

Eleanor P. Eells Award for Excellence in Research in Practice 2017

(MUST BE COMPLETE TO BE CONSIDERED)

The Eleanor P. Eells Award for Excellence in Research in Practice is designed to honor programs that conduct or apply innovative, quality research or evaluation to improve program practice and/or uncover findings that are useful to other camps. Successful nominations typically focus on a particular component, strategy, or topic as opposed to general attempts to better an entire camp. Nominations generally fall into two types:

- **Evaluation** projects incorporate data and analysis of data to support effectiveness and continuous improvement. Such projects tend to focus on camp processes and practices to *use* evaluation data for meaningful program improvement. Both formative and summative evaluations are appropriate.
- **Research** projects address questions intended to generate new knowledge or understanding. Findings can then be utilized and shared.

Eleanor P. Eells Award nominations are judged on creativity and imaginative planning; relevance to the needs of participants and/or camps; adaptability or potential for replication; cooperative efforts with other organizations, agencies, camps, colleagues, or universities; and the program's ability to meet its stated objectives.

Nominees for the **Excellence in Research in Practice Award** will also be judged on research/evaluation innovation and rigor; adherence to ethical research or evaluation standards; and the camp's use and sharing of the research and/or evaluation findings.

Eligibility for the **Excellence in Research in Practice Award**: To qualify for nomination for this **Eleanor P. Eells Award**, a program or camp must have been in operation for at least two years (planning and development time do not count), and:

1. Conducted or applied innovative, quality research or evaluation,
2. Used or plan to use research or evaluation findings to improve program practice, and
3. Include findings that can be replicated or adapted for other camps' programs or research/evaluation projects

Membership in ACA is not required

Number of awards: no more than 2

It is desired that a representative of the organization receiving this award be present to accept it at the National Conference in February 2018 in Orlando, FL

Nominations are due by October 25, 2017

Have questions? We are more than happy to discuss. Please feel free to contact the coordinators of the award:

Mary Rogers
Executive Director, Sherwood Forest
MaryR@SherwoodForestSTL.org

Tom Akiva
Assistant Professor in Education, University of Pittsburgh
tomakiva@pitt.edu

Send to:
Awards Committee Chair
American Camp Association
5000 State Road 67 North
Martinsville, IN 46151-7902
800-428-2267 fax 765-342-2065
Please complete the application below for the Eleanor P. Eells Award for Excellence in Research in Practice

BEGIN FORMSTACK DOCUMENT:

Contact name _____ Title _____
Camp/Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Fax _____ Email _____

General Camp Background:

1. Please provide a one-paragraph description of your camp
2. What is the length of time your camp has been in operation?
3. Please describe the particular program or component of your program that you focused on in this research or evaluation project
4. Why did this camp choose to conduct a research or evaluation project for this program or component of this program?
5. Please check one: Research Project Evaluation Project Combined research and evaluation project.

Specific Research or Evaluation Criteria: 1,000 words

6. Please describe your specific research or evaluation project
7. What did you learn that you did not know from doing this project?

8. How did this project fit into your camp's overall use of research and evaluation, both in the past and as you plan for the future?
9. How could the findings from your camp's research or evaluation project be adapted or replicated by others?

Please include any links to or documents of the research or evaluation report, or other supporting documentation of this camp's research and evaluation-related efforts.

If this program receives an award, who would be present to accept the award on behalf of the program?

Name _____ Title _____
Camp/Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email _____

Nominated by (If other than contact person):

Name _____ Title _____
Camp/Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email _____