

# NEWS IN BRIEF



October 2, 2008

## HEALTHY CAMP STUDY

This summer ACA finished Year 3 of the 5-year Healthy Camp Study. A total of 177 camps reported data (an almost 20% increase over last year!). Astonishingly, 108 camps took the “end-of-season” survey. Most camps (80%) taking this survey reported being either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the Healthy Camp Study.

Several camps also reported having utilized the on-line courses as part of staff training, with over 9 in 10 camps that used these interventions saying they would recommend them to other camps. You can visit <http://www.acacamps.org/einstitute/healthycamp/> to learn more about these courses.

The day and resident camp reports will be completed over the next 2-3 months and mailed to participating camps in December. Special thanks to all camps who participated in Year 3.

Don't forget, the opportunity to get involved in Year 4 of the Healthy Camp Study is just around the corner. New camps are always welcome.

Questions about the study should be directed to Barry Garst at [bgarst@acacamps.org](mailto:bgarst@acacamps.org).

## FROM THE SECTION OFFICE

It is time for the 3rd Annual ISU/ACA Extravaganza. As you may know, we have combined the event into a one day event this year on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at Indiana State University, Hulman Memorial Student Union.

We ask for one registration form be filled out by each person from your organization. Please make check payable to: ISU Center for Recreation Management. Registration form available at: <http://www.acaindiana.org/events.php> or by contacting the ACA Indiana section office.

8 am-12pm Professional Training/Certification #

- New Director Orientation (\$45/person)
- ARC Adult/Infant/Child/AED/First Aid (\$45/person)
- ACA Standards Training (\$10/person + \$30 book if needed)

12pm-1:30pm ACA Indiana Board Meeting/Annual Meeting & Awards (Lunch Provided)

2pm-3pm ISU Student/ACA Professional open forum

3:15pm-5:15pm Professional Training/Certification#

5:15pm-6:30pm Networking Dinner and presentation “Current Issues and Trends in American Camps”, Dr. Nathan A. Schaumleffel and Bekah Carmichael

6:30pm Social at 7<sup>th</sup> & Elm

# all courses have 2 class blocks—you will need to attend both blocks to receive your certification) Block one: 8:00 a.m.-noon, block two: 3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m. All courses include dinner.

## CAMP SPOTLIGHT

“**Carpetball sensation**” – If you haven't seen this yet, get someone on it! A perfect volunteer construction project (my son and I built two in a day).

<http://www.duke.edu/~mfc5/ultracarpetballplans/> Now that they're installed at camp, it's a huge hit. My only suggestion: we built one to the same dimensions as the plans, which is ideal for adults and teens. But we built the second one 6" lower, which works much better for most kids. Thanks to Camp Tecumseh for discovering this great activity!

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## TECH TIPS

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### [A Few Good Page Layout Tools for Nonprofits](#)

Do you want to create a letterhead for your nonprofit or lay out a monthly newsletter or report? Send thank-you cards to donors? Create an invite for your next event? All these tasks fall under the umbrella of page layout. Idealware spoke to five nonprofit technology and creative professionals about the page layout tools that have worked for them and their organizations. We've consolidated their advice to help you find a tool that might work for you.

### ***E-INSTITUTE***

Speaking of budget and finance, ACA has a new on-line course that focuses on budgeting and business operations and is targeted towards new directors or financial managers.

Learn more at:

<http://www.acacamps.org/einstitute/business/>.

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### **Staples Foundation for Learning Offers Job Training and Educational Grants.**

Staples Foundation for Learning is accepting applications for grants for fiscal year 2008. The grants are provided to fund programs that provide job skills and/or education training for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. For more information, visit: <http://www.staplesfoundation.org>. **Deadline:**

**October 24.**

### **SITE & FACILITY**

Don't Dig Blind- persons who are about to dig anywhere on their property are required to call two working days before digging. This will give the utility companies time to locate and mark all of the underground lines and pipes to help avoid damage. Callers should outline the dig area in white paint and then call the toll free number 800-382-5544 with information about the dig that includes the county, township, street address, type of work, extent of work, name of caller and title, telephone number, best time to call, start date and time of digging, contractor and contractor's address. This service covers the entire state of Indiana. Hours are Monday-Friday 8am- 5pm.

## STANDARDS SECRETS

You want everyone to know how hard you've worked to achieve accreditation - especially those decision makers and funding bodies upon whom your camp relies. Make a point to tell them about it, and encourage questions while you build enthusiasm!

The following form letter is designed to announce your camp's accomplishment. Block and copy the letter, and paste it into your word processor. Use your camp's stationery and fill in the information about your camp where words are written in CAPITAL letters.

<http://acacamps.org/accreditation/accreditr.php>

## SOUP FOR THE CAMP DIRECTOR

The frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law and four year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the kitchen table every night. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sign made eating very difficult. Peas and corn rolled off his spoon onto the floor and when he tried to grasp a glass of milk, his milk spilled on the tablecloth or the floor.

The son and daughter-in-law soon became very irritated with the mealtime mess. "What are we going to do with Grandfather" the son asked. "I've had enough noisy eating, spilled milk and food all over the floor.". Finally the husband and wife set up a small table in the far corner of the kitchen. At mealtime, while the rest of the family enjoyed their dinner together, the grandfather ate alone in the corner. Since the grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. Often when the family members glanced in the grandfather's direction, they detected a tear in his eye as he sat eating his meal alone. Still, the only words the couple ever had for him were sharp admonitions whenever he dropped his fork or spilled his milk.

One evening before dinner, the father noticed sawdust and several wood scraps on the floor. He sweetly asked his four year old what he had been doing. The boy looked up from the block of wood he had been working on and replied, just as sweetly, "Oh, I'm just making little bowls for you and mom to eat from when I grow up." The little boy grinned at his dad and went back to work.

The parents were speechless. Tears streamed down their cheeks. Though no words were spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took the grandfather by his hand and led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, the grandfather enjoyed his meal with his family. And for some reason, neither the husband nor his wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled or the tablecloth got soiled.

Children are remarkably perceptive. Their eyes always observe, their ears always listen, and their minds always process the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently provide a happy and healthy home atmosphere strategy for all members of the family, they will imitate that strategy for the rest of their lives.

Today I will learn that: The wise parent realizes that every day the building blocks are being laid for their child's future. Today I will learn that "you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles four things: a rainy day, lost luggage, tangled Christmas tree lights or losing the big game by 1 point in overtime".

Today I will learn that: "making a living is not the same as making a life". Today I will learn that: "regardless of your relationship with your family, you will miss them when they are gone." Today I will learn that: "you should not go through life with a catchers mitt on both hands. There will be many times when you will need to throw something back.". Today I will learn that: it is important to go through life with a smile on your face and a twinkle in your eye.

Everyday I will learn that: It is truly important to reach out and touch everyone we come in contact with. It is human nature for people to forget what you say and many people will forget the many good deeds that you have done, but if you touch them, really touch them, they will never forget how you made them feel.

### **GREEN SPOKEN HERE**

House of Representatives  
Approves NCLI ACT- A  
Grassroots Victory in  
Washington for Environmental  
Education

We are pleased to report that environmental education won a major boost today when the U.S. House of Representatives approved the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008.

The bill received bipartisan support and was approved by a vote of 293 to 109.

This is only one step in the process, but it is a major one and gives us enormous momentum to keep working to pass the bill in the months ahead. And the vote represents a victory for all of us who care about environmental education.

Our Coalition, formed only a year and a half ago, is growing every day. Today we have more than 745 member organizations, with more than one in every state in the country, representing well over 40 million people who understand the value of environmental education.

For more information about the NCLI Act and our Coalition, visit [www.NLCLICoalition.org](http://www.NLCLICoalition.org).

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## OTHER RESOURCES

**Learn About Water** – US EPA Kids Activities about the Water Cycle & Aquifers, Fun Facts, Games, etc  
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/gamesandactivities.html>

### [Email Disclaimers to Protect Your Organization](#)

This article, adapted from a Red Earth white paper, gives practical recommendations for minimizing legal risk in your organization's email. In detail, it discusses why email disclaimers are needed, the different types of disclaimers that can be used, and how to add them. You can also check out some easy-to-use [examples of disclaimers](#) for your organization.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Fix the Drain or Feel the Pain!! IPRA Aquatics Workshop  
 The Monon Center- 1235 Central Park Dr. East, Carmel, IN 46032  
 Hosted by: Carmel-Clay Park & Recreation Dept.  
 Thursday, November 6, 9:30am. - 3 pm.

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PUT ME IN COACH: Registration Now Open for Kids Count in Indiana Conference

The man responsible for a real-life story of mentoring and youth development that became a hit Hollywood movie will keynote the 2008 Kids Count in Indiana Conference.

Online registration is now open for this year's event, which will be keynoted by Ken Carter, whose inspirational efforts to guide at-risk youth became the motion picture, "Coach Carter."

The conference will be held December 2-3, 2008, in Indianapolis. Walt Mueller of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding is back by popular demand to present the opening plenary session, which is followed by dozens of workshops on working with kids, working with parents, fund raising and leadership.

The Vectren Resource Center will host nearly 100 exhibits while serving as a gathering place for networking with other youth workers, a fun raffle and one of the conference lunches.

New this year: a discount for group registration to help with travel costs. If four people register together, one registration is free! Continuing education credits are available from several sources including the National Association of Social Workers and the Indiana Department of Education.

Registration & more info: <http://www.iyi.org/conference>

## 20/20 VISION

### Pillars of Hope

**Our intimacy with nature** – The camp experience is the best way to address nature deficit disorder.

**Our authentic human connections** – The camp experience helps kids make friends and builds healthy relationships.

**Our human-powered activities** – The camp experience gets children up and moving with confidence.

[http://www.acacampsbl.org/?page\\_id=20](http://www.acacampsbl.org/?page_id=20)

### Memories

Posted by Peg Smith

As I worry about the state/status of childhood in today's world, I find I am thinking more about my own childhood. It has been an interesting process of rediscovery and reflection. We all have our 'life story'. Mine is probably no different than yours. But, I have been wondering about living as a child today in a world where the one consistent message that I, as a child, am receiving from everyone is fear.

<http://www.acacampsbl.org/?p=34>