

NEWS IN BRIEF



October 16, 2008

NRPA Forges Education Alliance with ACA

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has announced a new relationship with the American Camp Association (ACA) leading to the development of a broad range of online courses through NRPA's new online learning system and the sale of ACA publications through the new NRPA Online Store.

http://www.acacamps.org/inside/08_10/association.php#2

ACA 2009 National Conference

Online registration is available. For the best value, register early. See the latest keynote speakers, book your hotel room, and find information on the Kindred and affiliate events.

http://www.acacamps.org/inside/08_10/learning.php#1

FROM THE SECTION OFFICE

Call for Presenter forms are available at the [Mid States Camping Conference](#) website. The conference takes place March 26-28, 2009 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, IL.

This unique conference welcomes approximately 1200 attendees and offers more than 140 educational opportunities. Please consider presenting, or pass our Call for Presenter form onto someone that would be a good addition to our program.

This year's theme is Learn Together, Grow Together: Sowing the Seeds of Sustainability. While educational sessions that support our theme are encouraged; we need quality education for everyone from first year staff to seasoned directors, nurses and board members.

If you need help deciding if your presentation is appropriate, please contact us. All completed presentation forms are needed by November 1st, 2008.

December 8th SUPER STAFF SUPERVISION: Practical & Powerful Techniques to Lead & Motivate Teams to Success. Presented by Michael Brandwein in South Bend. To register, visit <http://www.unitedwayec.org/nrn-workshops.htm>

CAMP SPOTLIGHT

The AYS program at Nora Elementary recently went through the National Afterschool Association Accreditation process. We have several of our afterschool programs that are accredited by NAA. I oversee several afterschool programs for AYS. I have one program that is getting ready to go through the NAA accreditation this year. We are also going to try and go through the ACA accreditation for our summer programs next summer.

Shawn Renner, AYS

TECH TIPS

Choosing the Best Internet Connection

In order to choose the right Internet access plan, you need a solid understanding of your organization's current and future technology needs. Check out some factors your nonprofit should consider when shopping for a new ISP.

E-INSTITUTE

Designing Quality Youth Programs

If you believe your program offers a quality experience for your participants but also think doing even better is ideal, this new online course, Designing Quality Youth Programs, is for you. This course will take you through an eight step process focused on a rewarding journey of organizational improvement that recognizes each setting is different, every program is unique, and each improvement requires a targeted set of strategies.
[Learn More.](#)

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Grants for Boating – Cherie Hammond of Camp Speers-Ejabar writes: "West Marine has a grant program through which they will provide you with free equipment. I filled out the quick two page application in April and two weeks later they shipped 40+ lifejackets to help us promote boating with youth. You can apply every 2 years. I figure this is a "no brainer" for most of us. You can bet I already have it on my April 2010 calendar to apply again. Here's the web site:

http://www.westmarine.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/DisplayPageView?storeId=10001&langId=-1&catalogId=10001&page=DonationsAndSponsorships§ion=about_wm " – contact Cherie at cherie@campspeersymca.org

SITE & FACILITY

Are Your Playgrounds Safe? – Too often, the answer is "no."

A good resource is a free download (best printed out in color) from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/325.pdf>. It covers playground safety for both design and maintenance, with clear illustrations and tables. For instance, they rate these groundcovers:

9 inches of Shredded/recycled rubber protects falls to 10 feet

9 inches of Wood Chips protects falls to 10 feet

9 inches of Pea Gravel protects falls to 5 feet

9 inches of Sand protects falls to 4 feet

Here's a simple playground inspection form:

<http://www.iml.org/dbs/imlrma/files/Forms/Playground%20Safety%20Inspection%20Checklist.pdf>

STANDARDS SECRETS

Getting Ready For An Accreditation Visit in 2009?

- Sign up for a Standards Update course.
- Make sure you have your new Accreditation Process Guide (white notebook)- if you did not receive your complimentary copy from the section, please contact the Standards Chair.
- Start preparing the required written material.
- Request a Written Document Preview.
- As staff are hired, make copies of their training cards and certifications.
- Complete the information sheet sent by the Standards Chair.
- On the day of the visit, you will have the opportunity to show your Visitors all elements of your camp including site and program.

Quiz for a prize- contact the section office with the name and either email or phone number of the ACA Indiana Standards Chair to be entered in a drawing for a free book! Extra entry if you also name the ACA Standards Director.

MANAGEMENT

It is often said "*Less is More.*" People who make long speeches are remembered for their long speeches, not for what they said. They have good intentions, but their impact is decreased the longer they speak. After awhile the listener even starts to disassociate from the speaker. Meanwhile well articulated short speeches or quotes are truly impacting. People enjoy short, passionate speeches and talks. Less is definitely more.

Less is also more with boards. "*Less*" board members means a more intimate group and a greater depth of discussion. "*Less*" board members creates a place where all board members get to know each other very well. "*Less*" board members creates an atmosphere for all directors to speak and participate fully. "*Less*" board members means fewer committees and executive meetings, reducing disunity among board members. "*Less*" board members means all big issues are dealt with by the whole board. "*Less*" board members means it is easier to hold the CEO accountable to the direction set. "*Less*" board members enables greater clarity of the organizational direction. Less is definitely more when we think of board size. <http://www.strive.com/blog/>

PROGRAM

Donors...4 things to remember about overhead spending

As donors become savvier, they often take an interest in such matters as where or how their money is used. While an informed consumer can be a great donor, one who is misinformed by media hype or political posturing can pose many problems.

One question that potential donors often ask is one about operating expenses, how much of the money that is raised is used for "programs" and how much for "overhead."

In his book *The 11 Questions Every Donor Asks*, Harvey McKinnon says that framing an answer to that tricky question is very important for a successful ask. He suggests four items to keep in mind when asked how much money is spent on overhead:

- Know the numbers. What is your ratio of programming to overhead costs? Knowing the number might even encourage you to be more efficient.
- Reflect back on your prospect's concern. Let the prospect know that you share that concern.
- Mention a few ways you try to trim costs. Perhaps you use only donated furniture, or run a paperless office, or call on volunteer drivers, or use public facilities for your meetings.
- Refocus on the mission. Bring the conversation back to inspiring stories of the people whose lives have been changed by your organization and how the prospective donor can be a critical part of furthering this work.

GREEN SPOKEN HERE

For OEE Staff:

<http://www.meera.snre.umich.edu/> is the location for a new way to evaluate the success of your OEE programs. Take a look now and you may be able to use it this fall.

Reviewed by a former ACA Indiana President, Jim Parry (Collin County YMCA Adventure Camp, TX): "It's very professional. The evaluation method is scholarly, and therefore valid. The programs that have already used it are mostly nature centers, museums, zoos, and parks (e.g. Disney). There's no ready-to-use form; you still need to make your own. But the guidelines are thorough, helpful and easy to navigate. It does not include the "camp" adventure and affective sides (the examples are environmental science oriented), though one could use these resources to include that. In short, it tells you how to do it right, but you still have to do it. There are several examples of studies that could be used to 'justify' your program to a school official."

The information presented here does not necessarily reflect the views of ACA Indiana. Special thanks for contributions: Y-USA Camping Update, Strive, Non-Profit Times, IYI, Y-USA Camping Update, Shawn Renner, ACA, Indiana Wesleyan University, Kosciusko Community Foundation, Peg Smith's blog, Techsoup,

OTHER RESOURCES

ON THE SHELF: IYI Library Has Resources Just for You
September is national "Library Card Sign-Up Month," and IYI's Virginia Beall Ball Library has thousands of books, DVDs and other informational resources that can strengthen your vital work with children and youth. New materials added to the collection include:

"Effective Fundraising for Nonprofits: Real-World Strategies that Work," by Illona Bray; "Developing Caring Relationships Among Parents, Children, Schools, and Communities," by Dana McDermott; "Cyber Bullying: Bullying in the Digital Age," by Robin M. Kowalski, Susan P. Limber and Patricia W. Agatston; and "The Best of Building Assets Together: Favorite Group Activities that Help Youth Succeed," by Jolene L. Roehlkepartain.

IYI's library also has "how to" DVD's portraying fun and enriching activities that you can implement immediately in your youth program, school or youth ministry. All materials are shipped across Indiana with a postage-paid return envelope to help you send them back.

IYI's Virginia Beall Ball Library: <http://www.iyi.org/library>
OR 1-800-343-7060

UPCOMING EVENTS

Indiana University Executive Development Program

IU EDP fosters professional growth and development and helps you reach your goals, whether they include moving up or becoming a better steward for parks and recreation.

The program is scheduled for April 5-8th , 2009 at Indiana University. IU EDP is for parks and recreation professionals and is the original Executive Development Program aimed at helping parks and recreation professionals at all levels build and strengthen the fundamental skills needed to manage and lead in a public and nonprofit setting.

Earn 2.0 CEUS while attending. Enjoy learning and networking with fellow professionals in a fun and relaxed environment. Energize yourself and your skills through dynamic speakers who challenge and motivate. Discuss issue and ideas that are 'hot topics' in our field and critical to success in your agency.

Five 50% off tuition scholarships are available for the 2009 program. Email Julie Knapp for a scholarship application (julknapp@indiana.edu)

For more information: go to www.iuedp.org or call or email Julie Knapp, EDP Director at 812-856-1068 (julknapp@indiana.edu)

20/20 VISION

I just returned from the ICF conference. Participate with people from the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Mongolia, Japan, Russia, Greece, Canada, and on and on - who love, cherish the camp experience and then try not to be jazzed about what we are doing for the 'world'. Seems as we move toward 2020, the United States will need to find ways to reach out and participate with our global partners in ever-increasing ways.

Peg Smith's Keynote Address at the International Camping Congress in Quebec, October 2008

http://www.acacampsblog.org/?page_id=37