

Current Research

Discover Strategies for a Healthier and Safer Camp

Sign up today for ACA's Healthy Camp Study! Thanks to the generosity of Markel Insurance Company and the skills and systems of The Ohio State University College of Medicine (OSU) and Columbus Children's Research Institute (CCRI), the American Camp Association (ACA), and the Association of Camp Nurses (ACN), we have a five-year opportunity to gather illness and injury data from camps (both ACA and non-ACA).

Participating in this study will help you learn more about illnesses and injuries at your camp. A few minutes of staff time per day will give you a lifetime of knowledge about how to make your camp a healthier and safer place. www.ACAcamps.org/research

A special thanks to:

Association of Camp Nurses
Christian Camp and Conference Association
Columbus Children's Research Institute
National Recreation and Park Association
Ohio State University

Learning Resources

ACA 2007 National Conference News

Additional Hotel Accommodations

A fourth hotel has been added to accommodate ACA attendees and exhibitor personnel. The DoubleTree Guest Suites Austin, 303 West 15th Street, Austin, TX 78701 has rooms available for the nights of 2/11-2/16. The rate is \$189. Rooms are available at this rate, on a first-come, first-serve basis up through February 6. To make a reservation, phone Central Reservations at 1-800-222-8733. You must identify yourself with the American Camp Association. The group code is CAM. [More Info](#).

Are you Registered? There's Still Time!

Plan to attend the national conference in Austin, Texas, February 13-16. You still have **time to register in advance**, or if you prefer, register on site at the Austin Hilton. If you can't attend all four days, consider one or more days. Check out the excellent [program and presenters](#).

Attention ACA Student Members

Your student membership affords you the opportunity to register for the national conference at a very competitive rate . . . \$0! There's just on catch—you must **preregister before February 9**. A nominal fee of \$25 is attached to on-site student member registration. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to jump start your camp education and career by participating in this national event.

Special Events at the ACA National Conference Complement the Educational Content

In addition to a myriad of educational sessions to attend, your Austin stay offers many options to connect in an informal and fun way with camp professionals from around the country, and across continents. Make sure your schedule includes:

- **Presidents' Reception**, hosted by ACA National President, Ann Sheets, 4:45 p.m., Tuesday, February 13
All conference attendees are invited to attend a reception honoring the contributions of current, past, and incoming presidents, in all facets of ACA. The reception immediately follows the opening keynote event on Tuesday.
- **Exhibit Hall Grand Opening with Reception**, 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 14
The place to be on Valentine's Day! Our sold out exhibit hall will showcase the latest camp products and services. Enjoy the fun and relaxed atmosphere, connect with long-time friends among our exhibitors, meet some of our new exhibitors, and enjoy hors d'oeuvres.
- **ACA's First Open Mike Night**, 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 14
Stop by to catch great performances from camp professionals! This fun and lively event includes dessert, coffee, and a cash bar. Are you interested in performing? [Sign up today](#).
- **Night on the Town**, Austin Style! Departures staggered, beginning at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 15
Enjoy the excellent cuisine Austin has to offer. Whether you attend alone, or in a group, you're part of a group! [Sign up in advance](#) or learn more on site at the Hospitality Desk.
- **Kindred and Affiliate Groups and Councils** will host a variety of sessions and special events. [Check out the options](#).

Check out the Sold Out Exhibit Hall

Things are just bigger in Texas, including the exhibit hall in Austin! Given the quantity and variety of exhibiting companies and organizations taking part in this year's meeting, we encourage you to take a look at who will be there - and make plans to [meet up with our exhibitors](#).

Great Beginnings

Healthy Learning, ACA's publishing partner, will be showcasing a new lineup of educational offerings at the national conference, and the bookstore will host book signings and meet-the-author events throughout the week with keynoters including David Elkind, Neil Howe, and Abigail Van Slyck.

Conference attendees will get the first look at Healthy Learning's and ACA's new *By the Experts Series* ranging from child development and leadership to marketing and management titles by Jodi Ruddick and Robert Friedman; programming and activities by Jared Knight; and staff training by Bob Ditter. Over fifty new titles will be introduced at this year's event, highlighting ACA's new venture with Healthy Learning.

Healthy Learning also will showcase ACA's newly redesigned *Accreditation Standards for Camp Programs and Services*, as well *ACA's Accreditation Process Guide* and related products.

See you at the bookstore in Austin!

ACA Training Events

ACA Basic Camp Directors Course (BCDC)

March 10-14, 2007

Potosi Pines Camp & Conference Center—Las Vegas, NV

April 15- 19, 2007

Camp Henry Horner—Ingleside, IL

Registration is available online. You'll need to choose the specific geographic course you would like in order to get the registration form.

Association News

ACA Launches Online Magazine: CAMP e-News

ACA recently launched a new online magazine, [CAMP e-News](#). This online magazine featured articles from well-known child development experts and provided parents and families with much-needed assistance in choosing the right camp experience for their children—and for their families.

To receive this bimonthly publication, addressing all aspects of the camp experience, [please sign up today!](#). CAMP e-News will be available in both English and Spanish, as is www.CampParents.org.

PROTECTScreen Launch

After much positioning, the American Camp Association (ACA) has been given an unparalleled opportunity by being selected to participate in the [PROTECT Act pilot criminal background check program](#). This program allows direct access to the FBI criminal database for camp volunteers. The pilot program allows participating camps to submit fingerprints of their volunteers to the FBI. The FBI sends the criminal records report to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). NCMEC reviews the records and makes a determination of whether the volunteer meets the criteria of the pilot to serve as a volunteer. Camps then use the determination to make their decision to use a volunteer or not. The cost is \$18 per volunteer and the turn-around time is one week or less.

Participation in the program is very important not only for camps but also for ACA. Camps that work with volunteers should be strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. This program bypasses state access barriers and allows direct access to the FBI. This is otherwise not allowed in most states. It places ACA in a program that has the support and the ear of Congress. It recognizes ACA as a player in the youth development field. As we build the number of our checks processed, it will establish credibility for us as an organization and help us determine any specific issues related to our "industry." It positions us to influence the expansion of the program and be the first in line when the barriers to staff participation have been removed.

For more information on PROTECTScreen, go to: www.ACAcamps.org/publicpolicy.

Camping Magazine— SAVE on the Premier Summer Staff Training Tool

A professional resource at a discounted price—affordable training, educational reading, motivational tips for a powerhouse summer!

Introduce your staff to the national resource for camp professionals.

Special Discount for the May/June Staff Training Issue:

\$1 per copy in multiples of 10. Share *Camping Magazine* with your staff!

10 copies -- \$10

20 copies -- \$20

30 copies -- \$30

40 copies -- \$40

50 copies -- \$50

This price does not include shipping and handling. Reserve your copies today! Limited quantities available. Go to www.ACAcamps.org/campmag and click Subscribe.

Winter 2007 Issue of The CampLine Available Online

This issue of [The CampLine](#) features a special edition newsletter, Healthy Camp Update, that covers current, industry-relevant research specifically for camp professionals. You will find additional articles on marketing your camp and seasonal exemptions.

Got Campshots?

A photo kiosk will be displayed during the 2007 ACA National Conference, Austin, Texas, in the Communicamp area. Here, you will be able to drop off CDs of your camp's photos. ACA is collecting historical and contemporary photos from all ACA-accredited camps for use in *Camping Magazine*, promotional materials for ACA's 100th Anniversary celebration and the 150th Anniversary of the camp experience, and other ACA marketing and communications print and electronic publications.

In order for any photos to be considered for publication, the camp, camp location, and photographer if applicable must be identified. An approximate date must be indicated on all historical photos. For current photos, include a statement indicating your camp has model releases on file for all identifiable subjects in the photo.

Remember to bring your camp's photos to conference!

Relevant Issues

Internet Awareness! Webshots.com

Webshots.com, yet another popular social networking venue, allows anyone to post and share photos, videos, and slideshows, as well as posting messages. Camps should increase their awareness of Web sites such as these and understand the risks posed by the new Internet age. As a measure of partnering with parents, keep your camper parents and campers aware of your social networking policies.

Congressional Extension of Sales Tax Deduction Includes Boats

Camps with aquatic and boating programs may be interested in a recent release from the Boat Owners Association of The United States. According to the release, tax filers who made a large purchase in 2006, such as a boat, may deduct state and local sales taxes paid if the tax rate applied to the boat was the same as the state's general sales tax.

A notice on the [IRS Web site](#) outlines the so-called "extender provisions" and gives a February 3, 2007, deadline for returns with these deductions.

IRS Launches Online Workshop for Exempt Organizations

The Internal Revenue Service has launched a new Web-based version of its popular Exempt Organizations Workshop covering tax compliance issues confronted by small and mid-sized tax exempt organizations.

The free online workshop, *Stay Exempt: Tax Basics for 501(c)(3)s*, consists of five interactive modules on tax compliance topics for exempt organizations

You can access this new training program at www.stayexempt.org. You can complete the modules in any order and repeat them as many times as you like. The online-training Web site doesn't require registration and visitors will remain anonymous.

Source: Nonprofit Risk Management Center, e-News, January 31, 2007.

Business Resources

Special Camp Advertising Deals Through Homeschooling Parent

Special feature rates (PDF) are available to advertise your camp in the Summer Camp Guide issue of *Homeschooling Parent Magazine*. ACA members receive a 10% discount.

USA TODAY's Camp Today

The place for your camp message.

Publishing March 6 & 8, 2007

ACA members - take advantage of a Buy One Ad, Get One Ad FREE promotion.

Why should you advertise your camp in *USA TODAY's* Camp Today?

- Get a jumpstart on Summer 2007 enrollment!
- Your message will reach a daily audience of 5.2 million readers per day, 39% of which have children and household incomes in excess of \$90,000 annually.
- Rates start as low as \$561!!! (net rate)

USA TODAY would like to thank each and every camp that participated in the **CAMP TODAY** November 2006 edition. Due to the success of past features and continued interest from those who participated, we will be publishing a **CAMP TODAY** March 2007 edition!

The **CAMP TODAY** March 2007 edition will include editorial submitted by the ACA within both publication dates.

Topics covered will include:

- The Value of Camp: Fun & Safety
- Letting Go: Parents and Camps Foster Self-Reliance

Camp Today 2007 Publication Schedule:

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Deadline for space reservation, material, and payment:

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Rates:

\$660 per column inch

Advertisers will receive an additional 15% off when camera-ready artwork is supplied, net price \$561 per column inch.

Unit Size:

Minimum ad size: 1 column x 1 inch (1 13/16 inches x 1 inch)

(Ad size may increase by column inch up to 6 columns wide and by ½ inch increments in height)

CAMP TODAY is a black-and-white, national feature.

Don't miss out—book your space today!

For more information or to place an ad, please contact

Dana Revak, Account Executive/*USA TODAY*, (703) 854-6344; drevak@usatoday.com.

ACA Connect

ACA has established a program to [connect camps and companies](#) with appropriate, ACA pre-screened free products. ACA is regularly contacted by companies and corporations that have materials, products, and other resources available for camps FREE of charge. Some of the products are:

- food items
- games
- arts and crafts supplies
- posters
- sports equipment
- educational materials

www.ACAcamps.org/connect

New Concrete Campfire Ring

A new concrete campfire ring from Pilot Rock has the look of mortared brick in a single unit. For more information about this product and its availability visit ACA's [New Product Releases Web page](#).

Youth Development Resources

Meet the Mentoring Challenge

Child Trends, a nonprofit research center, outlines critical steps that youth-serving program providers should consider when recruiting mentors and recommends resources that can be used in the process in its latest news brief, [Recruiting Mentors in Out-of-School Time Programs: What's Involved?](#)

New Guidebook Suggests Ways to Improve Your Youth Organization

Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago has recently published *A Self-Study Guide for Managers and Staff of Primary Support Programs for Young People*, which offers four key components of effective youth agencies with techniques for implementation. [Download the Guidebook](#).

Red, White, and Green Grants

Youth Service America and the Civil Society Institute announce the second round of the Red, White, & Green Climate Change Grant. This opportunity offers \$500 to young people in the United States between the ages of fifteen to twenty-five and to organizations that engage youth ages fifteen to twenty-five.

Applicants are expected to develop and implement a service-learning project about climate change that engages their community, policy-makers, and candidates running for election in 2007 and 2008. We welcome projects where youth work in partnership with adults (parents, coaches, teachers, youth leaders, etc.): but the projects should be youth-led, and must take place between May 1 and October 31, 2007.

Applicants need to download application materials at www.YSA.org/awards. BOTH the Introduction & Requirements document (.pdf format) and the Application & Guidelines document (word format) are required to submit a competitive application.

For more information, send an e-mail to redwhiteandgreen@ysa.org. Application deadline: March 9, 2007, 5p.m. EST.