20 Task Force. From conversations at the Council of Delegates and today, we would like to include Arizona and New Mexico in the western region (#1). This would follow the affinity and geographic association that we feel is very important to all of these western states.

The task force will have a lot of important decisions to make in order to provide the best model that will grow the association in youth and in camps membership and to make a larger difference in the overall camping industry. I am confident that the process will have a positive impact on each of us. As your section board we will do our best to provide meaningful input and feedback to the 20/20 task force where needed to provide the best representation for all ACA members in our section as we go through these upcoming changes. Please email me your comments, concerns and ideas that will help the Southwest section board best represent you as we all seek for a more unified American Camp Association.

Thank You!

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

Welcome New Members

Name	Organization	State
Ansley, Leigh	Arizona Camp Sunrise	AZ
Craig, Tim	Chapel Rock Camp & Conference Center	AZ
Hickey, Annie		NV
Hinske, Linda		AZ
Hoge, Sante		NM
Roe, Maxwell	Lions Camp Tatiyee Inc	AZ
Root, Janie	Camp MakeBelieve Kids!	NV
Shea, Katie		NV
Walters, Kelli	Torino Foundation	NV



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Membership Update

Southwest Section’s current camp membership is 49 (of which 43 are accredited camps). Our current membership is 136 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.



Standards Corner

By now you should have received your letter confirming your visit and visitor assignment. Your visitor should also have contacted you arrange the visit date. If you have not received the letter, contact Greg Dodd at gregd@tucsonymca.org.

Camps due for an accreditation visit this summer are:

Camp	State
Arizona Camp Sunrise	AZ
Camp Honor	AZ
Camp Ponderosa Ranch	AZ
Camp Rainbow	AZ
Chapel Rock Camp & Conference Center	AZ
Charles Pearlstein	AZ
Chauncey Ranch	AZ
Faith Adventure Camp	AZ
Mingus Mountain Camp	AZ
Montlure	AZ
Tonto Rim Christian Camp	AZ
Camp Elliott Barker	NM
Camp of the Tall Pines	NM
Manzano Mountain Retreat	NM
Philmont Scout Ranch BSA	NM
Rancho Del Chaparral	NM
Starfire Day Camp Inc	NM
Camp Cloud Rim	UT
Camp Kostopulos	UT
Navajo Trails Adventure Camp	UT

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? Electronically or Snail Mail?

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:

Tom Dinkins, Education/Public Relations Chair
tomd@comcast.com

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

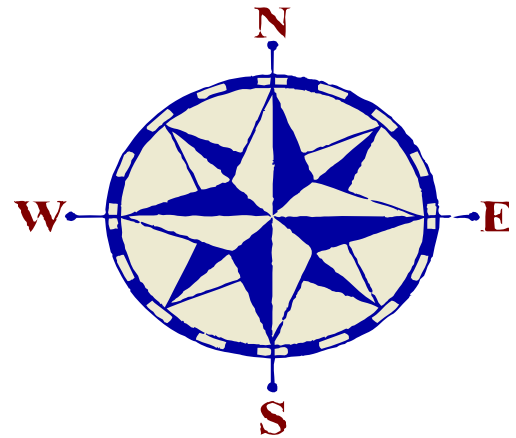
Executive Director's Thoughts

It is a particular difficult time that the camping industry has embarked on this year. With so many people loosing 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.

With this in mind it seems particularly important to make sure we can provide a safe and sound place for children. It is important for parents to know camp is a place where their children can go to have fun, learn social skills, make new life-long friends and just be themselves without the pressures of the world around them. Where else can children go to learn about nature in such a pure setting? Where else can children get dirty and not have to worry about what their parents will think?

So even if your enrollment is down because of the economy, I want you to remember what you do is offer life-changing experiences to children and young adults that they can't get anywhere but camp! With that said, I want to personally thank you for the hard work you do. You all deserve an award for providing wonderful experiences to the youth of the world.

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.



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 training not listed? Need more information? Contact Tom Dinkins, Education Chair, at (415) 497-1081 or

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting in Provo UT Oct. 22-23, '09
 Board Meeting in Phoenix, AZ Jan. 14-15, '10
 Annual Meeting at Phoenix, AZ Jan. 14, '10
 National Conference - Denver Feb. 16-19, '10
 Section Training offerings See Website

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 June 2009 issue are:

[Because of Camp – 2010 ACA National Conference](#)

[Keep Campers and Staff Healthy at Camp](#)

[Marketing Essentials for the New Economy — Three-Part Series](#)

[Help Parents Prepare Their Children for Camp](#)

Business Resources

[Need Camp Products/Services?](#)

[Consorta Saves Your Camp Money!](#)

Snapshots of American Camp Association's Emerging Issues Survey Results

Here are a few of the snapshots from the survey:

- The top five major issues were parent communication, staff training, financial health of the camp, staff screening and recruitment, and programming challenges. The areas of least concern were camper pregnancies, weather, and electronics/social network issues.
- Session lengths can be challenging, especially for the 37 percent that have mixed session lengths occurring simultaneously (for example, offering two one-week sessions while running one two-week session). Almost two thirds of these directors said all campers were basically integrated in the camp program, which can be a challenge for activity progression, outcomes evaluation, and group development.
- School partnerships are emerging as an important opportunity for some camps, but 58 percent of camps have no current connection with schools. However, 32 percent have direct partnership during academic year, and another 10 percent have a direct connection in the summer.

Send Us Your Camp Photos to Feature in Camping Magazine

ACA is collecting historical and contemporary photos from all ACA-Accredited® camps for use in *Camping Magazine*, promotional materials for ACA's 100th Anniversary celebration and the 150th Anniversary of the camp experience, and other ACA marketing and communications print and electronic publications.

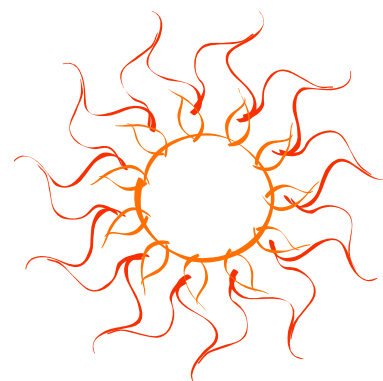
In order for any photos to be considered for publication, an [online photo submission form](#) must be submitted when sending photos. The camp, camp location, and photographer if applicable must be identified on any photos or CDs submitted. An approximate date must be indicated on all scanned historical photos. Photos must be a resolution of at least 300 dpi, including all scanned files. Send photos via e-mail to magazine@ACAcamps.org or mail a CD of photos to:

Attention Graphic Designer
American Camp Association
5000 State Road 67 North
Martinsville, IN 46161

Invite Your Legislators to Camp With ACA's "Congressional" Toolkit

This summer is a great time to invite your elected leaders (state and Federal) to your camp to show them that camp is not just recreation, but as part of year-round learning experiences, it contributes to the growth and development of children, youth, and adults.

The American Camp Association has made inviting your legislators to camp easy — with the informative [Toolkit: Congressional Visitors and Your Camp](#), complete with samples of invitation letters, agendas for the day they visit, tips from Congressional staff members, advice on working with the media — and much more.... And, all for free! Join in the movement to educate our elected leaders about the value of the camp experience in the education of all of America's children!





2474 E. Oakland St.
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
Provo, UT 84604
H) 801/226-3173
W) 801/717-3054
Fax: 801/378-2241
Jared_Knight@BYU.edu
Jaredknight@msn.com

Nancy Pianka
Vice President/CampWest Liaison
20 Teypana Drive
Tijeras, NM 87059
H) 505/206-9602
mtnchip@msn.com

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

Don Brown
Treasurer
76 N. Kokomo Dr.
Green Valley, AZ 85614-
H) 520/625-2303
pbrown98@cox.net

Board Members

Mark Anderson
Complaint Resolution Chair
Philmont Scout Ranch
17 Deer Run Road
Cimmaron, NM 87714
H) 575/376-2737
W) 575/376-2281
Cell: 575/447-2372
manderson@philmontscoutranch.org

Phil Beam
New Mexico District Chair
YMCA Camp Shaver
4701 Indian School Road
Albuquerque, NM 87112
W) 575/829-3572
Fax: 575/829-3516
phil@campshaver.com

Katie Dailey
Grand Canyon District Chair
Girl Scouts of Arizona Cactus-Pine
P.O. Box 31776
Phoenix, AZ 85036
W) 602/452-7191
Fax: 602/254-5368
katedailey@girlscoutsofaz.org

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

Greg Dodd
Standards Chair
YMCA of Metropolitan Tucson
PO Box 350
Oracle, AZ 85623
W) 520/884-0987
Fax: 520/623-6418
gregdsonymca.org

Becky List
Utah District Chair
PO Box 57280
Salt Lake City, UT 84157-0280
W) 801/65-8472 x 27
Cell: 415/97-1081
Email: beckylist@myfastmail.com
Email2: blist@utah.org

Lisa Hardin-Reynolds
Membership 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
lhardin@gsutah.org

Ginger Pauley
Executive Director
2474 E. Oakland St.
Gilbert, AZ 85295-9137
H) 480/279-1025
W) 480/293-1065
Fax: 602/735-8646
Cell: 480/518-5028
swcamps@qwest.net

Pam Swanson
Nominating & Awards Chair
PO Box 6910
Mesa, AZ 85216
H) 480/380-4400
W) 480/380-4254
Cell: 480/202-7062
Email: arizonalionscamp@cox.net