

Inside ACA — April 2007

## Current Research News

### New From the Bookstore

*Creating Positive Youth Outcomes* is a research-based tool to help you evaluate and improve your program and increase positive outcomes for youth campers. This package includes a workbook, facilitator's guide, and Resource CD that will help your staff target specific youth outcomes that match your goals.

Learn how to design a simple, effective program evaluation process that fits your camp. *Creating Positive Youth Outcomes* provides:

- An introduction that walks you through the process
- Seven easy steps for targeting youth outcomes
- A guide you can use with administrative staff or seasonal staff in staff training
- Fill-in-the-blank exercises
- Checkpoints and end-of-chapter questions
- Day and resident camp-specific examples
- Sample goals for four areas of youth development
- Resource CD with loads of tools
- Youth surveys developed and used in ACA's research on youth outcomes that you can use in your program
- Templates and forms for developing your own goals

Take advantage of this resource to enhance your staff training and to promote intentional actions that show results! Order today at [www.ACAbookstore.org](http://www.ACAbookstore.org) or 888-229-5745.

### Spring Enrollment Survey Is Open and Ready for Business!

Every camp director is encouraged to complete the [Spring Enrollment Survey](#). This brief survey takes about seven to ten minutes to add your information on how your staff recruitment and camper enrollment efforts are doing this spring. You can see the complete results at any time by going to [www.ACAcamps.org/research](http://www.ACAcamps.org/research) and clicking on the appropriate enrollment survey. We need your information, so please complete the online survey before April 20, 2007!

## Learning Resources

### ACA Training Events

[ACA Basic Camp Directors Course \(BCDC\)](#)

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.

## Standards News

### Updated Interpretations are posted!

See the [latest version of standards](#) (PDF) that will be used this summer. If you have any questions, please contact [accreditation@ACAcamps.org](mailto:accreditation@ACAcamps.org). Don't forget that many resources are available to help you with Standards. You can find sample forms, staff-training info, and other new materials in our [accreditation area](#), as well as from the bookstore at [www.ACAbookstore.org](http://www.ACAbookstore.org).

Accreditation certificates have been mailed to all accredited camps! The Statement of Compliance is also available for each director to complete at [www.ACAcamps.org/soc](http://www.ACAcamps.org/soc). Remember that each camp must file a Statement of Compliance every year. If you have any questions about the certificates or the compliance statement, contact us at [accreditation@ACAcamps.org](mailto:accreditation@ACAcamps.org).

## Relevant Issues

### IRS Launches Online Exemption Workshop

In mid-January, IRS introduced a new Web-based version of its popular exempt organizations training workshop covering tax compliance issues confronted by small and mid-sized exempt organizations.

The workshop, "Stay Exempt—Tax Basics for 501(c)(3)s" consists of five interactive modules on tax compliance for (c)(3)s. They include:

- How can you keep your 501(c)(3) exempt? (Approximately thirty minutes)
- Unrelated Business Income (Approximately thirty minutes)
- Employment Tax Issues (Approximately thirty minutes)
- Form 990 (Approximately sixty minutes)
- Required Disclosure (Approximately thirty minutes)

The sessions are conducted with questions and answers and challenge your mastery of the subject with games and exercises. There is also a resource library with course descriptions and summaries, a glossary of terms used in training, and links to each IRS form and publication.

The sessions are rather general, but they do serve as a good overview of the exempt organization's area. Although the workshops are directed at 501(c)(3) organizations, all of the modules have some relevance to organizations exempt under other Sections of 501, particularly the last four topics.

The workshops are available at [www.stayexempt.org](http://www.stayexempt.org) and also at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Click on Charities.

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## Association News

### FAQ About International Staff Issues

At the ACA national conference in Austin, international placement agencies and members of the ACA Public Policy Committee hosted an informative session on the topic of international staff. During this session, an important tool was developed, an [FAQ about international staff issues](#).

### Online Centennial Tribute for Camps

Is your camp one hundred years old? Celebrate your camp's one hundred-year anniversary with ACA's Web-based tribute to member camps. Your camp's centennial story can be shared with thousands of Web visitors every day. [Complete the](#)

[Historical Profile form](#). ACA will proudly add your camp's story to the running tribute of outstanding camps that have reached the centennial milestone.

### **Criminal Background Checks—ACA Can Help**

ACA-Accredited® camps can receive fingerprint-based FBI criminal background check determinations on volunteers for only \$18 through the PROTECTScreen program. Quick and efficient—receive determinations within one week from time of application. [Learn all about this dynamic program and enroll today.](#)

### **Camping Magazine— SAVE on the Premier Summer Staff Training Tool**

It's not too late to order the May/June issue of *Camping Magazine* for staff training . . . after it goes to press there will be limited quantities available. Place your order by April 6 and get as many copies as you want.

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

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

Introduce your staff to the national resource for camp professionals.

Price does not include shipping and handling. Reserve your copies today! Limited quantities available after April 6. **Order Today!**

### **Correction in Camping Magazine**

In the article [Building Camps That Care About Kids: The Role of Youth Involvement](#) appearing in the March/April 2007 issue of *Camping Magazine*, the chart (Figure 1) on page 48 was incorrectly labeled during the design and editorial process. The bars labeled "Optimal Means" should have been blue; the bars labeled "Insufficient Means" should have been green, thus indicating the most striking results of the study. The area of Youth Involvement started as the weakest for camps with more than a third of the campers experiencing insufficient levels overall and only five percent experiencing optimal levels.

[View the corrected chart in the online version now.](#) The *Camping Magazine* staff apologizes for any confusion this misprint may have caused in the reader's interpretation of the study's results.

For more information about the Program Improvement Project and other ongoing research conducted by the American Camp Association, visit [www.ACAcamps.org/research](http://www.ACAcamps.org/research).

### **Public Awareness Videos for ACA Members Only**

Videos are [available for download](#) to ACA members only. Show at your camp fairs, parent/family meetings, group presentations, etc. The videos can also be accessed as a link to your Web site for parents to view in Flash.

### **ACA Provides Staff Recruitment Solutions**

#### Year-Round Jobs at Camp

An e-mail listing of year-round jobs distributed twice a month to thousands of job seekers in the camp market. **Place your ad today!**

### Summer Jobs at Camp

The state-of-the-art, interactive online employment center allows you to post individual jobs, search resumes, and find the perfect candidate. **Start looking for summer staff now!**

### **Sign up for CAMP e-News!**

All ACA members received the March issue of *CAMP e-News*. If you wish to continue to receive this parent newsletter, **please sign up**. *CAMP e-News* is a helpful and informative education tool that you can offer your camper families and prospects.

## **Business Resources**

### **Need Kayaks . . . Basketballs for the Summer??**

ACA Purchase Power has negotiated special LOW ACA pricing with Emotion Kayaks manufacturers of top quality kayaks and with 360 Athletics for great basketballs. Go to [www.ACAcamps.org/purchasepower](http://www.ACAcamps.org/purchasepower) to see the excellent pricing exclusively for ACA camps! Remember with ACA Purchase Power the products offered are for a limited time only . . . so buy now!

### **Get Free Stuff!!!**

Sign up now for ACA Connect and receive FREE products from companies that have contracted with ACA to distribute to our camps. ACA has reviewed the products and will only approve products that can be used in camps or by campers. Go to [www.ACAcamps.org/connect](http://www.ACAcamps.org/connect) for more information and to sign up!

### **Does Your Camp Get the Same Pricing as a FORTUNE 500 Company??**

Not likely . . . but now you can through the new ACA/Consorta Group Purchasing Program! Our program has special contracts with FEDEX, SYSCO, GORDON FOODS, OFFICE MAX, HOME DEPOT SUPPLY, ECOLAB and over 800 other companies. Never before have camps had this buying clout. To [sign up or for information](#) about other special offers, call the ACA Business Development Team at 800-428-2267, ext. 309 or 319. It's easy to sign up . . . It's Free . . . and it will save you BIG \$\$\$\$.

### **SpectorSoft and ACA Collaborate for Child Safety Online**

ACA and SpectorSoft, creator of the award-winning SpectorSoft software that helps parents monitor the safe use of the Internet, are united in the effort to protect children from online predators.

### Make It Easy for Parents:

Link to CampParents Exchange, [www.CampParents.org/products/spectorsoft.php](http://www.CampParents.org/products/spectorsoft.php), from your camp's Web site, where parents can easily purchase this software online.

### Put it in Print:

Place an ad in your camp family newsletter directing parents to CampParents Exchange. Tell them to go to [www.CampParents.org](http://www.CampParents.org) and click on CampParents Exchange.

### Be Proactive:

Send flyers home to your camp families promoting this important software. Contact Kim Bruno, ACA Business Development, [kbruno@ACAcamps.org](mailto:kbruno@ACAcamps.org), for free copies of the flyers.

### FREE Software:

Sell 10 or more copies through your efforts and ACA will send you a free copy of the software.

For more information on positioning your camp as a "partner with parents," contact Kim Bruno, ACA Business Development, 800-428-2267, ext. 309.

## Youth Development Resources

### **National Wildlife Federation Sponsors "National Wildlife Week"**

Celebrate wildlife and nature during the 2007 National Wildlife Week, April 21-29. Choose from conservation service projects to help create healthy habitats, connect people with nature, or design your own camp projects. Download a Watch list of wildlife in your state and take a walk around your camp or green space; see how many animals you can find. To learn more about activities and projects, visit [www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek](http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek).

### **Summer Food Service Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) reimburses organizations that provide meals to children during the summer months. Residential summer camps and nonresidential day camps that offer nutritious meals as part of an organized camping program may be reimbursed for up to three meals or two meals and one snack per day served to children that meet income eligibility criteria.

Eligible children are those whose annual household income is at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines—\$38,203 for a family of four in July 2007. It's not too late to sign up for this summer.

Organizations interested in learning more about SFSP and how to apply should contact the State agency that administers the program locally. Contact information can be found at [www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer) (click on "Contacts").

### **Family Strengthening Newsletter**

A monthly e-newsletter, [Family Strengthening News](#), produced by the Family Strengthening Policy Center, an initiative of the National Human Services Assembly and funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation covers issues of importance to youth development and families. From family economic success, mentoring, and healthy foods to youth in metropolitan areas, after-school programs, and diversity issues, the newsletter holds a wealth of information.