

# ACA CAMP RESEARCH YOUTH OUTCOMES & PROGRAMS

Industry Relevant Research and Resources for Camp Professionals from ACA  
[www.ACAcamps.org/research](http://www.ACAcamps.org/research)

## **Creating Positive Youth Outcomes:**

### **A Resource for Camps and Other Youth Development Programs**

Available from the American Camp Association®  
[www.ACAcamps.org/research/youthoutcomes.php](http://www.ACAcamps.org/research/youthoutcomes.php)

*Creating Positive Youth Outcomes* is a research-based tool written in an easy-to-use format to help you evaluate and improve your program and increase positive outcomes for youth campers. This resource — which includes a workbook, facilitator’s guides, and CD — will become your staff’s guide to targeting specific youth outcomes. Sample goals are offered in four areas: supportive relationships, safety, youth involvement, and skill building. 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 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 from ACA’s research on youth outcomes that you can use in your program.
- Templates and forms for developing your own goals.



## **Designing Quality Youth Programs:**

### **Strategic Changes Across Structures, Policies, and Activities**

Available February 2008 from the American Camp Association®

If you believe your program offers a quality experience for your participants but also think doing even better is ideal, *Designing Quality Youth Programs* is for you. It will take you, step-by-step, through a rewarding journey of organizational improvement.

The process offered in the book recognizes that each setting is different, each program is different, and each improvement requires a targeted set of strategies. The eight steps allow the process to become yours. They are designed to be individualized to draw upon and fit your mission and philosophy, to reflect input from your young people and staff, and to implement strategies that make sense for your program. Strategies become a direct link to your organizational policies, structures, and activities and enable you to have a holistic approach to program improvement. It is your journey!

This book contains information, tips, and words of wisdom from other directors who have gone through the process with their camps. These words and stories from professionals like you might provide just the right encouragement or hint you need to overcome a particular challenge or affirm your direction. So, if you’re ready . . . it’s time to venture out of your comfort zone, get into a “stretch” position, and learn how to take a critical look at your program’s potential to promote positive youth development!

