

THE VALUE OF ACCREDITATION

Professionalism and Accountability for Camps

ACA Accreditation Is for You

Overnight Camps • Day Camps • Private Independent Camps • Nonprofit Camps • Faith-based Camps • Medical Needs Camps • Sports, Music, Science, or Art Camps • Camps that Rent to Others • Camps that Run on Public or Private Property

Purpose of ACA Accreditation

1. **Accreditation educates camp owners and directors** in the administration of key aspects of camp operation, particularly those related to program quality and the health and safety of campers and staff.
2. **Accreditation establishes guidelines** for needed policies, procedures, and practices.
3. **Accreditation assists the public** in selecting camps that meet industry-accepted and government-recognized standards.

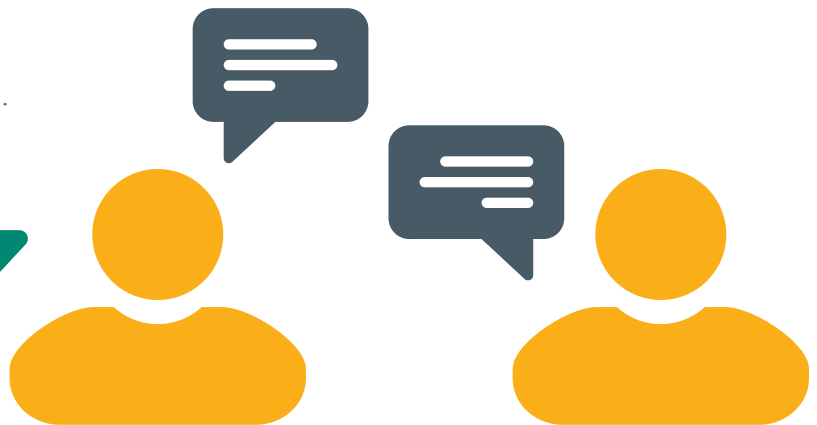
Value of Accrediting Your Camp

1. Accreditation is evidence **your camp meets industry-accepted and government-recognized standards.**
2. Accreditation demonstrates **the camp is taking responsible steps** toward the health and safety of campers and staff.
3. Accreditation provides you with one additional **marketing opportunity** — to promote your achievement of excellence and the highest recognition from the only national accrediting body of camps.
4. The accreditation process creates **guidelines and operating procedures** for staff, providing **consistency across seasons in the event of staff turnover.**
5. Accreditation standards have been formulated to provide **specific actionable guidance** so you don't have to guess.
6. Accreditation confirms you were **successful in a peer-review** process.
7. Accreditation is the standard in a **court of law.**
8. Accreditation can **reduce insurance rates.**
9. A growing number of **grants and funding opportunities** require or weight ACA accreditation.

Ready to Get Started?

Connect with ACA Staff

765-342-8456, press 1



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.



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BUILDING BETTER CAMP EXPERIENCES

WHAT IT TAKES FROM YOU

Benefits of Accreditation

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 • Healthcare Policies and Treatment Procedures • Counselor to Camper Supervision Ratios • Staff Qualifications • Program Guidelines • Equipment Maintenance and Inspection

Your Commitment

- **Take an Accreditation Process Workshop** — At least one person from each camp must take this workshop. Courses are offered around the country, are in person, are 4.5 hours long, and are free.
- **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 leadership expect a minimum of six months but more generally eight to 18 months preparation time. A nine-month schedule looks something like this.

FALL

WINTER

SPRING

SUMMER

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.

Apply and pay fees			
Take an Accreditation Process Workshop			
Receive complimentary Accreditation Process Guide and access to My Accreditation Online			
Attend Accreditation Office Hours, one-hour Zoom meetings on specific standards topics			
	Review, write, and update policies and procedures		
		March — ACA assigns your visitor; you communicate with the visitor	
		May 1 — Your written documents for 26 pre-identified standards ready for review by visitor	
			You host your visitors on a day mutually agreed upon
November 1 (following your summer visit) — Celebrate your success; announce your accreditation status to your camper families and the media			

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