

Woodsmoke

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Kathy Tingler
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Camping Veteran

Not for Profit Council

Sara Portman Milner
Camping Vetera

Standards

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A Message from the President

Jonathon Rondeau

As the leaves turn shades of red and orange, it is hard to imagine that just a few short weeks ago our days were filled with the laughter of children, songs around the campfires and afternoons in the pool. But while the summer of 2008 has just ended, all of us know that 2009 will be here before we know it. That is why the Chesapeake Section will be working to deliver a variety of educational events that meet the section member's needs. However, we can not do this alone; we need your help! Please email your suggestions to Nancy, our Section Executive at njcanter@verizon.net.

A great many of our section camps went through the accreditation process this summer. Thirty section camps achieved or maintained their accreditation this summer- this is nearly half of all our section camps! I applaud all the camps that took the time and effort to continue their commitment to providing safe and quality camp experiences. I also want to thank all the volunteer Accreditation Visitors, who took time away from their own camps to assist in the process. A big thank you must also go out to our Standards Co-Chairs, Bonnie Dunn and Mike Schneider for organizing the visits this year. It was a big job and they did an outstanding job.

Among all of the information in this newsletter, you will read more about our Educational Event and Awards Dinner in this issue. I look forward to seeing you on November 9th!

Yours in Camping,

Jonathon Rondeau, CPRP
President, ACA-Chesapeake

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Summer 2009 Standards Visits

It is time to begin thinking about Summer 2009! The list below is camps that are to be visited next summer. If you think your camp should or should not be on the list, please call Nancy at the section office.

ABC Care Summer Swim Camp	Bar T Ranch
Bar T Travel Camp	Camp Pecometh
Camp Saint Charles	Camp Sonshine
Camp Wright	Friends Of The National Zoo
GW Summer Tour	Camp Cornerstone
Camp Ebenzer	Kamp A-Kom-plish
The Gardens Summer Fun Camp	Mount Aetna Camp
Towson Family YMCA Day Camp	Weinberg YMCA
Washington DC JCC Summer Day Camp	Western Family YMCA Day Camp

As part of the accreditation process, your camp is required to attend a standards training.

As part of the accreditation process, your camp is required to attend a standards training. We will be offering the standards course on December 9 at the Patuxent River 4H Center in Upper Marlboro. We do not charge you to attend and you are welcome to bring along your staff. Please call Nancy at the Section Office to register. There will also be a course offered at the Tri-State Conference held in Atlantic City, NJ mid-March.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy at 410-548-3770 or 800-653-1409.

Educational Event

Please mark November 9th on your calendar! This will be the day for our Educational Event, and we would love to see you there. Our Education Chair is working diligently to prepare a great day full of helpful speakers and activities. Location and times will be announced at a later date.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Did you Know?

Here are some interesting facts from ACA's reports from 2008:

- * In 5 years, the race/ethnicity of ACA campers has changed from 80% Caucasian to 70% Caucasian in day camps, and 79%-77% in resident camps.
- * The average weekly fees for day camps were around \$303, with a midpoint of \$182. The average weekly fees for resident camps were \$597, with a midpoint of \$390.
- * The total acreage for a typical resident camp is 200 acres. 18% of camps have more than 500 acres, and

10% have had less than 50. The typical day camp had 27 acres. 9% had more than 200 acres, and 25% had less than 15 acres.

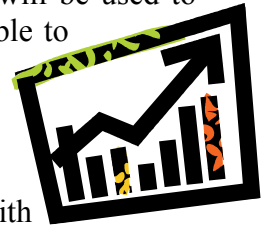
- * About 85% of resident camps said they recycled. 73% of day camps did.
- * The top 5 sports or activities offered by resident camps were: swimming, canoeing, hiking, archery, and aquatics. The top 5 sports or activities offered by day camps were: swimming, basketball, baseball/softball, aquatics, and instructional swimming.



Surveys and Studies

Enrollment Survey

The online enrollment survey will be available for you until October 31st. This survey will be used to gather both camper and staff data from the summer of 2008. This information will be able to provide our section with important information such as:



- * Attendance at camp
- * Increases or decreases in enrollment
- * Returning camper stats
- * Age breakdowns
- * Session lengths
- * Staffing patterns
- * Current challenges you face with camper enrollment and staff recruitment

The results from the survey will allow us to provide a baseline so that we can make projections and determine trends for next year. So, your information is very important! Without your statistics, the information we collect will not be as accurate as we would like. Please complete the survey prior to October 31st by going to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=CTPSWDYPyDzoRCt68WCAmQ_3d_3d. The survey is anonymous and will only take about 15 minutes to complete. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Deb at dbialeschki@acacamps.org.

Budget and Finance



Later this Fall, ACA National will be mailing out Budget/Finance Business Surveys to 50% of ACA's camps. These camps will be selected randomly. If you are chosen as a camp to complete this survey, please take the time to do it. We will be provided with section specific information which will allow us to plan ahead for future years.

If you are interested in learning more about budgeting and business operations, you are in luck! ACA has a new online course that focuses on these areas. The course is targeted towards new directors or financial managers. Learn more by visiting www.acacamps.org/einstitute/business.

Healthy Camp Study

This year completed year 3 of the 5-year Healthy Camp Study. A total of 177 camps reported their data this year (which is almost a 20% increase from last year!). Most camps (about 80%) reported being either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the Healthy Camp Study. Several camps also reported that they utilized the online courses as part of their staff training, and 9 out of 10 reported that they would recommend these interventions to other camps. Get more information about these courses at www.acacamps.org/einstitute/healthycamp/.

The day and resident camp reports will be completed over the next few months and will be mailed to participating camps around December. A huge thank you to all camps who participated this year! New camps are always welcome, and the opportunity for participation in year 4 is just around the corner. Contact Barry Garst with questions about the study at bgarst@acacamps.org.



Food Service

Below are resources for you regarding Food Services.

Better Than a Cupcake:

“The Healthy School Campaign” has lots of resources that you can use at camp, including several free books and a monthly newsletter.

www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/campaign/wellness/cd/1-1-improve-food.htm

Let's talk FOOD:

Start with the great stuff from former YMCA camp chef and current camp cooking guru Viki Kappel Spain. Visit www.campcookbooks.com/index.htm to learn more!



Peanut Allergy Questions:

At www.foodallergy.org/school you will find a nice publication called "School Guidelines for Managing Students with Food Allergies."

Also, at www.allergy.org.au/pospapers there is a position paper that makes some similar recommendations. The biggest worry is "cross contamination"—folks having residue on their hands or clothing and coming into contact with an allergic person. Other helpful sites include www.aap.org and www.health.nih.gov .”

Statement of Compliance

Have you signed your Statement of Compliance for the 2008 year? In order for camps to keep their accreditation status, a camp MUST have a signed Statement Of Compliance on file for each year. If you have not signed one for this year, there is still time!



Please go to <http://www.acacamps.org/soc/> for the form to be signed. This will allow you to pull up the form, sign it and send it in. It can be done electronically or by snail mail - whichever is easiest for you!

If you have any questions, please call Nancy at the section office; 800-653-1409 or 410-548-3770.