

Message from the Board Chair and President/CEO

Friends and Colleagues:

This has been a busy, rewarding, and sometimes challenging year that brought renewed national attention to the life-changing power of camp experiences.

We want to sincerely thank former Board Chair Liz Fogel, who left big shoes to fill as she completed her tenure as the astute and courageous leader of the ACA Board. We are honored to have had the opportunity to work with her and grateful that she continued to lend her expertise as chair of the search committee for ACA's new CEO to help ensure that ACA is well-positioned moving forward.



We've accomplished many things this year, among them:

- The ACA Board authorized an Accreditation Task Force to look at our entire accreditation program and make recommendations that might facilitate expanding the program's impact.
- We officially launched our Character at Camp Grant Program, part of our Character at Camp Initiative, to provide support, training, and assistance for camps in the US who are interested in starting, enhancing, expanding, or celebrating character development at camp.
- We maintained a strong presence at Hill Day in Washington, DC, and advocated for the camp industry throughout the year, especially for the viability of the BridgeUSA J-1 visa program.
- We had a solid year financially, enabling us to continue and to seek to expand the quality programs and services we offer camps and camp professionals.

We experienced the utter heartbreak of the flooding in Texas along with the rest of the camp community, and we continue to mourn while working hard to support not only camps in Texas, but camps across the country. We will continue to process what we have learned from this unimaginable tragedy to help strengthen safety practices at camps across the country.

As a result of this tragedy, we are experiencing an increased awareness of and interest in ACA accreditation — and the importance of this program that goes beyond state regulation to engage camps in a wide range of health and safety standards — as well as the advocacy ACA does on behalf of camps across the country.

In looking back on 2025, we, as Board Chair and newly appointed CEO, couldn't be prouder of the way the camp community has banded together in good times and bad to show compassion, to embrace continuous improvement, and to fight for better futures for our nation's children. We thank you for your hard work and pledge to continue ours, to strive to ensure all children, youth, and adults can take advantage of the life-changing opportunities found at camp.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Baskin".

Steve Baskin
Chair, National Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry DeHart".

Henry DeHart
President/CEO