

# ACA Upstate NY Annual Conference “Come Camp With Us”



## Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 10:00 - 4:00**      **ACA Standards Training**
- 11:00 – 4:00**      **ACA Standards Update Course**  
**ACA Standards Visitors Update Course**
- 4:00**              **Registration opens**
- 4:00 – 7:00**      **Vendor Hall**
- 7:00 – 8:00**      **Snack**
- 8:00 – 10:00**      **“Evening Program”**  
Kick off the weekend in true camp style! Your “counselors” will be leading introductions, icebreakers, group games and other fun camp activities to help everyone get to know their fellow conference attendees.

## Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 – 9:00**      **Breakfast**
- 9:00 – 9:45**      **Keynote – Steve McGuire – “Wear your belt and suspenders”**  
Teaching your staff members to “Get it” when it comes to working with kids and each other



Have you ever said to yourself in frustration “That staff member just doesn’t get it!” We all have at one point or another. How do we teach our staff to understand the serious nature of their job without bore or scare tactics? That is what this session will do. Come join Steve as explore ways to teach our staff members how to understand what they do and lasting impact it can have.

### **10:00 – 10:50      Educational Sessions**

- 1. Jim Cain – The Top 10 Teambuilding Activities**  
*Jim Cain shares his favorite, newest and best teambuilding activities.*
- 2. Designing Quality Camp Programs – Jeff Peneston**  
*Camp programs must do more than entertain and recruit campers. Activities must intentionally advance the mission of your organization and produce observable outcomes in camper development. Jeff will lead a discussion and encourage workshop participants to evaluate the types of program activities that they offer at camp. We will examine what makes some programs more educational than others and why it is important that camp programs need to be different than the things kids do in school. This workshop will also examine ways that the ACA Accreditation process asks camps to evaluate and document the outcomes of programs.*

*Jeff is an ACA Accreditation Visitor Trainer and has been the Program Director of Camp Talooli for over 25 years. He is also a high school science teacher and the 2011 New York State Teacher of the Year.*

### 3. Department of Health “Hot Topics” – Tim Shay

*Come find out what the latest talk in the Department of Health concerning summer camps is. There are many new issues that Camp Directors should be aware of.*

### 4. Nature is Camp Naturally (Part 1)– George Steele

*What should go into a fun hands-on nature program? Pond and stream exploration, insects, night walks, animal tracks and traces, bird feeders and more. This session will use some hands-on exploring and time for discussing how to put together a fun dynamic nature program for camp. It will include ideas for the nature counselor and strategies for the camp director that wants a nature program for campers.*

### 5. ACA Standards Update (must attend all 4 sessions)

## **11:00 – 11:50 Educational Sessions**

#### 1. The Fine Art of Facilitation – Jim Cain

Jim will share some best practices from the world of teaching/training and facilitating

#### 2. “What are you talking about? I was great at my job!” – Steve Maguire

The top 10 counselor challenges from the summer of 2011

We all want our counseling staff to be the best at what they do. However, directors still identify common challenges that staff members come across when working at camp. Come join Steve as we review what camp directors around the country identified as the “Top 10 challenges” their staff had in the summer of 2011..

#### 3. Nature is Camp Naturally (Part 2) – George Steele

*Join George for the second part of this exciting workshop*

### 4. Standards Update (must attend all 4 sessions)

## **12:00 – 1:00 Lunch, with roundtables on:**

Day Camp, Resident Camp, Social Media 101, and more

## **1:00 – 1:50 Games led by camp staffs**

## **2:00 – 2:50 Educational Sessions**

#### 1. Jim Cain – One Pound of Teambuilding

Jim shares his favorite lightweight and extremely portable teambuilding props

#### 2. “You’re hired!” Learning a new, positive, and fun approach to the interviewing process It’s Nothing Personal!” : Evaluating and giving feedback to your staff in a creative and effective way – Steve Maguire

Join Steve as he puts two shortened workshops into one session.

Getting sick of the same old boring interview process? Had a few “mis-hires” recently? Just want to learn some different and unique ways to interview staff members? Come join Steve for this fun session that explore all this and more. Also, bring what you consider your best interview question and we’ll share it with the group. Interviewing has never been more fun!

Today’s program/camp counselors and leaders need to be evaluated differently than staff members of the past. In this session, participants will learn techniques to help create an effective and practical staff evaluation. We will explore how the

process works over the course of the entire summer as well as share strategies from previous program experiences.

### 3. Prime Time – building a strong staff community – Alice Miller-Nation

For more than 40 years, summer staff at Camp Stella Maris have looked forward to Prime Time, held once each week. It is community building, hands on, reflective, fun, thought provoking and peer led. Are you looking for a way to continue to support and build community among your staff throughout the summer? Consider Prime Time!

### 4. Standards Update (must attend all 4 sessions)

## 3:00 – 3:50 Educational Sessions

### 1. “Now You’re My Boss?!?” – Steve Maguire

If there is one common scenario Steve is always asked about, it is this one: “Last summer I worked with a lot of my friends. We went out together and worked together. Now I’m their boss. Do you have any advice?” Yes I do! Come join Steve as we explore how to smoothly make the transition from “friend and co-worker” to the vaunted “Camp administrator” without effecting your peer relationships.

### 2. Competencies we need from Camp staff – Tim Davis

This session provides a building block model incorporating competencies identified by ACA, DOH, DOL and Education Experts. The model provides a basis for CIT programs, staff selection and orientation, and ongoing training.

### 3. Sites and Facilities – Mike Oyer

Join Mike in this discussion about all things facilities related. Learn from his many years of experience to help your camp be the best facility it can be!

### 4. Standards Update (must attend all 4 sessions)

## 4:00 – 4:50 Games led by camp staffs

It’s time for a break from workshops - kind of. Put on your closed-toed shoes and get ready to learn a few new games from other camps. If you’re up for it, bring your favorite game to lead with everyone else!

## 5:00 – 6:00 Dinner

## 6:00 – 7:25 Evening Activity with Jim Cain

“Games for 500” – Activities that you can share with very, very large groups of people

## 7:30 Auction

## 8:30 Indoor/Outdoor Campfire

Bring your favorite campfire stories, skits and songs to share with the group. Ideas for outdoor cooking with campers will also be shared.

## Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

8:00 Light snacks available for breakfast

9:00 – 9:50 Educational Sessions

### 1. Photography for Camp Directors – Colin Stewart

Do you take thousands of photos during the summer, only to end up with 2 or 3 “brochure quality” pictures? Colin will teach you how to get better results!

### 2. Staff Training – Kara Travers

Join Kara for some new ideas to help freshen up staff training!

### 3. Grow your own staff (CIT Program) – Jan and Jeff Peneston

Jan and Jeff will describe how to develop a camp program and culture that promotes your day campers to become resident campers, who dream of becoming your future counselors. They will discuss how to create and use a CIT or LIT program that maintains the “unbroken chain” between campers and staff. They will share the details of how Camp Talooli develops over 20 CIT graduates each year that apply to be on staff. These applicants average 8 years of experience at our camp with 3 years of training. Almost all of their 60 seasonal staff are hired from this program.

### 4. Social Media Marketing – Adam Bell

Do you know what time you should post on your camp’s page on Facebook? Do you know where a typical user’s eyes jump to when they open your camp’s page? Do you have a page on Facebook? Twitter? Google+? LinkedIn? This session will teach you about marketing trends in social media and leave you with many resources to help improve your camp’s social media strategy.

## 10:00 – 10:50 Educational Sessions

### 1. Making Maple Syrup – Mike Oyer

Many camps have a delicious and fun activity right in their backyards! Learn how to make maple syrup and how it can be integrated into a fun, hands-on activity.

### 2. Awesome All Camp Games Workshop – Patrick Foster

All Camp Games give your camp a great opportunity to dazzle the kids and enable your staff to be creative. In this workshop you will get a few open formats for games that can change and use for your own camp.

### 3. Don’t Let the Bedbugs Bite – John Quinlivan and Adam Bell

Are you prepared to handle a bedbug infestation at your camp? With the recent rise in bedbug cases in New York State, you should be. Learn how to be proactive with parents, staff and user groups to prevent bedbugs from being brought into your camp. If they are brought into camp, learn how to recognize them, treat them and communicate to your parents. Learn the myths, the facts and how to do it right!

## 11:00 – 12:00 BRUNCH and Card Auction



## Featured Speakers

Steve Maguire is a veteran in the fields of education and summer camp. He has been teaching, coaching and working

with camps for the past fifteen years. Upon graduation from Plymouth State University in 1997, Steve began working as a middle school teacher and coach.

He has been a full time public school teacher, entering his 15<sup>th</sup> year teaching in the fall of 2011. He has also served in various summer camp roles from general counselor to camp director. Six years ago, Steve began presenting professionally, and has since presented for such nationally recognized organizations as the American Camping Association, National Parks and Recreation Association, Independent School Health Association, Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, as well as various other camps and secondary schools. He has facilitated trainings and consultations at over 400 camps in the last 6 years! He is currently a member of the National Speaker's Association. He has been both a keynote and education session hit at any conference he's presented.

Steve is a remarkably dynamic speaker. His ability to engage the emotion and minds of his audience members is a powerful combination. His presentations are known for their clear organization, humor and pragmatic outcomes.

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Dr. Jim Cain is the author of six team and community building texts, including: *Teamwork & Teamplay*, *The Revised and Expanded Book of Raccoon Circles*, *A Teachable Moment*, *Teambuilding Puzzles*, *The Ropework & Ropeplay Collection of Team Activities*, and *Essential Staff Training Activities*. He is also the creator of the innovative T&T Character Cards. Jim is the creative force

behind his training company, Teamwork & Teamplay, a former executive director of The Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT), a senior consultant to the Cornell University Corporate Teambuilding Program and the innovator of more than four dozen teambuilding activities and props.

Jim holds four advanced degrees, including a Ph.D. and has traveled to 47 states and 19 countries (so far) sharing his knowledge on subjects ranging from teamwork and leadership to creative problem solving and trust building. His train-the-trainer programs are legendary and his conference keynotes/playnotes are active, engaging and tremendously fun. With regard to Jim's group facilitation skills, Tom Leahy of NCCPS remarked, "Jim, you are a Jedi Master!"

If you want to incorporate teamwork into your organization, your next staff training or your next meeting or conference, and you want to do it right, contact Jim at Teamwork & Teamplay. You'll be glad you did!

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