

ACA-NJ Government Affairs

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

The ACA-NJ membership identified priority issues affecting the camp industry resulting in 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

- Effective the 2009 camp season, as adopted by regulation, all ACA accredited camps in New Jersey are exempt from pre-operational and operational health inspections by local, county and state health officers in New Jersey for enforcement of the NJ Youth Camp Safety Act.
- In spring 2009 ACA-NJ was invited to participate in a working group established by the Carnival Amusement and Ride Safety Board for the sole purpose of reviewing the impact of the state's amusement regulations on youth camps.
- In February 2009, Governor Corzine nominated a camp professional, recommended by ACA-NJ, for a seat on the Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Board.
- From 2007 through 2009, ACA-NJ actively participated in the revisions of the NJ Youth Camp Safety regulations through development, proposal and adoption phases. In its final adoption, the NJ Department of Health accepted all of the ACA-NJ recommended changes to proposals that would have negatively impacted all youth camps.
- In 2008, the new Advocacy Section of the ACA-NJ website was launched 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-related activities.
- As of January 2006, ACA accredited camps in New Jersey are 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.

Ongoing Government Affairs Initiatives

Beating Back Red Tape

Beginning May 2009, ACA-NJ is actively participating on a working group to discuss the re-adoption and revisions to the NJ Public and Recreational Bathing regulations.

ACA-NJ is working with the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services on its recent regulatory proposal amending staff screening requirements for youth camps. Any changes to the staff screening requirements will be effective for the 2010 camp season.

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. ACA-NJ is testifying at legislative hearings on priority issues, introducing state legislators to the ACA through site visits to accredited camps, and educating state regulators on how their policies impact 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.