Since 1935, the American Camp Association (ACA) has set the performance standard for camps. The ACA Accreditation Program has shown its excellence time and again as it has responded to changes in the camp industry, growing expectations of the public, and the challenges of operating a business in today’s highly regulated society.
# Building Better Camp Experiences

## What It Takes From You

### Accreditation Addresses All Aspects of Camp Management and Operation

- Goals and Outcomes of the Camp
- Condition of Facilities
- Food Service
- Risk Management
- Communication
- Emergency Procedures
- Staff Screening, Hiring, and Training
- Transportation
- Medication Storage and Administration
- Camper Health Information
- Staff Qualifications
- Healthcare Policies and Treatment Procedures
- Counselor to Camper Supervision Ratios
- Program Guidelines
- Equipment Maintenance and Inspection

### Your Commitment

- **Attend a Ready. Set. Go. Webinar** — Learn as much as you can about the process before you begin.
- **Take an Accreditation Process Workshop** — At least one person from each camp must take this workshop.
- **Review Your Practices** — You and your team will undertake the process of reviewing your practices with the standards in mind, and writing policies, procedures, guidelines, and staff training materials.
- **Apply and Pay Fees Annually** — Camp fees are paid annually and relate to the camp’s operating budget. Camp fees are typically less than 1 percent of a camp’s operating budget.
- **No Hidden Costs** — There are no additional fees in visit years, or for training, mentoring, template documents, the Accreditation Process Guide, or the My Accreditation online tool, all of which will support your work.

### Your Timetable

ACA recommends the camp allow six to 18 months preparation time. A nine-month schedule looks something like this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>WINTER</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
<th>SUMMER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>This calendar can be altered to fit your needs (e.g., you might start by taking a workshop first if that suits you). Let us help you consider the possibilities.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apply and pay fees</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attend Ready. Set. Go. and take an Accreditation Process Workshop</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Receive complimentary Accreditation Process Guide and access to the Accreditation Portal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attend Accreditation Office Hours, one-hour Zoom meetings on specific standards topics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review, write, and update policies and procedures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong> — ACA assigns your visitor; you communicate with the visitor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 1</strong> — Your written documents should be ready for visitor review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 1 (following your summer visit)</strong> — Celebrate your success; announce your accreditation status to your camper families and the media</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>You host your visitors on a day mutually agreed upon</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Benefits of Accreditation**

**BUILDING BETTER CAMP EXPERIENCES**

**WHAT IT TAKES FROM YOU**

**ACACAMPS.ORG**

**LEARN MORE**