



e-Woodsmoke

Fall 2005

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Nominating

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Standards

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Mar-lu Ridge Center

Education/Program

Chris Pearce
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Denise Frebertshauser
Bonnie Dunn

President's Update

Marc Kolp

With another camp season just behind us I hope everyone takes a moment or two to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends and I'm hopeful that everyone gets at least a day or two away from the hustle and bustle of camp life to enjoy the beauty that the Chesapeake Region offers this time of year.

The Chesapeake Section will host our annual membership meeting and fall educational days on Sunday, November 6th and Monday, November 7th. Included in this issue of Woodsmoke is additional information on the educational sessions offered, and registration. Please consider attending this fun event sponsored by your section.

Though many of us continue working with outdoor education and other camp type programs this time of year it is a time of year where we begin to reflect on the past summer and begin to formulate our ideas, plans, and schedules for the next camp season. As we reflect on the past summer we're given the opportunity to recognize those colleagues and staff members who make our jobs easier and more enjoyable. Included in this addition of Woodsmoke is a listing of the ACA Chesapeake Annual Awards and information on the process of nominating people from your camp for those awards. Please consider nominating one or more of your staff members for these prestigious ACA awards. Awards will be given out at our annual meeting in early November.

I look forward to seeing everyone in November!

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Now that the camp session is over, it is time to recognize those staff that shined. Each year at the ACA Chesapeake Awards dinner staff from section camps are recognized for there outstanding service to there camping. This year will be no different. Shortly you should receive an Awards packet in the mail packet which will include forms for awards for the Section as well as what awards are available on the National level.

In this newsletter is a description of the awards to get you to think about the service awards that are available. Please make sure to turn award nominations in the timeline outline in the Awards packet you will receive in the mail.

Included in this issue: Immediate Impact, Tech. Tip, Fall Conference, It is all about Kids Zink + Camp = Happy Campers

American Camp Association, Chesapeake

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Immediate Impact.

How's that for an endorsement for a program?

For the past several summers Camp Airy and Camp Louise have been working closely with the Steven Kaufman AIDS Outreach Project - "Positive Voices". How closely? We can honestly say "Positive Voices" is now integral part of our Counselor in Training program.

So, you may be asking yourself, "how in the world does an AIDS awareness program fit in with a CIT program?" - Great question! And here's the best answer I can offer - "Perfectly!"

We've actually been working with the coordinators of the SKAOP for over ten summers. Our goals have always been to offer a program that teaches the concept of "responsibility". What we didn't want was to scare our CITs with horror stories. The folks at SKAOP were quick to assure us that anything that they share was just what we wanted. For the first few years of involvement, we worked with a series of speakers - most were HIV positive or they had AIDS. The presentations were compassionate and worked well to help our 17 year olds grow in terms of empathy skills and gain an understanding of virus and how it was transmitted and how, as responsible young adults, they could help prevent the spread of the virus. CITs were attentive, polite, inquisitive and clearly were impacted by the messages of the speaker.

Then several summers into our affiliation, the SKAOP staff said they had an alternative. So, do we drop the tried and proven? "Why not" we thought - "they've never let us down at any point in time in all our years of working together!" The alternative is the program referred to above - "Positive voices".

"Positive Voices", a group of HIV positive or adults that have AIDS actually tell and "sing" their stories. Imagine a presentation that entertains, teaches and leaves a lasting impression. What better endorsement can I offer?! Well, perhaps "entertains" is a bit much of an impression - but listen to what I've seen during the course of these presentations - I've seen CITs laugh, sing along - and cry, and get caught in deep thought. They listened, and listened closely - and when the program was all over, they asked questions and talked amongst themselves about the whole concept of sexually transmitted diseases - and RESPONSIBILITY. The members of "Positive Voices" are candid, honest and open, willing to share and respond to all questions. They sing beautifully, but every bit as important, their messages, in song and words, are powerful tools for teaching - and not only about personal responsibility - but about growing up and understanding that individuals can have a positive impact by virtue of making wise and well thought out choices.

That's a pretty important concept for my future staff to make - how about yours?

After this summer's last presentation, I was talking to the leadership of "Positive Voices" (and the Steven Kaufman AIDS Outreach Project) - Robynn Sweeny and Betsy Wexler - they shared they'd like to reach out to more camps if it is at all possible. I said I'd be happy to share their message. They're that good! I hope your program can find the time to incorporate "Positive Voices" into your summer programming - sharing program ideas is an important part of being members of the ACA, and this one is well worth sharing! Just one word of caution - Airy and Louise get first dibs in a date for 2006!

The Steve Kaufman AIDS Outreach Project is a part of the community services program of the Jewish Family Services of Baltimore. If you would like more information, their web site is: www.skaop.org.

Standards Reminder:

Attention all Camps that are schedule to have their ACA Visit during the summer of 2006! Please be advised that prior to being visited, a representative from your camp must attend a Standards Course within one year of the visit. In addition, the person who attends the course must be present at the time of the visit. A standards course will be offered at the fall conference and again in the spring by ACA Chesapeake.

ACA, Chesapeake: Fall Leadership Conference

Sunday, November 6 & Monday, November 7

At the Radisson in Annapolis, Maryland

Sessions will be held on "Preparing for Emergency Crisis," "What is new in Youth Health Care," Team Building, Fund Development and much more!

**For Registration materials or more information visit:
www.ACAchesapeake.org**

TECH TIP

Great technology resources for non-profit organizations:

1. TechSoup www.techsoup.org for discounted software, freebies and other resources.
2. <http://www.capaciteria.org/> All such resource directories that help NGO's are important and useful and both techsoup and techfinder are resources in capaciteria.org. Capaciteria differs in that it has a much broader scope than simply

technology - its focus is from finance to facilities management and everything in between including technology resources.

3. I highly recommend the blog that Beth Kanter has created to cover topics such as about nonprofit technology, educational technology, information design, visual thinking, and creativity.
["http://beth.typepad.com/beths_blog/"](http://beth.typepad.com/beths_blog/)

Zink + Camp= Happy Campers

Introducing Zink, a little spotted zebra with a big message for campers and staff. Zink has something special, irregardless of what type of camp you operate.

compassion, and acceptance of others. At the same time, our programs promote self-acceptance, self-esteem, and positive character development.

Other camps employ Zink during the quiet time after lunch; while others have designated times with activities they call "Zink Spots", "Zink Blinks" or "Zink Moments". You are limited only by your imagination.

Does your camp mission include campers and staff living and working in peace and harmony? Does the mission include acceptance and respect for all?

An eleven year old girl, Kelly Weil, created Zink just before she died of cancer. With all the medial treatments, Kelly felt different from other children. Kelly's father created the foundation to honor Kelly's memory and her courage.

Stories have been shared by directors and parents, such as the little girl who wore very thick glasses due to a vision problem, and before attending camp and participating in Zink, reacted violently when other children made fun of her. But after participating in Zink activities, the girl said that Zink would be unhappy if she was aggressive when kids ridiculed her.

Let "Zink Goes to Camp" make all of this a reality for you, your staff and your campers. Campers and staff will be excited to learn that being different makes them special.

As every camp is unique, the Zink program gives you the flexibility to deliver your programs effectively. Some camps have adopted a Zink theme, utilizing Zink activities in staff training, crafts, snacks, games, discussion, etc. Using Zink in everything they do encourages campers and staff to "think zink" in all aspects of camp life.

If you would like more information about the programs the Zink the Zebra Foundation offers or would like to order a Zink Goes to Camp Startup Kit, please contact liz@zink.org or 504-482-5737.

The Zink the Zebra Foundation is dedicated to creating and implementing educational programs for children to promote understanding, respect,

Service Award Descriptions

The Service Award:

This award is given to honor individuals, groups, or organizations for their efforts to promote camping. It is given for outstanding leadership or service or noteworthy contributions to the advancement of camping.

This recognition can be for contributions:

1. Within you camp
2. Within ACA on the Section/Regional level or
3. Within ACA on the National level

This Service Award is not limited to ACA members.

The William "Bill" McLeod Award:

This award is given to honor an individual who is dedicated their self to improving the quality of camps. The criteria for nomination are:

1. Must be administrative staff member of at least 3 years at an accredited camp.
2. Must have rendered outstanding service that has been beneficial to camp
3. Must have rendered a creative and/or administrative contribution to camp.
4. Must have good moral and character standards.

Environmental Education Program Award:

This award for excellence in environmental education programming is given in recognition of a camp or program focusing on environmental education and includes:

1. A system of teaching and practicing responsible stewardship of the natural resources.
2. Exploration of environmental ethics.
3. Opportunities for campers to practice hands-on skills which are transferable to settings outside of camp.

Outreach Award:

This award for excellence in innovating programming is given in recognition of a camp for programs which demonstrates an innovative approach to meeting the diverse needs of today's campers and their parents. Examples may include, but not limited to:

1. Innovative use facility, space or site, to make camping available to more campers.
2. Innovative scheduling to meet needs of parents and maximize program time.
3. Creative uses of resources, including monetary, material and human.

Photography Award:

This award may be black & white or color prints, either 5"x7" or 8"x10", matted for display. On the back of the photography please include the name, addresses of individuals in the photograph and the photographer (age if you deem appropriate), camp affiliation, and description of the subject (location, event, etc).

It's All About The Kids!

We've seen their faces -- lost -- frightened -- panicked. Hurricane Katrina has brought it all home once again. The children are suffering-- they are powerless -- totally dependent on others to take away the pain -- the suffering -- and ease the terror. Little arms reaching out -- who will be there to pick them up -- to dry their tears -- to comfort their fear? For many of us watching half-a-world away, there seems to be little hope -- little that we can do.

But we know there is hope because of organizations like yours. And we also know that funding is one of your greatest obstacles. We want you to know that additional funds **are** available as you face the challenges of helping our children.

You are receiving this e-mail alert because you are one of our registered organizations in the Shop for Charity Day on-line mall. Do you realize that:

- You receive over 18% from *Jigsaw Puzzles Are the Names of the Game*, *Family Savings Outlet*, 15% from *2Blockheads.com* and those are just two of over 1,000 stores in our mall?
- You **automatically** receive a percentage back from **every** purchase made at **every** store on the SFCD on-line shopping mall?
- In many cases you or your supporters pay no tax or shipping charges?
- You can take advantage many generous specials?

Now is a great time to encourage your staff and supporters to do their everyday shopping where every purchase directly benefits your organization. You will find well-known stores such as Target, Sears, Office Max and E-Bay where people are already doing their shopping.

Simply go to <http://www.shopforcharityday.com>, enter your organization name and you'll join the 80,000 other member organizations that are already shopping where **every purchase makes a difference**.

Use the calculator (in the "Info For Orgs" section) on the SFCD web-site to see what this everyday shopping can mean for your organization.