

Volunteer Impact

The work of ACA is supported by over **730 volunteers** who contribute an estimated **15,000 hours** of their time and talents. These volunteers collaborate with staff to deliver professional development events both locally and nationally. They help manage local office operations, mentor emerging professionals, recruit new camps and volunteers, host networking events, and provide leadership for volunteer efforts. Additionally, they plan events focused on emerging professionals, advocate for state and federal laws impacting camps, and raise funds to support ACA's initiatives.

Volunteers also serve on various committees, including the awards committee, public affairs, and strategic planning. They lead efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion, support *Camping Magazine* through the editorial advisory committee, and organize the annual Staffing Summit via the Staff Recruitment and Retention Committee.

Thank you to all of the ACA volunteers!

From Michael Johnson, the LCOL chair for Great Rivers local office:

"I volunteer for ACA because the industry has had an immeasurable impact on my personal and professional life and I want to do everything I can to give back to the industry that has given me so much. As a child, camp provided me an environment to experience things I would have never had the opportunity to do, growing up as a poor Black kid in rural Western Kansas. Camp was also a place where I gained confidence and personal growth, as it was one of the few places where I felt like I was on even ground. As an adult the camp industry gave me professional direction and ultimately a career. More importantly, I met my wife and many of my closest friends while working at summer camp. Because of all of the things that the camp industry has provided for me, I feel like a steward of the industry and of ACA. Camp is another member of my family. I want to make sure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to have the transformative experiences that I have had."



From Helen Santos, who is located in Los Angeles and serves on the VEC and the DEI outreach and representation work group:

"I volunteer for the American Camp Association because I want all youth regardless of religious, ethnic, or socioeconomic background to have the opportunity to attend a summer camp. I want every camp to have campers that represent various cultures, religions, and identities. That all campers get the opportunity to share space around a campfire and get to know each other in a safe space that will impact their view on life. Being a volunteer myself as a camp professional, I have the opportunity to get to know others who are as passionate about camp as myself, learn from them, share my experiences, and create friendships with others who share similar core values."

