

ACA-NJ Government Affairs

The ACA-New Jersey Government Affairs Program has gained many critical accomplishments for the Association's member camps.

In 2006, ACA-NJ membership identified priority issues affecting the camping industry and launched a clearly focused government advocacy program. Top issues currently targeted are: (1) Amusement Regulations, (2) Minimum Wage and Hours Regulations, and (3) Revisions to the NJ Youth Camp Safety Act.

Key Accomplishments

- ACA accredited camps in New Jersey are now exempt from NJ State Amusement Regulations relating to the permitting, fees and inspection of Rock Climbing Walls and other items in the Adventure/Challenge section of the ACA Accreditations Standards.
- ACA accredited camps in New Jersey are now exempt from State Department of Health and Senior Services inspection, when it falls in the same year as the camp's ACA Accreditation visit.
- Effective the 2008 camp season, all ACA accredited camps in New Jersey are exempt from pre-operational and operational health inspections by local, county and state health officers.
- Defensive lobbying prevented the extension of the state's sales tax to camps. The ACA-NJ Government Affairs Program played a key role in exempting industries providing services to children under 18, including camps, during the 2006 State Budget process.
- ACA-NJ successfully lobbied against legislation requiring all employers to provide 30 minute meal periods (for 6 hours of work) and 15 minute paid rest breaks (for 4 hours of work) to *all* employers.
- ACA-NJ designed and successfully launched its new Advocacy Section of the ACA-NJ website providing its members with key information about the Government Affairs Program, links to state departments with regulatory authority over the camp industry and other Trenton activities.

Ongoing Government Affairs Initiatives

Beating Back Red Tape

ACA-NJ is actively participating in the revisions to the NJ Youth Camp Safety Act, significantly influencing proposed revisions and working to prevent and/or limit the scope of additional regulations for camps in New Jersey. The new regulations will reflect the exemption for ACA accredited camps from local and state health inspections related to the enforcement of the NJ Youth Camp Safety Act.

Constant Legislative and Regulatory Monitoring

ACA-NJ lobbyist monitors state legislation and regulations on a daily basis, ensuring early warning of issues that could favorably or negatively impact camps.

Getting Front and Center with Key Policymakers

ACA-NJ is raising awareness of the camping industry in Trenton. The ACA-NJ is testifying at legislative hearings on priority issues, introducing state legislators to the ACA through site visits, and educating state regulators on how their policies impact ACA camps in New Jersey.

ACA-NJ has also established a Key Contacts Program matching each ACA-NJ camp to legislative representatives to help members to establish relationships with their state representatives as our Advocacy Program develops.