



# Bullying Prevention

## *Camps Take a Stand*

**Parent Letter**

Dear Parent:

The importance of the physical and emotional safety of each and every camper and staff member is paramount to our camp and the American Camp Association (ACA) mission. We try to identify critical concerns that are important to our campers and staff. We take the issues of bullying and violence in our culture very seriously. The purpose of this letter is to talk about an initiative that ACA will be undertaking for the summer of 2005 and beyond to address this issue.

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace: through the use of e-mails, text messaging, instant messaging, and other less direct methods.

“Camps Take a Stand” is an anti-bullying initiative that is aimed at taking appropriate steps towards managing this problem. Although we have always made a conscious effort to prevent bullying in our camp community, bullying itself has transformed into more than its traditional definition. This summer we are trying to stop bullying behavior with different tools and techniques that will help us prevent such behavior.

As we get ready for our summer at camp, we thought you should know about the lengths to which we are prepared to go in order to ensure that we are successful in delivering the ACA initiatives to our camp this summer and provide physical and emotional safety to all. We have partnered with experts at ACA and now have an Anti-Bullying Policy and tools for staff training to reach this goal.

We encourage you, as parents, to please let us know about any particular bullying concerns you may have for your child or any off-season, camp-related emails, instant messages, or text-messages that may have led to exclusion or meanness towards your child by somebody else in camp. We want to ensure that this problem can be managed by a strong partnership between our camp and you.

If you have any feedback for us that you think would be helpful, we would appreciate hearing from you.

We look forward to having your child with us at camp this summer.