

THE VALUE OF ACCREDITATION

Value of the ACA Accreditation

- 1. Accreditation educates** camp owners and directors in the administration of key aspects of camp operation, program quality, and the health and safety of campers and staff.
- 2. Accreditation establishes** guidelines for needed policies, procedures, and practices for which the camp is responsible for ongoing implementation.
- 3. Accreditation assists** the public in selecting camps that meet industry-accepted and government-recognized standards. ACA's Find a Camp database connects families with ACA-Accredited Camps that best suit their interests.

Accreditation Standards Address All Aspects of Camp Management and Operation

Site – Fire protection, food service, sleeping quarters, bathing and toilet facilities

Transportation – Procedures concerning drivers, vehicles, and traffic on site

Health and Wellness – Staff qualifications, facilities requirements, record keeping, storage and distribution of medicines, contact information, health forms

Operational Management – Safety regulations, emergency communications systems, procedures for intruders, personal property regulations

Human Resources – Staff qualifications, hiring, training, supervision ratios, and procedures

Program – Aquatics, adventure/challenge, trips, horseback riding, staff qualifications for special programs

Steps to Becoming ACA Accredited

STEP ONE	STEP TWO	STEP THREE	STEP FOUR	STEP FIVE
Apply and pay the annual fee	Take a course	Review and evaluate each area of camp operation according to the guidelines in the standards	Prepare materials and written documentation	Participate in a visit by a team of trained visitors
				

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** FOR CAMPS AND CAMPERS

Benefits of Accreditation



Prestige – Your peers know what it means to be accredited. Parents nationwide recognize the importance of ACA accreditation when choosing a camp for their child. You can tell them accreditation means you have reached far beyond the minimum state and local regulations. ACA-accreditation status is solid proof of your accountability, credibility, and commitment.



Advertising – Be proud and promote your accreditation. Use key messages and scripts to keep parents tuned to the value of your accreditation. ACA-accredited camps have premier visibility on Find a Camp, which receives thousands of unique page views daily!



Strategic Planning – ACA accreditation is an educational tool, an industry benchmark, a best-practices solution, and a learning formula for your camp staff. Strategic planning for your camp is simplified; policies, procedures, and practices are established; and your staff is responsible for ongoing implementation – a dynamic instructional process for any camp!



Exclusive Discounts – Recoup your financial investment in accreditation through discounts on services you can't do without – group purchasing of food service contracts, propane, office supplies, building and cleaning supplies, staff recruitment, and product savings through ACA business partnerships and vendors. Camps save an average of \$12,000 annually.



Professional Staff – It is proven that involvement in professional organizations in any field of expertise develops well-informed, better educated staff. The accreditation process and membership in ACA are invaluable tools for success.



Networking – Professional ties and the opportunity to network with your colleagues are incredible benefits – Get involved! Learn more, understand more, and discover more . . . become a standards visitor – be a mentor to camp staff and witness how other camps operate.

Become Accredited! JOIN THE GROWING LIST OF ACCREDITED CAMPS IN THE USA.

Accreditation provides reassurance to parents that they are sending their child to a place that has been reviewed for its health, safety, and program standards.



LEARN MORE

WWW.ACACAMPS.ORG/ACCREDITATION