



Inside ACA — February 2008

Learning Resources

Visit the ACA Bookstore at the National Conference

Stock up on all your staff training needs. Plan to visit the ACA Bookstore on site at the national conference. For those traveling to Nashville, you'll get the first peek at many new educational books, training DVD's, tools, and workbooks to support your work at camp. These titles will be available online in mid February. The ACA Bookstore is made available through Healthy Learning Publishing. Visit the ACA Bookstore at the national conference and/or [order and view publications and products online](#).

Register Today for the ACA National Conference in Nashville!

Our conference crowd, including attendees and exhibitors, is growing by the day! Plan to join us in Nashville for all, or a part of the 2008 National Conference. Register online or by fax through February 8 and on site in Nashville, beginning Monday, February 11.



Make the most of Tuesday at the National Conference

Tuesday is the arrival day for most of our national conference participants. Several events and preconferences have been organized to help you get the most out of this day. The conference officially begins at 3:00 p.m. with the opening keynote lecture delivered by Dr. Rick Rigsby. [Check out the full schedule](#). Here's a snapshot of our preconference offerings – all of which are offered as part of your registration fee:

ACA Standards Course

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Learn how to assist your camp in preparation for the accreditation visit by participating in the ACA Standards Course. In addition to helpful information about pre-visit preparation, the course offers valuable information about the on-site visit experience. In addition to directors and administrators preparing for visits, persons interested in becoming volunteer visitors are welcome to attend. Although there is no cost to attend the course, pre-registration is required and space is limited. For details, visit:

www.ACACamps.org/conference/standards.php.

Making Program Matter, Part II: Program Design to Intentionally Meet the Developmental Needs of Your Campers

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Maggie Braun, Camp Wehakee

Cathy Scheder, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

ACA research reveals that youth programs are successful in meeting the developmental needs of campers when Supportive Relationships, Safety, Challenging Activities, and Meaningful Involvement are intentionally integrated into the camp's design. Maggie and Cathy will introduce the four supports of youth development identified by ACA research and demonstrate how you can effectively design your program to integrate these

elements into the many facets of your camp operation. This highly interactive workshop will engage participants in assessing the camp experience and integrating these components into their camp.

Personal and Organizational Change Necessities for Successful Work With Diverse Populations at Camp
12:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Michael Shelton, Ph.D., Philadelphia Recreation and Parks System

Plan to participate in this highly interactive workshop designed to provide participants with a concise protocol for outreach to new demographic groups, an introduction of diversity training tools for camp staff, and the opportunity to take a validated inventory to measure individualized strengths and weaknesses with a diversity skills set. Attendance is limited to the first 35 participants to pre-register. We are asking each organization interested to limit participation to two individuals. There is no cost for this workshop. ACA is covering the cost of the Cross-Cultural Adaptability Inventory (CCAI). [E-mail Melany Irvin](#).

The Ideal Camp Director: Myth or Endangered Species?

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Christopher Thurber, Ph.D., CampSpirit

Scott Arizala, The Camp Counselor

This specialized professional development seminar will combine the talents of two camp consultants who work closely with dozens of camp directors each year. Chris and Scott will cull their academic and field experience to provide participants with a framework and a set of tools that promise to vault your directing skill and your happiness to the next level. Through signature strength identification, mind-body connection, and cultural analysis, participants will learn the best ways to achieve peak performance from themselves and their entire camp team. Plan to participate in this lively, innovative, and challenging session for experienced directors.

THINK FAST! — How to Get Swift Solutions to Perplexing Problems at Camp

12:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Michael Brandwein, Educator, Author, and Consultant to Camps

Gwynn Powell, Ph.D., University of Georgia

Jennifer Selke, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

Hit the ground running at conference by learning and practicing this exciting new set of consultative problem-solving techniques (including the fantastic "tongue depressor") to get great ideas out of others -- taught by a terrific trio of trainers. Immediately turbo-charge your networking at conference. Get solutions to your biggest camp challenges. Learn super ways to use these methods with staff and campers!

[Young Professional Spotlight](#)

All Young Professionals are encouraged to come and take part in these events:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. — Young Professionals Gathering

Come and learn about all the exciting changes and developments that are happening with the ACA Young Professionals! We will be reviewing our goals for the upcoming year, talking about great new opportunities to get involved, and answering any questions that you have.

2:00 – 2:45 p.m. — First-Time Conference Attendees

If this is your first time at a national conference, be sure to stop by to meet Peg Smith, the CEO of ACA, as well as ACA's National President, Ann Sheets. Find out about special events and networking opportunities throughout the conference as well as learn how to get the most out of the conference.

6:45 p.m. — Join the YP's at Rusty's!

We will get together for some self-hosted, fun networking, food, and drinks at Rusty's located in the Magnolia section of the Gaylord Opryland Hotel.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

8:30 – 10:15 p.m. — ACA Concert Event with The Warren Brothers

After a fabulous exhibit hall reception with food and drinks, the night will still be young. Join us in the Tennessee Ballroom to hear a fabulous concert with the Warren Brothers and David St. Romain. The Warren Brothers are best known for their reality TV show on CMT *Barely Famous*. They were also the judges in last summer's television show *Nashville Star*. They have written songs and opened for many famous country singers including Faith Hill and Tim McGraw. The event is free, and a cash bar is available. Check out details at www.ACACamps.org/conference.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

6:30 p.m. — Night on the Town

Join camp professionals for a "Night on the Town" in downtown Nashville. One fee of \$26 includes transportation, dinner, and gratuity to one of three restaurants featuring local cuisine. The organization is done for us – just pick which restaurant you want to dine at and board the coach bus for a great evening! To register and find out more about this fun event, go to www.ACACamps.org/conference.

Save Plenty of Time for the ACA Exhibits

With more than thirty new exhibitors and our largest exhibit hall to date, you'll want to carve out as much time as possible to spend in Ryman B1-B3. Thursday's schedule is designed specifically to make the most of this opportunity. Plan in advance by reviewing the [list of exhibitors](#) confirmed to date. Special thanks to our generous, Premiere Sponsors, CampMinder and Markel Insurance Company and our co-sponsor of conference bags, New Dimensions.

Preconference Opportunity! New Director Orientation

Welcome, welcome Is camp somewhat new to you? Are you a supervisor who has just hired a new team member to fulfill a leadership position in your camp? Are you returning to the camp arena again? This educational opportunity is aimed at seasonal or new camp directors, assistant directors, program directors, or persons that have been in other administrative positions. The course examines several aspects of the director's job with the primary focus on the summer operation.

Employing interactive methods, topics ranging from risk management to camper behavior to staff orientation are covered. Participants will be under the tutelage of seasoned camp professionals with their own experience in day and resident camp operation. Participants will engage in small- and large-group activities throughout the day. Additionally, attendees will have an opportunity to chart out their additional professional development opportunities by discussing the program offerings at the ACA National Conference.

Course will be held at the Opryland Hotel on Monday, February 11, 2008, from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. CST. Preregistration is required. Course costs include materials and lunch. Cost of the course \$40 for ACA members; \$50 nonACA members. Questions? This is a great value that is possible because we are able to use our conference venue. Please contact Kat Shreve, director of education, kshreve@acacamps.org.

[Registration available online.](#)

ACA Regional Conferences Listed Online

Check out ACA's Web site for a [complete listing of ACA regional conferences](#) with live links to ACA local office Web sites for more information.

ACA Basic Camp Directors Course (BCDC)

April 6-10, 2008

JCYS Camp Henry Horner – Ingleside, IL

Additional courses will be listed online as details become available.

[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

Staff Training at Its Best!

Imagine being able to have the best camp trainers and consultants available for your staff orientation.

Now you can...With the May/June issue of *Camping Magazine*!

Bob Ditter, Stephen Wallace, Christopher Thurber, Michael Shelton, Jeffrey Leiken, Gwynn Powell, and many more offer their expertise and professional strategies in this special staff training issue created exclusively for staff and for trainers.

Your premier industry resource is now available at a special low bulk rate, so affordable that you can order this issue for each member of your staff.



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 online at www.ACAcamps.org/campmag.

The May/June Staff Training issue of *Camping Magazine*—a must have for staff orientation and training!

Intelligent Staff Recruitment—ACA's Online Employment Center

ACA's [online employment center](#) offers online resources to help you find, recruit, and retain staff.

- Summer Jobs at Camp – Camps can post seasonal job openings and reach thousands of camp professionals.
- Year-Round Jobs at Camp – E-mail listings of your camp's year-round job postings are distributed to job seekers twice a month.
- Job Fairs – Comprehensive lists of job fairs and organizations that specialize in international staffing.

Visit www.ACAcamps.org/jobs for more information.



This area of the Web site sponsored through the generosity of [Camp Counselors USA \(CCUSA\)](#).

Got Campshots?

A photo kiosk will be displayed during the 2008 ACA National Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, 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. [Submit the ACA online photo submission form](#) so that we have your information on file and place your photos in the kiosk. Be sure to label the photo with your name and camp name.

Remember to bring your camp's photos to conference!

Join ACA's Media Resource Team!

Do you speak passionately about the value of camp in the lives of children and youth? Does your camp have a unique program to share? Do you offer specialty activities that are cutting-edge? Are you willing to help ACA be the voice of the camp experience?

ACA gets hundreds of media requests each year, and we look forward to expanding our media resource list to include more camps and more voices who can share with the media the depth, breadth, and importance of the camp experience. With your help, ACA can influence print and broadcast stories that appear throughout the country.

Please join Harriet Lowe, director of communications, and Jane Rulon, media specialist, in Nashville at the ACA National Conference on Tuesday, February 12, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Cheekwood A/B in the Magnolia Section of the Gaylord Opryland Hotel for a mini-media training session and the opportunity to sign up as a member of ACA's Media Resource Team. If you can't attend, but want to participate—or if you have any questions—please contact [Jane Rulon](#) or call 765-349-3317.

ACA's National Camp Research Collaborations Summit a Success!

What would happen if you gathered twenty-eight researchers from national youth development agencies (including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, and the Association for Experiential Education) and from universities and colleges (from Arizona, California, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New York, Texas, and Utah) leading the way in camping and outdoor education research in the same room and asked them what they thought the important questions were to advance our understanding about the camp experience?

The [ACA Camp Research Collaboration Summit](#) (PDF), held on January 10, 2008, at ACA's national office in Indiana, did exactly that, and was further supported by an inspirational charge from Peg Smith who shared her vision of the role of research and collaboration for the association.

ACA's staff Research Team and volunteer "Committee for the Advancement of Research and Evaluation" (CARE) hosted a one day meeting to build relationships among colleagues with similar interests, responsibilities, and goals around our understanding of the camp experience and related phenomenon. Participants discussed future opportunities for collaboration and intersection across organizations and academic communities and structures for supporting collaborative camp research.

Research questions were identified in the areas of

- Youth development outcomes;
- Best practices for business operations;
- Staff development and training;
- Communicating with and understanding parents; and
- The "Big Picture" of camp as it relates to development.

In addition, the ideas that began percolating at the Camp Research Collaborations Summit were discussed at the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors Biennial Research Symposium held at Bradford Woods the same weekend.

ACA's E-Institute—Coming Soon!

American Camp Association's (ACA's) E-Institute will debut with Web-based courses for camps and other youth development programs.

Featuring:

- Program Improvement (based on the new ACA book, Designing Quality Youth Programs)
- ACA Camp Standards
- Camp Is for the Camper
- More to come!

ACA, Southeastern Hosts Delegation From Russia

Special thanks to ACA, Southeastern, Camp Counselors USA, and The University of Georgia for hosting a delegation of camp directors and teachers from Russia for two weeks. The excursion was a way to deepen the collaboration between participants in the Camp Counselors Russia program (where internationals serve as counselors in Russian summer camps) and members of the Russian Camp Association.

The two-week experience ended with deeper bonds formed with these bright, gregarious people. By hosting visitors with limited English skills (and one fluent teacher of English), participants gained a unique view of the "world" and developed an even stronger conviction that camp is a powerful tool for building bridges across oceans and words.

The generosity of people who welcomed guests in Georgia and Florida was overwhelming. There was predictable outreach from good friends and family, but the happiest surprise was the spirit of strangers who repeatedly rolled out a 'red carpet', often because we were "camp" family. The conversations, experiences, meals, activities, and glimpses into day-to-day worlds that were offered to strangers from another country were uplifting. For example, the Russian delegation learned about the "normalness" of people with disabilities by playing kickball and riding in paddleboats at Camp Twin Lakes. They saw the pride of a 10-year-old who gave them each a first archery lesson at Camp TimberRidge. This young "teacher" talked with them afterwards and even shyly asked if they really were from Russia!

Each time a question was posed by the visitors, it was of sincere interest. Also, they exuded a confidence that the knowledge gained would be put to use in their home programs. Visits to local newspapers generated particularly interesting discussions, and the answers to their questions reinforced a sense of disbelief that freedom of speech exists in the United States as an all-encompassing fact. The Russian guests spoke in recreation and leisure classes, held study abroad information sessions, and toured camps and youth programs in the southeast.

Contributed by Gwynn Powell, Associate Professor, University of Georgia, and International Camp Counselor, Lesnaya Skazka.



Latest in ACA Research

New Workbook Debuts at the National Conference!

Designing Quality Youth Programs is a user-friendly workbook, offering a step-by-step process that helps a director identify and intentionally target an area for improvement. This workbook comes with an extensive array of samples, templates, and other useful materials based on findings from our Program Improvement research project. Look for the book at the ACA Bookstore at the national conference!

Business Resources

USA TODAY's CAMP TODAY 2008—The place for your camp message.

USA TODAY would like to thank each and every camp that participated in the **CAMP TODAY** November 2007 edition. Because of the success of past features and continued interest from those who participated, we will be publishing a **CAMP TODAY** March 2008 edition!

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

CAMP TODAY March 2008 Publication Schedule:

- Tuesday, March 4, 2008

- Thursday, March 6, 2008

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

- Get a jumpstart on Summer 2008 enrollment!
- Your message will reach a daily audience of 4.4 million readers per day, 50% of which have children and household incomes in excess of \$90,000 annually.
- Rates start as low as \$561!!! (net rate)

March 2008 **CAMP TODAY** editions will include editorial submitted by the ACA within both publication dates. Topics covered will include:

- Today's Camps Offer More Than Ever Before
- Camps: The Fun Way to Learn

Deadline for space reservation, material, and payment:

- Wednesday, February 27, 2008

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:

- Black & White
- Minimum ad size: 1 column x 1 inch (1 13/16 inches x 1 inch)
- Ad size may increase in width in full columns up to 6 columns wide and by ½ inch increments in height)

Don't miss out—book your space today! For more information or to place an ad, please contact:

- Denyse Brooker, Account Executive/*USA TODAY* Marketplace
- 1-800-397-0070
- dbrooker@rja-ads.com

ACA Spotlight on Business

Business Resources

ACA Welcomes FoodSource Plus as a New Business Partner

FoodSource Plus is a food and supply purchasing program that works with 10,000+ human service agencies nationwide, saving them money on their food, cleaning supplies, and paper goods.



FoodSource Plus has arrangements with a wide range of food wholesalers and distribution companies across the country, including many that you may already be doing business with. Their expertise is in negotiating

the lowest possible costs for groceries, cleaning, and paper supplies offered by these vendors. **They report savings of 10% – 35% for camps nationwide.**

Once you sign on with FoodSource Plus and utilize a distributor in their network, you pay from the lowest pricing tier the distributor offers. Essentially, through the FoodSource Plus program, you buy food and supplies at a nonprofit rate.

There is no cost to join FoodSource Plus, and the analysis of your purchases is cost free and implies no obligation for you to participate. FoodSource Plus will review your current expenditures and advise you as to the level of savings possible through their program, as well as assist with implementing the training, order guides, and menus customized for your camp's unique needs. ACA encourages you to explore this opportunity, as it may well save your agency time and money.



To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Stephanie Bonenfant at sbonenfant@foodsourceplus.com or call 866-248-4520 for a free review of your current purchasing program and costs. To request a free savings proposal, [click here](#). (PDF)

Products and services mentioned in Spotlight on Business have not necessarily been used or reviewed by the American Camp Association and mention of them does not constitute an endorsement from ACA.

Your first stop for products and services to help you do the "business of camp" should be the [business pages of the ACA Web Site](#) where you will find a listing of all Business Affiliates that support the camp industry. You will also find links to unique products, new product releases, and special savings. Check the Web site regularly to find the things you need for camp!

Standards News

Council of Delegates Approve Revision to Standards!

In December 2007, the Council of Delegates had the opportunity to participate in two open hearings (via conference call) which were followed by an online vote resulting in approval of the following Standards Revisions. These revisions will be effective for the 2008 season.

HR-4

Delete staff screening for user group references throughout the interpretation. The changes in this occur in the first sentence of the first paragraph AND in the Demonstration of Compliance.

The first sentence in the interpretation should read: The camp must implement established screening policies for its own operation.

HR-4 will no longer apply to user groups.

There is no actual revision to the wording of the actual standard; all revisions apply to the interpretation.

OM-19

Does the camp require the written user-group agreement to specify?

ADD 6th bullet to read: Recommendation to user group leaders of the need for appropriate screening policies for all user group staff with responsibility for or access to campers.

PD-23

Does the camp require the following for all firearm activities?

ADD 4th bullet to 23B to read: A plan for dealing with spent lead bullets consistent with applicable local environmental regulations.

All references to paintball should be removed from the interpretation for this standard. PAINTBALL will be listed as one of the specialized activities requiring protective equipment (3rd bullet, page 186).

Be watching for additional resource information regarding PD-23B in the March issue of *Inside ACA* and on the ACA Web site.

ACA Health Forms

A variety of forms for use by camps are [available online](#). These forms are made available to ACA members as a member benefit and can be downloaded from this site for no charge. Many of the forms are customizable for your camp (you can place your camp logo and address in specifically designated "boxes"). The customizable forms include *Staff Health History*, *Medical Recommendation for Camp Employees* and other useful health-related forms.

Used together for overnight camps, the *Camper Health History Form* (four-page form completed by parent/guardian) and the *Camper Health Care Recommendations* (one-page form completed by physician) replace the old "Green form," which will NOT be updated/revised. The new form more specifically addresses many concerns of the camp director including: allergies; dietary restrictions; mental, emotional, and social health of the camper, etc. Day camps can use the Camp Health History alone in order to meet the ACA Standards.

The *Camper Health History Form* and the *Camper Health Care Recommendation Form*, along with a variety of other forms are also available for purchase in 100 count packs through the ACA Bookstore at: <https://www.acabookstore.org/pdfForms.cfm>.

Donors Make a Difference

Donations Made Easy!

ACA is a public charity and needs your help. Currently, only 34 percent of the operating budget is funded by membership dues and camp fees. The rest is dependent on the generous contributions of many to promote the work you do. Now it's easier than ever to donate! Visit www.ACACamps.org/support and give through our easy and secure online donation form.

Child and Youth Development Resources

Tips for Aquatics/Canoe Instructors from the American Canoe Association

Here are a few tips to help you prepare for another summer camp paddling season!

- Teach campers properly and safely from the start, as it will provide the basis for a lifetime of paddling enjoyment. Don't fudge, youth are the future of paddlesports!
- FUN! Behind safety, this is the key element to a successful camp paddling season. Incorporate games, hands-on activities, and skill building.
- Discuss lake and river etiquette. As the counselor, you must set the appropriate example.
- Hone those rescue skills.

- When was the last time you used your throw bag?
- When was the last time you practiced a boat-over-boat rescue?
- If you have a group in a river environment, consider an appropriate swimming activity. Wear PFD's and incorporate a throw rope drill. The campers will enjoy it, and you'll get some practice as well!
- Encourage diversity. A child can exhibit various levels of enjoyment, whether on class II whitewater, or an early morning sighting of a heron on the lake.
- Safety!
 - How often do you do a head count of your group while on a lake or river?
 - Constantly play the 'What if?' game, especially with your co-counselor on the way to the put-in.
 - What if we let everyone jump from this rock and a camper hits their head?
 - What do we do if a storm blows up in the middle of a lake crossing?
 - What's your current level of first aid training?
 - What do we do if a kayak flips over in a rapid?
- Enhance your instructor resume by continuing your professional development.
 - Take a safety and rescue course.
 - Read, and re-read literature related to instruction techniques and rescue.
 - Practice!

Contributed by Christopher Stec, assistant director of safety, education & instruction for the American Canoe Association. Please contact him with your summer camp paddlesports related questions: cstec@americancanoe.org.