

How does camp prepare youth for college, career, and life?

ACA's 5-Year Impact Study

WHAT

A
*groundbreaking
national study
that will explore:*

How families
choose and
prepare for
camp

Camp
practices
that lead to
beneficial
outcomes

Unique
outcomes of
camp that
prepare
campers to
thrive in...

CAREER

ACADEMICS

LIFE

CAMPER GROWTH OVER 3-5 YEARS

HOW & WHEN

Planning Phase

1. Board sets strategic direction
2. Board Task Group crafts research question and issues request for proposals
3. Volunteer Research Advisory Committee selects University of Utah
4. ACA builds internal and external support and collaboration opportunities

2016-2017

Exploratory Phase

1. 20 ACA-accredited camps selected randomly and proportionate to the ACA-accredited population.
2. 100 new staff from those camps participate in interviews about their childhood camp experiences and the impacts of camp on school, work, and life, and the camp practices that contributed to those gains

2017

Mapping Phase

1. Sample expanded to 40 camps
2. Themes from Exploratory Phase used to design survey of camp experiences and the specific camp practices that produces camper outcomes
3. 200-300 new staff complete survey about their childhood camp experiences, resulting in a map of unique camp outcomes and camp practices that produce those outcomes

2018

Multi-Year Phase

1. Sample expanded to 50 camps
2. 10 campers and their families from each camp volunteer to participate in surveys and interviews for 3 years
3. Families receive \$100 per year + bonus
4. Provides first-ever multi-year evidence of camper growth in and outside of camp

2019-2021

IMPACT

Increase value and visibility among parents, partners, policy makers, and funders

Expand enrollment and outreach to under-represented groups

Ensure high quality programs and camp experiences

Contact Laurie Browne, ACA Director of Research

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Read our blog!

GET INVOLVED

