

NEWS IN BRIEF



September 18, 2008

FROM THE SECTION OFFICE



If you're a parent of a child who has attended day or residential camp recently, chances are, you've noticed an increase in their self-confidence, a sense of having discovered strengths in themselves they were unaware of before, and a lasting excitement over new friendships and new hobbies. These are telltale signs of the transformative nature of camp. Truth is, camp is on a short list of places today where children and adolescents can take risks, challenge themselves, find their voice, and learn the value of mentor and friend relationships built on trust, mutual respect, and genuine caring all in a safe and nurturing environment.

<http://www.campparents.org/newsletter/0809/article3.html>

Receive a free copy of the 2008 Employee Benefits Study

Be a part of the leading resource in employee benefits. The 2008 [Employee Benefits Study](http://www.uschamber.com/ebstudy) survey is under way, and we need your help. The study has become a powerful tool to help you to evaluate your company's benefits package; benchmark your benefits package against others by company size, region, and industry; and assess the costs of providing benefits. Participate in the survey by Oct. 14 and receive a free copy (\$125 value). To take the survey, go to www.uschamber.com/ebstudy and follow the instructions.

ACA IN/ISU Event

Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN
Wednesday October 29th

8:00-12:00 Certification morning session (CPR, Standards, Serv Safe, NDO)

12-1:30 Board meeting, Awards (open to all)

1:30-2:00 Break/lunch on your own

2:00-3:00 Professionals speaking to students in classes/networking/etc.

3:00-5:00 Certification afternoon session (finish CPR, Standards, Serv Safe, NDO)

5-6:30 Dinner/Social and Nathan presents research on Current Issues and Trends in American Camps, (based on national ACA research study)

Further details coming soon to an inbox near you!

TECH TIPS

E-mail plug-in keeps track of social network
 A new, free plug-in module for Microsoft Outlook offers social networking and data-mining functions that can do wonders in terms of expanding your network. The program, called Xobni -- "inbox" spelled backward -- sits on the right side of the Outlook screen, and one writer says the program made Outlook more useful and faster.

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Whether you are starting an employee newsletter from scratch or trying to freshen - Funding is available to help Christian congregations identify and nurture the next generation of leaders for the church. The Fund for Theological Education is offering "Calling Congregations" grants, funded by the Lilly Endowment.

More info: www.thefund.org

You scream, I scream. The Dreyer Foundation offers ice cream products, gift certificates, auction items and financial grants for your school or youth program special event. Grant range: \$3,000. Deadline: Monthly.

More info:

http://www.dreyersinc.com/dreyersfoundation/small_grants.asp

LINK UP

KeePass is a password manager with a user-friendly interface to keep track of all your passwords in one place, with no extended installation required. It is also an open-source initiative, and your data is easily exportable.

http://ga0.org/ct/Fd_S0Y1PLAo/

SITE & FACILITY

"I Have One Thing to Add About Potholes" – writes Paul "Bear" Bryant of YMCA Camp Sloane, CT. "My high school best buddy's dad was in charge of our town's roads (and road work repair crews). His job was to ensure that they were doing their jobs and doing them correctly. One thing that he insisted that they all do when filling potholes was this: Take a spud bar (tanker bar, pry bar, etc.) and chisel out the insides of the pothole. You want the top of the pot hole to be smaller than the bottom of the pot hole. This way, when the asphalt, concrete or whatever sets up, it makes a kind of reverse cork with the small end of the cork at the road surface and the large end of the cork at the bottom of the pothole. Potholes really stay fixed this way. You still need to overfill a bit but you get a more permanent fix than just filling the hole."-

STANDARDS SECRETS- Have you signed your SOC for 2008?

American Camp Association Accreditation describes the operation of the programs and services by an owner/director. This may be sought by a camp operating on its own property, on the property belonging to someone else, or by camps that rent/lease facilities to other groups who retain the responsibility for part or all of their own program. The visitation requires establishing compliance with standards related to the camp site, program, and operation, and it must occur while the camp is in full operation.

Accreditation applies to all camp programs and services offered under the same camp name throughout the year, except for single day events.

To apply for or maintain accreditation, a legal representative must sign the statement of compliance annually, and must agree to an on site visit as determined by the Section, but at least once every three years.

<http://www.acacamps.org/soc/> to complete online

SOUP FOR THE CAMP DIRECTOR

Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling some five balls in the air. You name them- work, family, health, friends and spirit- and you're keeping all of these in the air. You will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls- family, health, friends and spirit are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged or even shattered. They will never be the same.

You must understand that and strive for balance in your life. How?

- ❖ **Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.**
- ❖ **Don't set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.**
- ❖ **Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as they were your life, for without them, life is meaningless.**
- ❖ **Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for ther future. By living your life one day at a time, you live ALL the days of your life.**
- ❖ **Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.**
- ❖ **Dn't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect. It is this fragile thread that binds us to each other.**
- ❖ **Don't be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.**
- ❖ **Don't shut love out of your life by saing it's impossible to find time. The quickest way to receive love is to give; the fastest way to love love is to hld it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.**
- ❖ **Don't run through life so fast that you forget noly only where you've been, but also where you are going.**
- ❖ **Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.**
- ❖ **Don't be afraid to learn. Knowledge is eiightless, a treasure you can always carry easily.**
- ❖ **Don't use time or words carelessly. Neither can be retrieved. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way.**

Yesterday is History, tomorrow is a Mystery, and Today is a gift.: That's why we call it The Present.

GREEN SPOKEN HERE

Children's Web Site Encourages Creative Reuse

Columbus, IN-August 21, 2008 If you were to search for the word *imagination* on Google, it's likely that The Imagination Factory will be linked near the top of the millions of entries. Listed by the American Library Association as one of the best online resources for kids, the award winning site shows visitors how to make art using materials most people throw away. Some of the activities include drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, paper mache, marbling, and crafts.

A Trash Matcher links visitors with appropriate art activities that use the solid waste they have available, and a feature called the Badge Matcher allows Brownies, Girl Scouts and their leaders to quickly locate projects that help satisfy badge requirements. Visitors also learn how reusing materials can help save energy, natural resources, and landfill space. Trashesaurus Rex, a giant dinosaur made of everything from used toothpaste tubes to odd gloves serves as the site's mascot.

Just introduced is a "Members Only" section, which includes twenty, new art/reuse activities, and a quarterly newsletter that provides ideas for saving money and Mother Earth. Members also have access to The Green Gallery, a showcase of art and fine crafts created by professional artists who reuse and recycle materials. Artwork featured includes assemblage, collage, dollmaking, fiber arts, furniture, jewelry, marbling, metalwork, mosaics, sculpture, and weaving.
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<http://www.kid-at-art.com>
 812-372-6886

OTHER RESOURCES

[New: Learn Computer & Management Skills with ICWFD's 500 Online Courses](#)

Have you been looking to improve your skills with popular software programs, learn basic or advanced information technology topics, or enhance your management skills? Thanks to a new discount program through TechSoup, you can choose from over 500 online or downloadable courses provided by the International Commission on Workforce Development (ICWFD).

Available for the first time in North America, ICWFD's e-Skills 360° suite of courses can help you improve your operations and enhance your effectiveness. Eligible nonprofits and public libraries can [request a block of 10 discounted ICWFD courses](#) for an admin fee of \$80 (the retail value is, on average, \$1000).

<http://www.techsoup.org/stock/restrictions.asp#icwfd>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grant Writing

Come spend the day focused on grant writing. Are you overwhelmed by the prospect of writing grants? Are you not certain where to start? Then, this workshop is designed for you.

We will explore:

- Finding grants that align with your mission
- Components of a good grant proposal
- The process of applying for grants
- The grantmaker's perspective

Date: Tuesday, September 23rd

Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Where: Rochester Library, 320 W.7th,Rochester, IN

Cost: \$50

Presenter: Kim Johnson is the Northern Regional Director for the Indiana Nonprofit Network. Kim has worked in the nonprofit sector for over 20 years. She has experience writing and managing grants as well as reading and evaluating grant proposals. Sponsored by United Way of Fulton County

Questions? Contact Kim Johnson, 574-295-1650 ext. 205 or johnsonk@unitedwayec.org

To Register: Please send registration form and a check made payable to United Way of Elkhart County to: Indiana Nonprofit Resource Network, 222 Middlebury St, Elkhart, IN 46516.

You may also register via email by sending registration information to: baxtera@unitedwayec.org We will bill you for the registration fee if you sign up via email.

Or, register online at <http://www.unitedwayec.org/nrn-workshops.htm> (and find other workshops)

20/20 VISION

Brutal Truth #1 – It's not about camp; it's about making people better. To achieve this, we stand on [three pillars of hope](#).

Brutal Truth #2 – We serve too few. It is true that 10 million young people go to camp annually. This may sound impressive—but don't be lulled into satisfaction. ACA camps only serve 3 million. To serve so few, suggests a self-serving small community. Why shouldn't we want to profoundly influence the 10 million?

Why shouldn't we be concerned about the other 40 million between five and fourteen that don't go to camp?

Brutal Truth #3 – Many parents do not embrace camp.

They suffer a lack of understanding or worse yet—fear. Far more parents today have not gone to camp—they are not inspired to “pass along a memory.” Far more parents define camp differently than those of us sitting in this room. Maybe that is part of the problem—we do not look like the parent of today or tomorrow. It appears we are serving an evaporating demographic, a shrinking minority of people. It begs the question, how do we need to change in order to change the thinking of others?

Brutal Truth #4 – Our profile doesn't reflect the community at large, or in fact, the larger camp industry.

We don't look like the world around us—the world we want to influence. We, in fact, look less and less like the world in which we live. To cling to a shrinking minority marketplace is done at the detriment of millions of kids who deserve a camp experience.

Brutal Truth #5 – Our brand, camp, is losing relevance.

If we don't face the first four truths we risk losing all relevance. We can't look like we did 100 years ago. Camp is a noun we no longer own, we don't control the definition—people don't know/understand the promise of camp. Saying camp give kids a world of good louder, adds no additional meaning.