



[www.acacampsnj.org](http://www.acacampsnj.org)

New Jersey Section Newsletter

Spring 2010

## Upcoming Events

**Tri-State Camp Conference**  
March 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> [www.tristatecampconference.com](http://www.tristatecampconference.com)

**Standards Training**  
Camp Kiddie Keep Well,  
Edison, NJ

- ◆ Standards Update Course  
April 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00 pm
- ◆ Visitor Update Course –  
April 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00

For on-line options contact  
[executive@acacampsnj.org](mailto:executive@acacampsnj.org)

**State of the Garden State**  
April 14<sup>th</sup> Camp Kiddie Keep  
Well, Edison. Register at  
[www.acacampsnj.org](http://www.acacampsnj.org)

**ECO-CAMP II**  
Keystone Regional Green  
Conference, Allentown, PA  
Tuesday, April 20, 2010  
<http://www.akaystone.org/>

**ACA-NJ Board Meeting**  
Wed. April 28<sup>th</sup> Baptist  
Camp Lebanon

**New Director's Orientation**  
May 5<sup>th</sup> Joseph Kushner  
Hebrew Academy,  
Livingston  
Register at  
[www.acacampsnj.org](http://www.acacampsnj.org)

**L.E.A.D.: Lead Excel, &  
Develop**, Teen Leadership  
Program, April 18<sup>th</sup>, NYC  
More information p.3

## President's Message: Notes from ACA's 100<sup>th</sup> in Denver

Sitting next to the hotel lobby waterfall here in Denver, I'm waiting for the airport shuttle after attending the 100th Birthday ACA National Conference. Our week began with the ACA "leadership summit", attended by the national board and three representatives from each of the 24 sections. Mary Ellen Folsom, Scott Lantzman and I represented New Jersey.

The summit focused on an in-depth discussion of potential new "initiatives" that ACA can undertake to realize the 20/20 Vision of doubling the number of kids who go to camps. We concluded that two specific efforts should be undertaken as soon as possible.

First, is the creation of a Professional Development Center that will provide an exciting new way for camp professionals to design a personalized educational program. Please read Mary Sullivan's article in this newsletter for more details.

The second priority initiative is for ACA to quickly recover from being the forgotten educational piece in children's lives. As greater emphasis, and Federal money, is being put toward "out-of-school" learning experiences, it's obvious that the key decision makers are not thinking about camp. ACA hopes to correct this through a multi-faceted approach that will include joining various out-of-school learning networks, establishing a presence in Washington, D.C., and proactively pushing the message that camp is a vital learning experience. We want camp to be recognized for its contribution to the education and healthy development of American youth.

The national ACA board of directors will be considering all of the input from the leadership summit at its April meeting and making decisions to move these initiatives to quick action.

Following the summit, there was a brief meeting of the Council of Delegates, attended by your three representatives to the summit, along with Mary Sullivan, Judy Trigg and Harold Breene. In my view, this was not as successful as the leadership summit. We left with mixed messages as to the continued viability of the Council and the ongoing ways the national ACA board intends to receive input from the field. We hope the national board has a commitment to open communications and will reinforce that commitment soon with an action plan.

The formal conference then began, so we were able to attend a variety of educational workshops as we also continued to meet with our ACA colleagues from across the country. In particular, Mary Ellen, Scott and I continued our several-years-long dialogue with our neighboring sections: Keystone Regional and New York. We feel that it is important to talk regularly and to continue to find ways to share programs and resources that will benefit our members and the public.

The national conference provides an opportunity to meet with camp professionals from across our country, and even other countries, which strengthens camp programs everywhere. Next year's conference will be in San Diego and I urge you to consider attending.

Now it's on to our Tri-State Camp Conference, March 16-19 in Atlantic City. In these challenging times particularly, you don't want to miss Tri-State. There is so much to learn from the formal sessions and the informal networking. And the exhibitors are offering great deals to camps who attend. I look forward to seeing you there and invite you particularly to our ACA-NJ hospitality reception on Wednesday night.

Tom Riddleberger  
ACA-NJ President, 973-845-9260 or [tom@campuskids.com](mailto:tom@campuskids.com)

## Our Own Professional Development Service Center

By Mary Sullivan, ACA-NJ Professional Dev. Chair

There's no question about it: professional development is of enormous significance to the mission and goals of the ACA. But do we all know *exactly* what that means? Here are two official explanations:

1. Professional development refers to skills and knowledge attained for both personal development and career advancement;
2. It also refers to activities designed to maintain and enhance one's competence.

Important stuff! Valuable concepts. And ACA has long recognized that it is vital for all camp professionals to have easy access to top-notch professional development opportunities. Now we have plans in place to provide exactly that.

Plans for the launch of a new ACA Professional Development Service Center were revealed at the National Conference in February. It will involve the following three components.

1. An on-line "dashboard"
2. Certificates of added qualification (CCAQ) and/or Continuing Education Credits (CECs)
3. On-line, individual educational portfolio

The online "dashboard" will include tools, resources, job services, calendars, course catalogs, certificate requirements and an online bookstore, as well as access to a directory of college and university programs related to camp and youth development. The service center will embrace change as a principle, and offerings will be updated as needs in the profession evolve.

You will also have the opportunity to earn certificates of added qualification (CCAQs) and/or continuing education credits (CECs) simply by attending or completing ACA programs. While the number of hours required to obtain certificates is still in development, we can already calculate how many hours various elements will provide. Attending the ACA Regional Conference, for example, will accrue 6.5-20 hours or CECs; the In-person Standards Course will provide 5 hours or CECs; and ACA selected Title Book Review will equal 4 hours or CECs. More on this as the program develops.

Another valuable tool currently being designed is called the Individual Online Portfolio. This individualized record will serve as a collection point for courses, conferences attended and other continuing education activities, enabling you to set personal goals and track credits toward

completion of certificates or other self-guided paths of learning. In addition, camp and program directors will be able to use this tool to guide and direct the professional development growth of their staff.

These are exciting times for professional development throughout ACA. If you would like more information or have suggestions, please contact Mary Sullivan, Professional Development Chair, at [mary@gesherfun.org](mailto:mary@gesherfun.org).



## Camps In The News!

### Camp Nejedá Receives Record Donation

Imagine what you would do with a million dollars! Camp Nejedá, a residential camp in Stillwater for children with diabetes, no longer has to imagine. In January, Camp Nejedá received a 1.2 million dollar grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, to be used for a complete renovation of the camp's Health Center. Unlike the current cabins on site, the new climate controlled building will provide an entire floor of heated sleeping accommodations during cold weather. "This grant is nothing short of transformational," said Philip (Flip) De Rea, Executive Director of the Camp Nejedá Foundation. "In addition to providing a modern, climate-controlled facility for our summer campers, for the first time in Camp Nejedá's 52-year history we can expand programs beyond the summer months, enabling more children to benefit from the empowering Camp Nejedá experience." Congratulations Camp Nejedá!

### Camp Riverbend Goes Green

Breene's Camp Riverbend in Warren Township is going green in a red-hot way! Solar panels installed at the camp will provide all the electricity the camp uses over the entire year. Last summer, the Breene family completed the installation of a 50kW solar-powered electrical system. "We will power our pool filters, our computers, and our lights, all through the power of the sun," said Harold Breene. "It's a wonderful opportunity to teach our campers how to take care of our environment," added Marianne Breene. For more information contact Harold at 908-580-CAMP or at [Harold@campriverbend.com](mailto:Harold@campriverbend.com).

Kudos to Camp Riverbend!

## L.E.A.D.: Lead, Excel & Develop

### THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE L.E.A.D. TEEN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Sunday, April 18, 2010, 9:45-4:15

#### • What exactly is LEAD?

LEAD (Lead, Excel and Develop) is the new ACA leadership initiative for teens that was started in the NJ Section and is now run jointly with the ACA-NY Section. The goal of the program is to expose teen LEADers to advanced leadership skills and techniques and to plant the seeds of the possibility of a future leadership role in the camp industry. LEAD training workshops and conferences complement what is taught at the local level in camp.

#### • Who is eligible to participate?

LEAD is open to any high school teen who will attend or work at a camp this summer, whether as a CIT/LIT or counselor.

#### • What types of sessions will be held?

LEADers will be able to choose from a variety of sessions that interest them, including Leadership 411, Finding the Leader in You, Decision Making, Who Will Care?, Making a Difference, Making the Transition, Group Dynamics, and Personality Types. All sessions will be taught by veteran camp staff and professional speakers.

#### • What are some of the other benefits?

The LEADership Conference will provide teens with leadership skills they can use at school and in the community, as well as camp skills they can use throughout the summer. Teens can add the LEADership Conference to their college resumes and use the Conference to help them continue to evaluate camp as an experience that positively affects their lives.

#### • Where does the conference take place?

Bank Street College of Education, 610 West 112<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC, 10025

#### • What is the cost and what is included?

For participants from ACA affiliated camps, the fee is \$50; for non-ACA it is \$75. In addition to all of the leadership sessions and a keynote speaker, breakfast, lunch, and a program T-shirt are included in the registration fee.

#### • Is there financial assistance available, and who can I contact for further information?

Yes, financial assistance is available for those camps or individuals in need. For assistance, or if you have any other questions, please contact Quinton Buckley in the ACA-NY office at 212-391-5208 ext. 1011 or [quinton@aca-ny.org](mailto:quinton@aca-ny.org).

#### • How can I register?

Registration forms are available from Quinton at the above e-mail address or can be downloaded from the ACA-NJ website, [www.acacampsnj.org](http://www.acacampsnj.org).

## Alert: Important Changes To Amusement Rules For 2010

By Claudine Leone, ACA-NJ Government  
Affairs Consultant

ACA NJ Section continues to work with the NJ Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") on the application of the carnival-amusement regulations to youth camps. While we were able to get ACA accredited camps an exemption for natural/man made rock walls and challenge activities in 2006, the application of the amusement regulations have continued to cause some concern with many ACA camps in New Jersey.

Just as a little background . . . the amusement regulations require all mechanical rides to be type certified and inspected by the DCA. Examples of mechanical rides most often found at youth camps are go-carts, bungees, inflatables, auto-belayed rock walls. So, if a camp has one of these mechanical "amusements" on the property they must be properly type certified and inspected by DCA.

ACA NJ Section has been focused on what we call the "catch all" application of the amusement regulations. The "catch all" allows the DCA to require type certification and inspection of all gravity propelled rides simply because of the presence of one type certified mechanical ride on the property (ie. an inflatable). What we have learned over the years is that DCA under this "catch all" regulation considers a gravity propelled ride to include, but not limited to, pool slides under 15 feet in height, play ground equipment, soft play structures and some water-based recreation equipment.

Based upon our feedback to the DCA a working group was established to review the application of the amusement regulations on youth camps in New Jersey. We are pleased to share that DCA has proposed an amendment to the amusement regulation that *specifically exempts youth camps from the type certification and inspection of gravity propelled amusements*. Bottom line is that DCA will only require type certification and inspection of true mechanical rides at youth camps.

The only piece of documentation an amusement inspector will require for your camp to receive this exemption for any gravity propelled "rides" is evidence of your current state license under the New Jersey Youth Camp Safety Act. If you have already submitted a type certification (renewal or new) for a gravity propelled ride for the 2010 camp season, DCA has advised us that they will be returning all documentation and refunding fees submitted by a youth camp.

While this proposed regulation has been approved by the Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Board in DCA, it still must be formally adopted through the regulatory process. While we wait for the proposed regulation to make its way

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Continued on top of page 7-

## PRE-CAMP TRAINING CALENDAR

### Lifeguard Certification

#### **Camp Sacajawea, Farmingdale**

For more information visit our website [www.girlscoutsjs.org](http://www.girlscoutsjs.org) to download a registration form or contact Joan at [jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org](mailto:jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org) or call 732-938-5454 ext. 127, (15 yrs. & older)

M-F June 7-11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
 Sat-Sun, June 6-7<sup>th</sup>, 8 am – 4:30 pm  
 Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 1:00 pm  
 Fee: \$295.00 (must attend all June dates)  
 Bring: bathing suit, towel, change of clothes, paper and pen, water bottle and meals and/or snacks.  
 Course includes ARC First Aid, CPR and AED, classroom and pool time, books and certificates.

#### **JCC MetroWest N.J. –West Orange**

To register contact Jackie Sanchez, 973-530-3423  
[jsanchez@jccmetrowest.org](mailto:jsanchez@jccmetrowest.org)

Starting April 11-25<sup>th</sup> (7 sessions) 10 am—6 pm  
 Starting May 22—23<sup>rd</sup> (5 sessions) 10 am—6 pm  
 Starting June 21-24<sup>th</sup> (one week) 12-8pm  
 Fee: \$250M/\$285 Guest

#### **Winnewald Day Camp, Lebanon (heated pool)**

908-735-7334 or [Winneday@ptds.net](mailto:Winneday@ptds.net)  
 June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 5 pm - 8 pm  
 June 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> 8 pm - 6 pm  
 Fee: \$250

### Lifeguard Challenge – Re-Certification

#### **Camp Sacajawea, Farmingdale**

For more information visit our website [www.girlscoutsjs.org](http://www.girlscoutsjs.org) to download a registration form or contact Joan at [jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org](mailto:jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org) or call 732-938-5454 x127

Saturday, June 12, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 pm Fee: \$95.00  
 Bring bathing suit, towel, change of clothes, paper and pen, water bottle. Course includes ARC CPR, classroom and pool time and certificates.

#### **JCC MetroWest N.J. –West Orange**

To register contact Jackie Sanchez, 973-530-3423  
[jsanchez@jccmetrowest.org](mailto:jsanchez@jccmetrowest.org)  
 Sat/ & Sun. May 22 & 23, 10am—6 pm CJ-AQ410S21R  
 Fee:\$110 M/\$135 Guest

### Certified Pool Operator

Pool Operation Management  
 The National Certification Courses located throughout NJ, NY, & PA. Call 732-451-1040 or register on line at [www.pooloperationmanagement.com](http://www.pooloperationmanagement.com)  
 Fee: \$305 – early registration (includes shipping of CPO book prior to class)

### WSI -FIT Course

#### **JCC MetroWest N.J. –West Orange**

To register contact Jackie Sanchez, 973-530-3423  
[jsanchez@jccmetrowest.org](mailto:jsanchez@jccmetrowest.org)  
 Starting April 24 & 25 (6 sessions) 10am-6pm CJ-AQ410A27  
 Starting June 20 -24 (5 sessions) 10am-6pm CJ-AQ401A27A  
 Fee: \$300 M/\$350 Guest

### LGI Course (FIT is a prerequisite)

#### **JCC MetroWest N.J. –West Orange**

To register contact Jackie Sanchez, 973-530-3423  
[jsanchez@jccmetrowest.org](mailto:jsanchez@jccmetrowest.org)  
 June—20-24<sup>th</sup> 10-am –6pm CJ-AQ410A211  
 Fee: \$275 M/\$300 Guest

### CPR

#### **Winnewald Day Camp, Lebanon**

908-735-8336 or [winneday@ptds.net](mailto:winneday@ptds.net),  
 CPR & First Aid Training  
 June 1, 2, 3 – 6 pm to 9 pm  
 Fee: \$45 per course

### Rocketry

Winnewald Day Camp, Lebanon  
 Rocket Age Enterprises,908-439-3559  
 Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> 5 pm-7 pm  
[rocketage@patmedia.net](mailto:rocketage@patmedia.net)  
 Fee:\$25 ACA member - \$40 non ACA-member

### Archery Certification

#### **World Archery Center**

To find a Basic or Intermediate Level certification course in your area please visit our course scheduling website at [www.worldarcheryforum.com](http://www.worldarcheryforum.com) or call the NADA office at 352-472-2388 to find out how you can host a certification course at your camp. To learn more about archery instructor certification, please visit [www.worldarcherycenter.com/instructor\\_courses.htm](http://www.worldarcherycenter.com/instructor_courses.htm).

Camp Sacajawea, Farmingdale  
 (15 yrs & older)

For more information visit our website [www.girlscoutsjs.org](http://www.girlscoutsjs.org) to download a registration form or contact Joan at [jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org](mailto:jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org) or call 732-938-5454 ext. 127  
 Sunday, April 11, 8:00am – 6:00pm  
 Bring: Lunch, beverage and water bottle, paper and pencil.  
 Dress for both indoor and outdoor weather.  
 Course includes classroom and fieldwork, certificates, all course materials and archery equipment will be provided.  
 Fee: \$195.00

## PRE-CAMP TRAINING CALENDAR

### Archery Certification – (continued)

Tall Pines Day Camp, Williamstown  
[fun@tallpinesdaycamp.com](mailto:fun@tallpinesdaycamp.com), 856-262-3900  
 June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
 Fee: \$100 (includes books), Class Limit 12  
 Please bring lunch, drinks and snacks.

### Challenge Courses

Lord Sterling School, Basking Ridge  
 Date TBD  
 908-766-1786 x 119 or [outdoors@lordstirling.org](mailto:outdoors@lordstirling.org)  
 Fee: See website – Lunch included

Camp Sacajawea, Farmingdale  
 Zip Line & Climbing Wall Certification (Low Ropes)  
 For more information visit our website  
[www.girlscoutsjs.org](http://www.girlscoutsjs.org) to download a registration form or  
 contact Joan at [jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org](mailto:jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org) or call 732-938-5454 ext. 127

#### Low Ropes

Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
 Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am – 6:00 pm  
 Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
 Fee: \$175.00  
 Bring bag lunch, water bottle, water bottle, paper, pen,  
 long pants, hat and comfortable sneakers or boots

The Adventure Network  
 High & Low Ropes Training  
 Supervisor Level 1 & 2 Certification  
 Training classes in the Philadelphia area.  
 For class times visit the website at [www.adventure-network.net](http://www.adventure-network.net), or [info@adventure-network.net](mailto:info@adventure-network.net)  
 Or call 215-997-9270

### Boating Safety

Boating Safety Course (15 years & older)  
 Camp Sacajawea, Farmingdale  
 For more information visit our website  
[www.girlscoutsjs.org](http://www.girlscoutsjs.org) to download a registration form or  
 contact Joan at [jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org](mailto:jbasilotto@girlscoutsjs.org)  
 or call 732-938-5454 ext. 127  
 Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 5:00pm  
 Fee: \$75.00  
 Bring bathing suit, towel, change of clothes, paper and  
 pen, water bottle, and meals/snacks.  
 Course includes classroom and lake time, books and certificates.

### Wilderness First Aid including CPR

SOLO, May 22-23  
 Mohican Outdoor Center, NJ 908-362-5670  
[Mohican@mindspring.com](mailto:Mohican@mindspring.com), Several PA and NY locations  
 listed on SOLO website at [www.soloschools.com](http://www.soloschools.com) Fee:  
 Call or email for prices

Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center  
 Port Murray, NJ, [www.crossroadsretreat.com](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com)  
 June 7-15, Call to register, 908-832-7264  
 Fee \$630 tuition, \$270 lodging

New Jersey Health and Safety Institute  
 Pinelands Center @ Mt. Misery – Burlington County  
 609-267-9595 or Toll Free 877-658-9764  
[www.healthandsafetyinstitute.org](http://www.healthandsafetyinstitute.org) or  
[njhss@redcrossbcnj.org](mailto:njhss@redcrossbcnj.org), June 11-20  
 Aquatics Instructor Level, Aquatics Instructor re-entry,  
 crossover/upgrade/orientation, Aquatics basic, Aquatics  
 basic review and challenge, CPR and First Aid Instructor  
 level, YMCA Pool Operations Course, Level re-entry/  
 crossover courses and CPR, First Aid Basic level and re-  
 view courses, Babysitter Instructor Course, Wilderness  
 and Remote First Aid Program, Defibrillator Training,  
 Health and Safety Services Management Seminar  
 Fees vary please call or visit the web site

The Adirondack Training Institute  
 YMCA Camp Chingachgook, Kattskill Bay, NY  
[www.lakegeorgecamp.org](http://www.lakegeorgecamp.org), [chingachgook@cdymca.org](mailto:chingachgook@cdymca.org),  
 518-656-9462  
 Wilderness First Aid, American Red Cross Lifeguard,  
 Safe Powerboat Handling, U.S. Sailing Counselor, Intro to  
 Canoe Instructor, Basic Archery Instructor  
 Fees vary please call or visit the web site

### Camp Food Service Conference - March 9-11 and Maintenance Conference – March 23-25

For staff and directors involved with food service delivery  
 and property maintenance at a camp. For details visit -  
[www.campfoodservice.com](http://www.campfoodservice.com) and  
[www.campmaintenance.com](http://www.campmaintenance.com).

### New Director Orientation

Full day, interactive course that covers the core areas of  
 camp management. Perfect for new or seasonal camp  
 directors, assistant directors, program directors or camp  
 staff that are considering directing a camp in the near fu-  
 ture.

Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy, Livingston, NJ  
 Wed. May 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Fee: \$75 for ACA members, \$95 for non-members  
 Please see next page for more information.

**Additional training will be posted on the ACA-NJ website at [www.acacampsnj.org](http://www.acacampsnj.org) as it becomes available. Staff and Camper Supervision Training available on-line at the ACA E-Institute.**

**Check out the course catalog at [www.acacamps.org/einstitute](http://www.acacamps.org/einstitute).**



## NEW DIRECTORS ORIENTATION COURSE Learn the Tools of the Trade!

**May 5, 2010**

**9:30 AM-5:30 PM**

**Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy  
110 South Orange Avenue  
Livingston, NJ 07039**

This 8-hour interactive course, developed by ACA-National, provides an overview on key aspects of the camp director's job.

### Who should attend?

Seasonal or new camp directors

Assistant directors

Program directors

Camp staff that have been in other administrative positions and are considering directing camp in the near future.

This course will cover core areas of camp management with special focus on **leadership, risk management, camper behavior, staff training** and **supervision**. Upon completion of this one-day course, the ACA National office will mail you a certificate, suitable for framing. Registration on-line at: <http://www.acacampsnj.org/eventscalender.php> or mail in the tear-off sheet below.

**REGISTRATION: New Director's Orientation Course**

**May 5, 2010**

CAMP NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ACA Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME AND TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Fee: \$75 for ACA members and \$95 for non-members.** (Lunch included.) Sorry, no refunds.

**Registration deadline: Wednesday, April 21, 2010.**

**Please make checks payable to ACA-NJ and remit with this application to:**

ACA New Jersey

P.O. Box 672

Pittstown, N.J. 08867

For questions or directions, phone: 908-238-9900, fax: 908-730-7990, e-mail: [executive@acacampsnj.org](mailto:executive@acacampsnj.org)

**-Continued from page 3-**

through the process, DCA has agreed to honor the spirit of the proposal for the 2010 camp season and is in the process of educating their inspectors of this change. In addition to showing your state license, for this first year prior to the regulation's adoption DCA will be providing us with a letter to show inspectors as they transition into this new rule for 2010.

Once we have this letter, we will distribute to ACA NJ Section camps via email and post it in the Advocacy section of the ACA NJ Section website.

## Sneak a Peek at our Membership Survey. (The stats are pretty good!)

By Wendy Saiff, Membership Chair ACA-NJ

An on line member survey, designed to obtain useful feedback on multiple issues that affect each and every one of our camps, was recently conducted by the NJ section of the ACA. We trust that the information generated will be representative of the entire section (nearly 1/3 of our 300 members participated), and we thank all of you who took the time to respond.

As promised, we held a drawing with the names of all the camps that took the survey, and we're pleased to announce that TrailBlazers won free camp enrollment at the upcoming Tri-State Camp Conference. Congratulations!

Now we are in the process of reviewing all the survey responses and comments and thought we'd give you a sneak peek of just a few of the results. If they happen to spark any thoughts, ideas and comments of your own, even though the official survey has concluded you are more than welcome to contact us and share your thoughts. We will issue a full report on the survey to the NJ Board at our meeting in April.

- ◆ 85% of respondents were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with educational events they have attended in the past two years.
- ◆ The top two training needs were identified as Leadership Development and Staff Issues (recruitment, training, internationals etc.). Nearly tied for third place, were Program Development and Marketing.
- ◆ 100% were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with ACA-NJ communication.
- ◆ 98.6% prefer to receive communications electronically.
- ◆ 83.8% were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with support offered for the accreditation process, but only 52% had a standards visitor on staff.

- ◆ Of the camps who do not have a standards visitor on staff, 77.8% said they could not take the time from their job responsibilities to become a visitor.
- ◆ Accreditation and Legislative support, and Professional Development/Tri-State (in that order) were the three services identified as most relevant and useful.

These responses, and all others that we receive independent of the survey, will help us as we formulate and modify section plans to better serve our membership as we move forward.

One thing we've already learned from the survey is that we need more volunteers. If you are not currently active in ACA-NJ, please consider donating some time to our efforts. Become a visitor, serve on a committee or task force, or simply ask what you might do to become more involved and help our overall efforts. Contact Mary Ellen for more information on how you can help. Remember, we have volunteer options even for those who have very little extra time.

## The State Of The Garden State

**When:** April 14, 2010

**Where:** Camp Kiddie Keep Well, Edison, NJ

Come to the State of the Garden State and hear speakers from New Jersey statewide departments and private companies share their expertise on the most up-to-date information on a variety of important topics. It's a veritable who, what, when, where, and why of summer camping!



Topics include NJ State Regulations, updates from Trenton, background checks and internet safety. Learn about the developments happening right now in the state of New Jersey. Standards training will be offered in the afternoon for both visitors and camps being visited this summer.

For more information and to register, please visit:  
[www.acacampsnj.org](http://www.acacampsnj.org)

**Thank you to our sponsors:**

**Pearl Observatory**  
[www.pearlobservatory.com](http://www.pearlobservatory.com)



Markel Insurance Company

# CONGRATULATIONS!



Tom Riddleberger, ACA-NJ Board President, accepts the ACA National Service Award at the ACA National Conference in Denver, Co. Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. The National Service Award is given to recognize continued and increasing service beyond the local level.

**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