

Calendar of Events

- **March 9—11, 2006
Tri-State Conference
Atlantic City, NJ**



- **Tri-State Social Events at
the Tunn Tavern,
Sheraton Hotel**

**Happy Hour 3/9
5:30 to 7:30 pm**

**Breakfast Buffet 3/10
7:00 to 8:30 am
Rsvp 877-488-2267**

- **SCOPE Dinner 3/10
Trumph Marina**
- **Safety First! April 26th
Professional
Development Meeting at
Camp Kiddie Keep Well**
- **ACA NJ Board Meetings
April 5th at Rambling
Pines Camp, Hopewell**

NEW STANDARDS TO GO INTO EFFECT IN 2007

At the recent Delegates Meeting at the ACA National Convention in Chicago, new standards were unanimously approved that will go into effect starting next summer. If your camp is being visited in 2006, the new standards will not be reviewed, but will still have to be implemented next summer.

Some of the major changes to standards involve a new SF standard on playground safety, a new HW standard on the availability of AEDs (automated external defibrillator), a new OM standard reviewing foundational practices, a revised HR-4 pertaining to staff screening, as well as a new one on a child protection policy, a revised PA-28 dealing with watercraft maintenance.

The playground safety standard will apply to on and off-site playground apparatus and consists of a maintenance review and regular safety checks, something that the State Health Department also requires of us.

The AED standard pertains to an assessment of whether an AED is needed at camp, not a requirement for each camp to have one.

Some standards that were initially examples of best practices in the industry have over the history of the accreditation program, become so accepted that they are now considered foundational practices. Some have even been adopted as regulations and laws by local, state and national bodies. These practices continue to be important to the delivery of a positive camp experience and it is assumed they are in practice as applicable in every camp. Rather than score each of these foundational practices individually, they have all been lumped together and are scored as a separate standard. The new OM standard reflects a process of reviewing these standards on a regular basis.

As a way to further protect our campers, the revised HR-4 standard has now made it mandatory for camps to annually have camp staff and volunteers sign a disclosure statement and have their names checked in the National Sex Offender Public Registry, which is a free service at www.nsopr.gov. Other portions of this new standard include conducting reference checks and interviews of new camp staff and background checks for new staff over the age of 18.

The child protection policy refers to appropriate ratios that will protect both the campers and staff in different scenarios including sleeping quarters, changing rooms and being in public view when having one-on-one discussions.

PA-28's watercraft maintenance is simply the provision of written maintenance log of all watercraft, including both motorized and non-motorized.

These were not the only standards to have changes made, simply the most dramatic. Training on the new standards for visitors will begin taking place in the fall. For more information on standards, please visit www.acacamps.org.

Submitted by Scott Lantzman, Delegate National Convention

ACA NJ Section Board of Directors

Bob Jones	President	908-735-8336
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Don Smith	Member at Large	908-236-2638

VP Message

Fellow ACA Members,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to represent you as a delegate at the National ACA Conference in Chicago in February. I found this to be an enriching experience. There were many topics of major concern.

Of great concern to all of us is the issue of Criminal Background Checks. There was a great deal of discussion including the following:

Varying type of checks:

1. State level
2. County Level
3. National Level

- Turn around time
- No National Database
- Inconsistency from state to state

Hence, there was no agreement reached on this topic for a national policy. It was decided that further research needs to be conducted.

As camp professionals we still need to comply with the standard and conduct background checks in whichever way is best suited for each of us.

It was great to be part of this process for all issues on the table. Additionally, it was impressive the way in which we (delegates from all sections across the country) have input in this major decision making process.

Again thank you for electing me and for the honor to represent the NJ Section. *Colleen Rountree, Vice President,*

President's Message

Dear Members,

Your delegates represented the section at the recently concluded National Convention "Partnering With Parents" held in Chicago. The primary issues were the ACA Accreditation Standards Revisions, Public Lands, and Criminal Background checks. The topics generated considerable discussion. The revised standards, with modifications, were approved and the other issues will continue to be worked on. More detailed results regarding these issues appear elsewhere in the newsletter as presented by your delegates. Check the ACA web site for more information also.

It was reported that conference attendance exceeded the 2005 attendance; ACA membership has topped 7000 for the first time; 1000 volunteers serve on section Boards; ACA is financially sound.

Up for review and discussion this year will be ACA's Code of Ethics and Ethics Program, including the Complaint Resolution Program.

Next years conference will be held in Austin, TX February 13-16. The theme will be "Extending the Circle," attracting more diversity to our camps.

As your President, I would also like to bring to your attention that the Section Board has two vacancies. If you would like to volunteer your time contact Mary Ellen and forward a brief resume including what you can contribute to the Board. Non-camp persons are also welcome.

See you at Tri-State, *Bob Jones, President*

Safety First!

Do you want some answers about how to make camps even safer places for campers and staff? Sure you do! On April 26th our PD Committee is offering a comprehensive program on camper safety, including, CEO Peg Smith speaking about the importance of

camper emotional safety. Registration flyer inside this issue and posted on www.acacampsnj.org ACA is pleased to announce that through generous funding from Markel Insurance Company, **The Healthy Camp Study** is approved to continue for the next five years. To find out how your camp can participate visit www.ACACamps.org/research or contact Sheila Danne-miller at 765-349-3511 sdannemiller@ACACamps.org **Enrollment forms due by March 15th- Don't miss out!**



Waterloo Village: Hidden Camp Secret

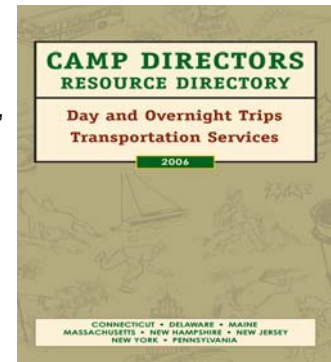
It's not just campers and their parents who have summer wish lists. Camp directors have them, too! One thing that's on almost everyone's list is to find interesting and convenient places to go on field trips—places that in many ways are extensions of camp life itself.

We found one! *The Jersey Camper* was recently in touch with Waterloo Village in Stanhope, in Sussex County's Allamuchy Mountain State Park (exit 25 off Route 80), and we found out it's one of the best-kept secrets around. What it is most noted for are its three village restorations showing life in an Indian village, an inland port town, and a family sustenance farm.

Situated, on over 400 acres, Waterloo offers plenty of space in which to hike, picnic, play games—and learn about 19th century America when craftsmen still held a place of distinction and Indians still held onto their distinctive ways of life. And best of all, the staff at Waterloo wants to work one-on-one with you to create a special day that campers will long remember, one that's fun, safe, and very unique. Waterloo is eager to spread the word—just as you're eager to cross off those wishes on your list. Call them at 973-347-0900 or log onto www.waterloovillage.org.

Need more Field Trip ideas??

From pick-your-own farms to interactive historic villages, the *Camp Directors Resource Directory* is an 80-page guide filled with exciting day and overnight trip ideas coded by grade level, activity type, county and rates, and is the must-have tool to have by your side while planning enriching activities for your campers. To receive your complimentary copy, please send a self-addressed envelope (large enough to hold a 5" x 8" book) stamped with \$1.11 postage to Family Publications, 325 W. 38th Street, Ste. 306, NY, NY, 10018. Be sure to also visit us online at www.campdirectorsresources.com where you can search by state, type of activity, and age level to find exactly what you are looking for.



Airlines Change Unaccompanied Minors Policies

With the recent merger of American West and US Airways, the US Airways policy for unaccompanied minors has changed. In the interest of child safety, U.S. Airways has adopted the stricter policy of American West.

Note: As of August 17, 2005, unaccompanied minors will no longer be accepted on connecting flights, direct (one-stop) flights with no change of plane, and "change of gauge" flights.

Children ages 5 to 14 who are traveling as unaccompanied minors **will be accepted only on nonstop flights**. The fee for unaccompanied minor travel will be reduced to \$40.

Camps may want to help camp families by informing them of the change, perhaps pairing up unaccompanied minors with other older campers or even coordinating travel with adjoining camps. The full US Air policies may be viewed at USAirways.com under Customer Service/Travel Policies.

ACA Communications Toolkit for Sections

ACA has developed an online Communications Toolkit for ACA camps and members. It is designed to provide helpful information to camps—for proactive media relations and for crisis communications. Our experience each summer tells us that this type of information will be invaluable to camps. It can be accessed online at www.acacamps.org/members/toolkit/. This link is password protected so that the toolkit is only accessible to ACA camps.

HARMON

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YOUR CAMP HEADQUARTERS

38 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS IN NJ, NY & CT

E-mail Jennifer.O'Brien@HarmonDiscount.com
for our coupon and camp checklist
for your camp mailings!

Legislative Update

Amusement Park or Educational Facility

Do some of the activities and programs provided by your camp meet the definitions of a carnival ride like an amusement park or are they program elements for educational purposes? The answer to that question depends on what the element is and what it is used for. As an example small Railroads and Go-Cars must meet the standards and require annual inspection by the State as if they were Carnival or Amusement rides

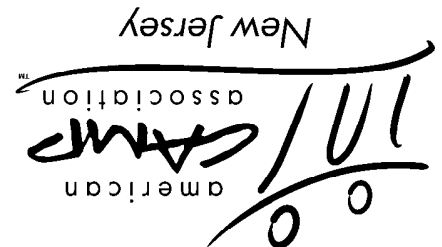
Generally most but not all inflatables meet these same definitions. The determination on any particular inflatable would have to be made by the state on a case by case basis.

So what about your Challenge/Project Adventure/ROPE course? That depends on who is using the courses, and for what purpose. If the course is only used by campers, and/or organizational members as a part of the educational development program of the camp than they are not classified as amusement rides. But if these same courses are rented out for recreational purposes (Birthday Parties, etc) then the State of New Jersey classifies them as amusements which requires applications, annual inspections, and other measures.

The State of New Jersey has recently recognized the many different commercial, educational, and camp Challenge facilities throughout the state and has determined that many of these must be annually inspected. If your camp has one or more of these facilities or elements, you should consider these new implications, and if warranted contact the state to help make the determination or secure the proper application procedures. For information call the New Jersey Carnivals and Amusements, (609) 292-2097 or Fax: (609) 984-7084

Submitted by Doug Fullman, Legislative Chair, ACA NJ Board of Directors

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