

Message from the Board Chair and President/CEO

Friends and Colleagues:

This year was filled with opportunities for knowledge growth, finding solutions, and leading with compassion. This summer we joined our colleagues at the National Summer Learning Association and the New York Life Foundation in a camp-school partnership to provide under-resourced middle-schoolers with a week of summer camp to help address their emotional well-being and academic losses caused by the pandemic. Partnerships like this will ensure that our dream of a shared future that provides every child — of every background, racial/ethnic group, identity, and ability — with the much-needed positive and lifelong benefits of a camp experience is closer to becoming a reality.



ACA also worked with member camps and the State Department in the early days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine to help support Ukrainian kids and families who were in the US. Ukrainian campers and young staff members were provided with all the benefits of a safe and comforting space at an American summer camp, being able to — trying new things, making friends, increasing social-emotional skills, and so much more.

ACA recognizes that doing all this important work requires adequate staffing in camps, the scarcity of which was felt across the industry this year. Our successful Staffing Summit was designed to share practical solutions to address employee shortages, innovative ways to recruit staff, and best practices for retaining staff. We will continue to seek ways to support our community in making full-time camp jobs a more sustainable profession.

The American Camp Association is truly grateful to and up lifted by each and every individual who gives their time and talent, their blood, sweat, and tears, to provide children and young adults with amazing camp experiences. You are equipping them with crucial social-emotional skills that the pandemic and isolation sought to destroy. Through camp, you are teaching children to persevere and solve problems. You help them rediscover a sense of freedom through play and giving them hope for a brighter future. Thanks to you, our field remains steadfast and strong despite the challenges we have faced.

We will continue to provide engaging professional communities to support you and to provide opportunities to share, learn, and collaborate for everyone's benefit. Your dedication allows the magic of camp to take root in the minds of today's youth, and we deeply appreciate your unselfish, courageous leadership in all you do for the children and families you serve.

Lizabeth Fogel, EdD
Chair, National Board of Directors

Tom Rosenberg
President and CEO

