



Calendar of Upcoming Events

2010 Tri-State Camp Conference

March 16th -18th

www.tristatecampconference.com

Standards Training

Camp Kiddie Keep Well, Edison

- > Standards Course - Feb. 4, 5-9 pm
- > Update Course - Feb. 10th
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
- > Visitor Update Course - Feb. 10th
12:30-3:30 pm

For on-line options contact
executive@acacampsnj.org

ACA-NJ Board Meetings

- > Wed. Jan. 27th Raritan Valley YMCA
- > Wed. April 28th Baptist Camp Lebanon

ACA-NJ Camp Fairs

January, 2010

- 23rd – The Excelsior, Manalapan
 - 24th – Bridgewater Marriott
 - 30th – Woodcliff Lake Hilton
 - 31st - East Hanover Ramada Inn
- www.acanjsummercampfairs.org

2010 ACA National Conference

Because of Camp...

Hyatt Regency Colorado
Feb. 16-10th

www.acacamps.org/conference

THE TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE TRI-STATE CAMP CONFERENCE IN 2010 March 16-19, 2010

10. Atlantic City:

Conveniently located just down the Parkway, Atlantic City has it all: casinos, spas, world-class entertainment, nightlife, fine dining, the Atlantic Ocean, the boardwalk, golf, fun attractions, fishing, water sports, shopping and more. Any way you look at it, Atlantic City guarantees fast-paced excitement and nonstop activities.

9. Value Price:

For the Early Bird ACA value price of \$385 (not for profit camps) or \$460 (private camps) by February 5, up to five (that's right *FIVE!*) staff members can attend the conference from a single camp, with additional attendees only \$50 each. And after February 5, the rates are still amazing at \$490 NFP or \$565 private.

8. SCOPE Benefit Dinner:

SCOPE (Summer Camp Opportunities Provide an Edge) raises hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to benefit children who would not otherwise be able to experience all that camp has to offer. Your attendance at this ticketed event will help to raise money and awareness for this great cause. For more information or to register, please visit www.scope-ny.org or call Sarah Ross at 646-278-4557.

7. Arthur Fonzarelli:

That's right, The Fonz is our closing keynote speaker on Friday, March 19! Actor/writer/producer/director Henry Winkler will enlighten us with stories about his exciting journey through life and his perspective on how to make a positive difference in the world. And that's not all! We will also be treated to the inspirational thoughts and insights of Shawn Anchor (CEO of Aspirant, an applied research consulting firm focused on positive psychology) in a Wednesday keynote entitled "Positive Psychology and Its Place in Camp—How to Inspire Campers, Parents, Staff and Even Yourself."

6. Pre-Conference Workshops:

Tuesday, March 16 offers five extensive half and full-day workshops to choose from that can only enhance your Tri-State experience: EPIC (Emerging Professionals in Camp) Workshop, New Directors Orientation, Servsafe Workshop: Food Safety Certification, Parks and Rec Workshop, and a Special Needs Workshop. Separate registration is required for any of these workshops.

5. ACA Bookstore:

Hundreds of camp titles, all at discounted conference rates, are available from the ACA Bookstore located just inside the Exhibit Hall. See the speaker in a session and then purchase his/her book at the bookstore. Subjects cover every aspect of camp, including games and team building, camp organization and management, leadership, staff training, risk management, first aid, outdoor education, and more.

4. Organized Nights on the Town:

Ranging from the House of Blues to the Rainforest Café to a Baggo tournament to Carmine's, there are lots of ACA sponsored opportunities that enable you to get out on the town with your colleagues from the camp world. You can also join your ACA-NJ friends at the Sheraton Atlantic City at a Section-sponsored networking reception that includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar from 6:30-8:00 PM on Wednesday, March 17.

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message

This is an exciting time of year because our professional ACA community is preparing to join together for the Tri-State Camp Conference on March 16-19 in Atlantic City. Early bird registration ends soon, so don't delay. We're looking forward to seeing you at the conference and hope you will join us for the NJ Section hospitality reception on Wednesday night at the Sheraton.

Our other major gathering is the "State of the Garden State" on April 14th in Edison. With new youth camp regulations taking effect this summer and updates about important certifications and the many issues we are following in Trenton, this meeting is a must.

In the meantime, our ACA-NJ staff and volunteers are working hard to spread the word throughout New Jersey that camp is a vital experience for youth and families. Everything we do is geared toward making the camp experience available to as many people as possible. You may have noticed the increasing number of camp articles and interviews that utilize ACA-NJ for information. And, as you read this, we are conducting our ACA-NJ-sponsored camp fairs, benefitting not only the camps that participate, but also generating a great deal of publicity about all of our accredited camps.

In addition to these public relations efforts, it is vital that our camps maintain the best in professional practices. This is why we are so grateful for the trained volunteers who work with our camps to prepare for and conduct their accreditation visits.

Nationally, our section's delegates will travel to Denver next month to participate in meetings that will move the ACA's "20/20 Vision" forward. This is an ambitious task that has many parts, but everything points toward extending the camp experience to more and more people across the country. Your delegates will be returning with news about exciting changes in the areas of membership, professional certification, accreditation, public relations, public policy and more. These are much more than just cosmetic changes, so you'll want to stay informed. Remember that the ACA national website has lots of information: www.acacamps.org.

You'll also want to get into the habit of visiting our section's website on a regular basis: www.acacampsnj.org. If you haven't reviewed the "advocacy area" of that page, you are missing out on important resources for your camp.

When you consider that all of this is just part of the ACA-NJ picture, you begin to realize why we are such an important voice for camping in New Jersey. So spread the word and get involved! We can do even more with your help.

Happy New Year and Happy Camping.

Tom Riddleberger
President, ACA-NJ Section
tom@campuskids.com
973-845-9260

ACA NJ Section Board of Directors

Tom Riddleberger	President	973-845-9260
Scott Lantzman	VP/ President Elect	973-597-3699
Keith VanDerzee	Treasurer	609-654-8225
Gina Stravic	Secretary	732-257-4114
Jed Buck	Member at Large	908-876-3429
Heather Chadwick	Member at Large	973-383-9282
Ron Leiser	Member at Large	732-446-7035
Sue Rynar	Member at Large	732-691-4813
Barry Wasserman	Member at Large	609-448-5885
Jason Samuel	Member at Large	609-499-7820
Wendy Saiff	Membership Chair	732-846-3811
Janet Henry	Public Relations Chair	973-248-8200
Mary Sullivan	Prof. Dev Chair	973-597-1115
Geraldine Bownik	Section Historian	732-774-2768
Judy Trigg	Standards Chair	570-421-8625
Douglas Fullman	Legislative Chair	609-655-6317
Joan Basilotto	Complaints Resolution	732-938-5454
Mary Ellen Folsom	Section Executive Dir.	908-238-9900

(Continued from cover story)

3. Networking:

Whether formally during sessions or at one of the organized activities or informally in between or after sessions, spending time with our peers and talking camp is as big a part of the conference as any. For your convenience, the Ben Applebaum Lounge, located on the 3rd floor, offers a relaxing area to spend time with other camp professionals, grab a bite to eat or catch up on your e-mails using conference provided terminals.

2. Exhibit Hall:

Stop by one of almost 300 vendors who are all in attendance just for you. See what's new in the industry and take advantage of special deals and discounts only available at the conference. You can check out the Camp Shopping Network (www.campshoppingnetwork.com) in advance to see all of the current exhibitors and where their booths are located.

1. Educational Sessions:

Broken down into four tracks (Bus. Ops, Campers and Parents, Program and Activities, and Staff & Leadership) there are almost 200 non-stop professional development sessions with first-rate speakers to choose from. And for the second year in a row, VOCE (Veterans of the Camp Experience) offers special sessions for all as well as a couple VOCE exclusive breakfast/lunch-and-learns.

So how many more reasons do you need before you join over 3500 of your peers at the greatest camp conference you will ever experience? For more information, or to register, please visit www.tristatecampconference.com.

A Year to Celebrate!

100 members, guests and business partners from across the Garden State gathered on December 8th to celebrate the good works of ACA-New Jersey, enjoy each other's company and raise money to send underprivileged children to accredited camps.

The presentation of awards to outstanding volunteers was a highlight of the evening. ACA-NJ's highest honor, the Howard Patton Award, was given to Andrew Yankowitz, Director/Owner, of Tall Pines Camp for his camp leadership and tireless efforts on behalf of youth and the camp profession.

The Harold Breene Award for promoting positive youth development through a unique and creative camp environment was presented to Marc Koch, Camp Director of Fairview Lake YMCA Camp. After a touching tribute by colleague, Heather Chadwick, Harold himself, stepped onto the stage to personally congratulate Marc for his outstanding dedication to our youth.

On behalf of our section, Peggy Mellors paid tribute to Steve Lee, of Camp Koinonia, for his contributions to our ACA-NJ Accreditation program. For over 20 years, Steve has selflessly donated countless hours of his time and talent as a standards instructor, visitor and member of our Standards Committee.

The Special Award, presented for only the third time ever, went to Loel Muetter, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services. For over 20 years Loel has been a resource for camp directors and professionals. Loel has taken the time to learn what ACA is really about and thereby has been a leader at the state level in developing the best possible policies for youth camps and campers in the state of NJ. Another important piece of our evening was President Tom Riddleberger's official announcement of our board election results:

President Elect (1 year, followed by 3 year Presidential term): Scott Lantzman, Geshar Summer Camp.

Secretary (3 year term): Gina Stravic, Raritan Valley YMCA

Members at Large (3 year terms): Sue Rynar, Jefferson Lake Day Camp, and Jason Samuel, Liberty Lake Day Camp.

2010 Delegates to the National ACA

Conference: Scott Lantzman, Mary Sullivan (Geshar Summer Camp), Judy Trigg (YMCA Ralph Mason), and Don Jennings (Camp Mason).

It was with great pleasure that Standards Chair Judy Trigg recognized and welcomed our newly accredited camps: Princeton YMCA Discovery Camp,

South Mountain YMCA Creative Dramatics, YMCA Camps Topanemus and Yomeca, and the Summer Program at Rutgers for Kids (S.P.A.R.K). She also recognized the tremendous effort of all our outstanding volunteer standards visitors, who make the ACA-NJ Accreditation program possible.

After a delicious Tuscan buffet, Roz and Jed Buck kicked the festivities into high gear with a very lively auction to benefit S.C.O.P.E. (Summer Camp Opportunities Provide an Edge), which provides financial assistance that enables economically disadvantaged children to ACA accredited, not-for-profit resident camps. The atmosphere was charged with excitement as members bid for show tickets, sports memorabilia, delicious gourmet edibles by Driscoll Foods, unique works of art created by amazingly talented member, Cricket Snearing, and much more. Thanks to our gift donors and bidders, we raised just over \$3,800 for camperships. Very special thanks to our hospitality chair, Carol Bruno, for the amazing handmade centerpieces and favors. Last, but not least, much applause to Roz and Jed Buck for their incredible efforts obtaining donations and organizing our live auction.

We can't wait to do it all again next year!



Andrew Yankowitz, Tall Pines Day Camp, poses with Scott Lantzman, ACA-NJ Vice President after accepting the Howard Patton Award



Marc Koch, YMCA Fairview Lake, accepts the Harold Breene Youth Award and Education Award from Harold Breene



Loel Muetter, NJ State Department of Health, accepts Special Recognition Award from Jonathan Gold

Welcoming the Wide World of Webinars

By—Mary Sullivan, ACA-NJ Professional Dev. Chair

As many of you already know, webinars are live meetings, training sessions or presentations held via the Internet, and in our continuing effort to stay on top of the cyber times, ACA-NJ now utilizes webinar technology whenever possible. The beauty of a webinar (a combination of 'world wide web' and 'seminar') is that participants sit at their own computers in the comfort of their own homes or offices and can truly collaborate with their colleagues. ACA-NJ held a webinar on January 13th to discuss all the resources available to supplement the staff training process through ACA's e-Institute.

The e-Institute is a terrific way to enhance staff training. This online learning center provides self-directed and group learning experiences and is designed to assist camp professionals, after-school staff, community-based leaders and others. The e-Institute provides a mechanism for personal and professional development, and for training large groups of paid and volunteer staff.

The primary benefits of online learning include:

- > Convenience
- > Self-direction
- > Flexibility

Participants can attend from anywhere in the world (as long as they have an internet connection) and tailor the learning in whatever way works best for them. Since course materials are available on a 24/7 basis, participants can attend class when it suits them, and in increments of convenient time blocks.

And for those who can't attend a regularly-scheduled training session or staff meeting, online learning and webinars provide camp directors with the ability to communicate and train staff members even before they step foot on camp grounds. Directors can even host pre-camp meetings online to orientate staff to rules and policies. Experts agree that people need to take in new ideas more than once for those ideas become permanently ingrained, which validates the effectiveness of pre-season online learning and webinars.

The ACA e-Institute course catalog is expanding, and we have embraced the webinar platform to bring more and more important topics to members in a timely manner.

New courses to be unveiled in 2010: *Diversity: Critical Skills for Staff, Creating a Sense of Community at Camp, Critical Things Staff Need to Know About Health/Wellness, Food Service Management, Camp Risk Management, ACA e-Standards Course.*

ACA Webinar Calendar

- January 29: Partnering with Schools
- February: Communicating Successfully with Parents
- March: How to Target Youth Outcomes

Do you have ideas for topics you would like to see added to the e-Institute via a webinar platform? Are there emerging issues or hot topics you would like the Association to address with this valuable technology? We'd like to hear from you! Please email Mary Sullivan, PD Chair: mary@geshherfun.org

ACA Membership It's Not Just About Writing a Check

By Wendy Saiff, ACA-NJ Membership Chair

Busy? Sounds right! We all are. Camp professionals are generally busy people. As I am apt to tell friends who are envious of my job – 'camp is lots and lots of fun but going to camp and administrating camp are two different things.' I love my jobbut I've got a lot to do!

However, ACA-NJ makes a great effort to make the life of a camp professional easier. Probably our greatest accomplishments have been the work we have done in partnership with NJC-GAP in developing a better understanding of the camping industry in Trenton within the legislature and government agencies. We also run educational programs, staff training programs, accreditation programs and sponsor camp fairs. Our Executive Director runs our section office and is a terrific resource that many camps and the public use.

ACA-NJ is 300 members strong but actually only a third of that number participates actively in the organization. If you are one of the two thirds who just writes out a check, please consider an additional way to participate.

Some ideas:

- > Have someone at your camp become a standards visitor; fewer than one third of accredited camps in NJ provide a visitor which creates an unfair burden to the rest that do.
- > Join an ACA committee; membership, finance, program development are all in need of members.
- > Pay annual dues to NJC-GAP! This is a **check**, but it is as important a check to make out as your ACA dues. The work of GAP affects everyone of us. Don't be a slacker – pay your fair share! A registration form is inserted in this issue.

Make a new year's resolution to become more active in ACA – your professional organization. Please call me or Mary Ellen Folsom in the section office and discuss with her, a way you can play a more active role.



Revisions to Accreditation Standards Effective January 2010

Whether your camp is scheduled for a visit this summer or not, you will want to note the following changes to the standards, effective immediately.

Standard HW-17 now states:

Does the camp have access to an AED (automated external defibrillator) available to the majority of the camp population, within the timeframe recommended by authoritative sources, and managed by trained personnel? The AED may be located on the camp property or available through another provider.

This standard will NOT be mandatory and does not apply to trip or travel camps or other off-site programs.

Interpretation: Examples of authoritative sources include American Red Cross, American Heart Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, OSHA. The camp administration should determine the placement of the AED(s) based on population served and activities conducted.

Compliance Demonstration: Explanation of process used to determine where the AED will be located, who is trained in use of the AED and who is responsible for the maintenance of the AED.

Standard HW- 4A

This standard is the most commonly missed Mandatory standard, for the past three years. The first step is to understand that it is mandatory, every year, to check the National Sex Offender Public website, for ALL camp staff, paid or volunteer.

There are now two ways to comply with this standard.

A check of the National Sex Offender Public Registry, www.nsopw.gov. This name is different from what is printed in your APG and all states now participate and it is FREE.

If the company you are using to run background checks is also doing your sex offender registry check you must have them verify, in writing, that the sex offender registry check covers all 50 states and US territories, not just the states where a staff member says they have lived!

Either method above meets the new NJ state requirement for youth camps to conduct an annual sex offender registry check for all staff. Be aware however, that NJ State law

includes running a sex offender registry check for minors.

Keep an eye on the ACA Website for additional resource information. www.acacamps.org Accreditation Resources/Tools.

Attention Camps to be Accredited in 2010 and all Visitors

By Judy Trigg, ACA-NJ Standards Chair

The ACA National Standards Commission has made it mandatory for all visitors and camps that are to be visited in 2010 to participate in standards update training.

The good news is that training options are more convenient than ever, so don't panic. If you prefer in person instructor led training, you can attend one of the scheduled NJ or NY courses by downloading a registration form at acacampsnj.org/standards.php.

There are three standards courses being offered at the Tri-State Camp Conference, **however**, these courses, are full 5 HOUR courses. If you are experienced with Standards, all you need is a refresher course. A 90 minute refresher course is being offered on-line, for both visitors and camps through the ACA E-Institute, www.acacamps.org/einstitute/. I personally just completed an on-line update course and it was rather painless and I got to do it without venturing out in the cold.

On another note, I would like to stress how important the WDP (written documentation preview) is. 90% of camps that fail the accreditation process have not had a WDP. Therefore, the National Standard Commission expects that each camp will have a completed WDP prior to their on site visit and this preview should happen as early in the spring as possible. The WDP can be conducted in person, through e-mail, or traditional snail mail. Please don't delay; set the WDP dates now, summer will be here before you know it!



PHOTOS FROM THE
ACA-NEW JERSEY
2010 HOLIDAY PARTY

TOP: Jed Buck (Meadowbrook Day Camp) and Ron, Evan and Jon Leiser (Ivy League Day Camp) all enjoyed mingling at the event that raised money to support S.C.O.P.E.

Bottom Left: Pat and Dick Becker were in a festive mood as they showed off their holiday spirit

Bottom Right: Auction coordinators extraordinaire, Roz and Jed Buck (Meadowbrook Day Camp) take a moment to pose for a picture.

For More Info See The Article on Page 3



The Jersey CAMPER is published by The NJ Section of the American Camp Association 877- 488 -2267 Executive Director, Mary Ellen Folsom, executive@ ACAcampsnj.org P.O. Box 672 Pittstown, NJ 08867. Special thanks to volunteers, Joel Samberg and Rich Sherer, Meadowbrook Country Day Camp



American Camp Association
New Jersey Section
P.O.Box 672
Pittstown, NJ 08867
Address Service Requested

Is your Camp in Compliance with New Jersey's Criminal Background and Sex Offender Registry Staff Screening Requirements for 2010?

By Claudine Leone, ACA-NJ Govt. Affairs Consultant

As your hiring process gets in full swing for the 2010 camp season, it is important to keep in mind your camp's new responsibilities as it relates to New Jersey's new staff screening requirements for youth camps.

New Jersey now requires a four part staff screening process: (1) Review of prior employment history for new staff; (2) Three character reference checks for each new staff; (3) Criminal history check for each new adult staff member; and (4) Annual sex offender registry check for all staff.

Prior Employment/Character References. While these requirements are not new, the state has added an additional character reference requirement taking it from two to three under the new regulations.

Criminal History Checks. Effective for the 2010 season, you will need to obtain a criminal history check on all adult staff at your camp by June 15, 2010. Recognizing the rush and expense to comply with the regulation in its initial year, the Department has agreed to accept criminal history checks previously obtained by the camp for adult staff members on or after June 15, 2009. For those criminal history checks obtained prior to June 15, 2009, the Department will accept a notarized statement from that staff member indicating that nothing has changed since the last criminal history check by the youth camp.

Remember, once you get passed the 2010 camp season, this requirement is only for "new" adult staff at youth camps. For purposes of this staff screening requirement, the state considers a staff to be "new" if they have a break in employment with your camp that is greater than 12 months.

Sex Offender Registry Checks. For the 2010 camp season, New Jersey is also requiring an annual sex offender registry check for all staff (minors and adults). In order to comply you must use a national sex offender registry or a vendor that can retrieve New Jersey's sex offender registry information from a national sex offender registry check. Please note that New Jersey's regulations differ from ACA Standard HR-4 A since New Jersey requires minors in its sex offender registry check requirement and ACA limits it to adult staff.

For more information, please visit the Advocacy section of the ACA NJ website for a copy of the staff screening regulations or contact me at Claudine@acacampsnj.org to help you prepare for these new requirements for the 2010 season.

Below are some ACA Business Affiliates and/or Tri-State Vendors that conduct Background Checks.

ACAWE, division of Core Consulting Solutions, LLC
Mahwah, NJ
www.acawe.com (look under US Employers)

Gobackgrounds.com
Temecula, CA
www.gobackgrounds.com

National Background Investigations, Inc. (Tri-State Vendor)
Stevensville, MD
Nilsa Marin, Vice President
www.nationalbackground.com
email: nilsa@nationalbackground.com

SSCI/Operation TLC@, Marietta GA
www.ssci2000.com