

April 3, 2020

We realize you are managing challenging circumstances at work and home emanating from COVID-19. We recognize the hard work that camps manage during the typical pre-camp season; yet, we know there is nothing typical about 2020 thus far. During this accreditation season, we want *the focus to be on your program, the needs of your campers, camper families and your staff.*

After thoughtful deliberation, the members of the ACA's National Standards Commission have concluded that in the best interest of all accredited camps, the prudent and responsible decision is to forego all on-site verification visits for the 2020 Accreditation season. We know this may be difficult news for camps based on the significant preparation time-investment for an on-site verification visit. 2020 on-site verification visits will automatically extend to the 2021 accreditation season. Camps seeking accreditation status for the first time that were scheduled for an on-site visit in 2020 will move to 2021. ACA will reach out to camps scheduled for their first on-site verification visit on an individual basis.

All camps *currently* accredited by ACA will receive a one-year extension. Anticipated on-site visits for all currently accredited camps in 2021 through 2024 are extended one year (i.e., 2021 is moved to 2022, 2022 to 2023, etc.). The condition of the one-year extension for all currently accredited camps is the review and signing of the 2020 Annual Statement of Compliance (SOC) by June 1, 2020. The Annual Statement of Compliance (SOC) indicates a camp's continued compliance with applicable laws, regulations and permit requirements. As an important reminder, the on-site verification visit is one component of the Accreditation program and process. Vigilance in complying with ACA Standards, while critically important in any given year, is paramount with evolving circumstances associated with COVID-19.

ACA volunteer visitors, Standards Chairs, and Standards Team Staff will continue their communications with camps scheduled for on-site verification visits. Their communication will shift from preparation for visits to education and mentorship. We encourage you to reach out to your team at any time.

Naturally, you will have questions, and we've anticipated many of those by preparing a frequently asked questions document. Admittedly, we have some, but not all the information you would like at this time but are committed to seeking answers and updating you as we learn more. You can access the [FAQ here](#).

While so much is changing, some things remain constant. Camp is a powerful, transformative experience. All kids need camp. Kids need camp now more than ever. We stand with you.

On behalf of the ACA National Standards Commission,



Nancy Hartmann, Chair