



The Sundial

Late Summer Issue
2006

A publication of the American Camp Association™ Southeastern

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Dear ACA Members,

As the leaves started falling into the camp swimming pool, I experienced mixed grief as the summer camp season came to a close. Every year we experience a host of emotions as we take on the important role of training and teaching the children, youth and adults in our camps. Yet, our roles as educators in the camp setting remain the foundation and building blocks for sharing our love of the environment and humanity with the future generations. Our camp accreditation standards provide the boundaries that help us keep the participants in our programs safe. Within those boundaries we create positive memories and friendships that last a lifetime. When I attended the Witness to the Resurrection Service of Jim Bennett this summer I gained a new appreciation for the simple jobs around camp like cleaning the pool. That was one of Jim's favorite jobs at camp. Our passion for camp is ingrained into our bodies, minds, and souls. Camp is more than what we do, it is who we are and we make a difference in the world one person at a time. This fall take a few moments to be still, and then share with us why camp is your passion from your perspective. Then we can share your stories within our section. Thanks for being dedicated to making a difference in the world. You are the heart of ACA.

Sincerely,

Cheryl

Cheryl Gans
Southeastern Section President

- President's Message.....1
- Section Update.....1
- Accreditation Visits.....2
- What is a Camp Operator/Liaison/
Contact?.....2
- 2006 SE Conference3
- ACA Website Resources.....4
- District News.....4
- Training Opportunities.....5
- Public Policy News.....5
- New Publishing Venture.....5
- What's Up With Research?.....6
- Award for Program Excellence....7
- New Members8

Section Update

Even though the temperature does not really indicate it, we all know that "summer" is just about over! School has or will be starting soon, all of the "after camp" programs are over and, hopefully, you have had a chance to relax from a great summer. Even before the camp season is over, most directors are looking forward to the next summer asking themselves: How can I do things different/better? What new program do we want to introduce next year? What's going to be our next challenge? These are questions your Board and Staff also ask themselves. Using the resources we have available, how can we best serve the members and camps in our Section? What do members want? Areas we will be focusing on this fall and winter include: Supporting volunteers in the offering of our Fall Conference (something you won't want to miss, see page 3); gathering accurate information for the printing of our Section Directory (for which we received a Grant from REII), tracking legislation that might affect camps, developing a long-term educational plan; supporting the new camps that have chosen to join/affiliate with ACA, and preparing for the introduction of the revised standards. If you know of other areas that you feel we, as a section, should be involved, please call or email me at rhonda@acacamps.org. Have a wonderful fall!

The Sundial is published four times a year as a benefit to members of the ACA Southeastern Section

Editor: Pamela Allen
Design Layout: Pamela Allen
pamela@acasoutheastern.org

2006 ACA Southeastern Board of Directors

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ACA Southeastern
3308 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd.
Suite 101
Durham, NC 27707
Phone: (919) 402-4336
Fax: (919) 402-4766
info@ACASoutheastern.org
www.ACASoutheastern.org

Accreditation Visits in the Southeastern Section

We are pleased to report 82 accreditation visits took place in the summer of 2006, including several visits to camps being visited for the first time. This could not have happened without our 140 volunteer visitors who took the time from their busy summers to make those visits happen. Visitors will tell you that it isn't all work! It's fun to see other camp programs, meet other camp professionals, pick up tips, and learn another way to do something you are doing.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a standards visitor, check out the standards page of the Southeastern web site at <http://acacamps.org/southeastern/standards/standards2007.php>. Dates will soon be posted for the upcoming associate visitor trainings.

What is a Camp Operator/Camp Liaison/Camp Contact?

Camp Operator: This is the person (or entity) that has financial responsibility for the ACA camp fees associated with accreditation/affiliation. **Renewal notices go to this individual.** This is usually the camp owner or an individual in an agency who oversees the camp program as part of their year round position. This information is posted on ACA's "Find a Camp Website."

Camp Liaison: This is the individual (and address, both email and mailing) with whom ACA at both the National and Section level will communicate with regarding your accreditation visit and other issues that apply to camps (vs. individual members). It may or may not be the same as the Camp Operator and/or the Camp Owner/Director.

Camp Contact: This is the individual (phone number and email address) who the public should contact to obtain additional information about your program. This information is posted on the ACA's "Find a Camp Website." This individual may or may not be the Camp Liaison or Camp Operator.

Why is this information important? In order for ACA (at both the National and Section level) to communicate (in written or electronic form), we need correct information. A significant number of camps whose camp fees have lapsed find it is because the renewal notice is sitting on the desk of the "Camp Operator" designated person and this individual does not realize the significance of the lapsed fees (if a camp's fees have lapsed more than four months, it automatically loses its accreditation status AND can no longer use the ACA accredited logo on any publication, website, or literature).

ACA wants to communicate with the appropriate person! Please find your camp on ACA's "Find a Camp" website and make sure your contact and operator information is correct. If it is not, contact Mthacker@acacamps.org or call ACA at 800-428-2267 to update this information. Contact the Section office to verify your Camp Liaison.



ACA, Southeastern Camping Conference
 September 25-27, 2006
 Charlotte, NC
 Marriott Executive Park



Discover the Possibilities

Photo courtesy of Visit Charlotte

Discover the Possibilities... Uncover a world of dynamic speakers and amazing educational sessions. Explore the Exhibit Hall, where innovative products and services await! Don't just sit there - get out and discover the wealth of knowledge the 2006 Southeastern Camping Conference has to offer!

What You'll Find:

- Special evening at Discovery Place!
- Opening keynote speaker Dr. Christopher Thurber
- Closing keynote speaker Peg Smith
- Infamous Live Auction, Dessert Reception and 'Fireless' Campfire
- Affordable prices to bring more staff!
- Outstanding educational sessions!

Standards Course

Monday September 25 9 am - 3 pm (lunch on your own)
 The purpose of this course is to help prepare camp directors/administrators for their accreditation visit and to serve as an introduction to the Standards program for persons interested in becoming visitors. As camps being visited in 2007 will be using the newly revised Standards, each camp is required to have someone who will be involved with the preparation and will be on-site during the visit attend a Standards Course. There is no additional cost for this course, **PRE-REGISTRATION IS required.** Call the Section office at 919-402-4336 or email Pamela@acasoutheastern.org for more information or to register. Additional courses will be held later in the winter/spring.

Accreditation Visitors Reception

Monday September 25
 (Immediately following Discovery Place Event at Marriott Executive Park - Room TBA) A Special Event for the volunteers who visited the 82 camps this summer. Meet other visitors, share stories, give input, enjoy some light snacks.

Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Marriott Executive Park by **SEPTEMBER 1, 2006** by calling 704.527.9650. Mention you are attending the American Camp Association Southeastern Conference to receive these special room rates:
 Single/Double: \$119 Parking: FREE!

Auction & Dessert Reception!

Tuesday September 26
 Don't miss out on the infamous dessert reception and Auction being held on Tuesday evening to support "Ya'll Believe." Funds from the auction help support educational events and scholarships for the ACA SE members and camps!
 How can you help? Donate an item (large or small) for auction. Create a theme basket from your camp or organization. T-shirts, sweatshirts, chairs, books, candy... wine... skills training... we have had a great variety of items in the past. Items for auction can be turned in to the registration area at the conference. Highlights from past years have included a rocking chair, canoe/kayak lessons, complimentary week(s) at camp, great camp t-shirts, one of a kind craft items, and much more!

Keynote Speakers

DR. CHRISTOPHER THURBER - Chris is a board-certified clinical psychologist, author, father, and consultant. A graduate of Harvard University, Chris co-authored the critically acclaimed *Summer Camp Handbook*, and recently published a DVD/CD set for new camper families entitled *The Secret Ingredients of Summer Camp Success*.
PEG SMITH - Peg is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Camp Association. She has over twenty-six years experience working with children, youth, and families. She is widely recognized for her entrepreneurial work style and her ability to move people, organizations, and government agencies through significant change. Her insight and background in child development bring a special perspective to this conference.

REGISTRATION FEES - REGISTRATION FEES - REGISTRATION FEES			
	MEMBER	2ND, 3RD PERSON	NON-MEMBER
Register by Sept. 1	\$130	\$95	\$140
Register after Sept. 1	\$140	\$110	\$150
Student	\$85	\$85	\$85
1-Day Pass: Student	\$25		\$25
1-Day Pass: Professional/ Educator			\$50

Register online at www.acasoutheastern.org/conf/2006.php or call the Section Office for a registration form to be mailed.

Where Can You Find Help?

ACA Website Resources

Camp is over for this year and you are starting to make plans for next summer. You may not know all that is available to you as an ACA member on the ACA national website (www.acacamps.org) and our own section website <http://acacamps.org/southeastern/>. If you have some time to "explore", here are some tips to help you find what you need.

Do you have job openings you would like to fill or are you looking for a new position for yourself? Check out our section website: <http://acacamps.org/southeastern/jobhome.php> to post an opening, to search for a job fair, or to look at the jobs available.

Would you like to search camp regulations by state or to compare your state's regulations with the regulations of other state's? Take a look at the Public Policy page: <http://www.acacamps.org/publicpolicy/regulations/>.

Is your camp scheduled to be visited next summer, or are you interested in becoming an accredited camp? Find out what you need to know about registering for a standards course: <http://www.acasoutheastern.org/standards/standards2007.php> and what other resources are available to you: <http://www.acacamps.org/accreditation/>.

Are you a camp director with fewer than six years of experience or a seasoned program director or site manager? An ACA's Basic Camp Director's Course will be offered in our section at the Calvin Center Camp and Conference Center in Hampton, GA, December 2-6, 2006. You can find information about this and other courses here: <http://www.acacamps.org/csv.cgi?data=bcdc.csv&template=bcdc.htm>.

Are you interested in research and trends in camping? Check out <http://www.acacamps.org/research/> to read the new publication "Inspirations – Developmental Supports and Opportunities of Youths' Experiences at Camp" or to view the Camp Enrollment Surveys, among other things.

Did you know ACA has message boards so that you can express your opinion, ask for help, find out what others are doing? <http://bb.acacamps.org/cgi-bin/ultimatebb.cgi>

This is just a small fraction of all the resources available on the National ACA website <http://www.acacamps.org/> and our own section website <http://acacamps.org/southeastern/>. Check it out!

District News

David "Speedy" Trejo
Georgia District Chair
dtrejo@winshape.org

Wow, what an amazing summer! If you are like me, you are finally able to sit down and just relax without worry about rain. Just last week I saw boys and girls running around the fields, campers singing as they lined up for their favorite camp meal, and staff members checking their daily activity list. Now the fields are empty, the dining hall is silent and all the camp equipment has been stored until next summer. What do we do next?

We begin to visualize the summer of 2007. Looking back at camper and staff recruiting, staff training, planning those daily cabin and camp-wide activities and other general camp scenarios: What worked well for your camp and in what areas would you like to improve?

Once again, we will be organizing camp meetings in different locations throughout our state. I encourage you to attend these meetings. As we administrators challenged our summer staff to step out of their comfort zone or to try something new, we should lead by example. If you will attend these meetings I assure you that you will walk away with something that will benefit your camp, maybe a new programming idea, affirmation that something you are doing is right, or an idea to increase enrollment or improve staff recruiting. But you won't know until you try will you?

So—take some time to relax. Enjoy some time with your family and friends. Thanks for making a differences in the lives of children.

See you at a meeting soon!

David "Speedy" Trejo
WinShape Camp- Boys Camp Director

Meeting dates and locations will be posted soon!

*** ADDRESS CHANGES * EMAIL CHANGES ***

*** ACA LIAISON CHANGES * UPDATES ***

Have you moved? Has your camp's ACA liaison changed? Do you have email? Has it changed? Help us reach you faster and more efficiently by sending us your updates! Here's how:

- Online www.acacamps.org/membership.
- Call the ACA National office (800) 428-CAMP.

It's just a click or call away and will ensure all the latest camp industry information and Southeastern Section news reaches you.

More Training Opportunities

Camp and Retreat Leader Gathering

The National United Methodist Camp and Retreat Leader Gathering (<http://www.gbod.org/camping/2007campevent.asp>) will take place on January 26-30, 2007, at the Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center in Gallant, Alabama.

Basic Camp Director's Course

BEING OFFERED! A Basic Camp Director's Course (BCDC) will be offered December 2 – 6, 2006 at the Calvin Center (near Atlanta, GA). The BCDC provides the basics and more for camp directors with fewer than six years of experience or for seasoned program directors and site managers. More information available at <http://www.acacamps.org/csv.cgi?data=bcdc.csv&template=bcdc.html>

ACA 2007 National Conference

February 13 – 16, 2007— Widening the Circle
The Conference Team and its Program Review Subcommittee are now accepting session submissions for review for the ACA 2007 National Conference in Austin, Texas. Learn more about the theme, Widening the Circle, and the conference in general at <http://www.ACACamps.org/conference/>. Research submissions are welcome as part of the ACA Research Forum <http://www.ACACamps.org/cfp/research/>. We're grateful for the generous support of this year's premiere sponsors.

DEADLINE FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS
(both program and individual): All nominations should be submitted to the Section office no later than September 4th! This can be done on-line or by contacting the Section office.

Public Policy News

A complete database of information about the camp-related regulations (www.ACACamps.org/publicpolicy) in each state is available on the ACA Web site. The data provides active links to the regulations and information in each state. The database is sortable by state, plus a viewer can compare all fifty states (and DC and Puerto Rico). Additionally, the database can indicate whether the state allows FBI records checks and information on how to access driving checks in each state, including costs and links to request forms.

ACA will continually check the links and information supplied on this database to ensure accuracy.

ACA Partners With Healthy Learning in a New Publishing Venture

Healthy Learning, a Monterey, California, based company is the exclusive publisher of ACA educational materials. All materials published for ACA by Healthy Learning (HL) will carry the ACA logo, and all ACA-authored titles will be copyrighted to ACA and remain our exclusive intellectual property.

How Will This New Partnership Affect You?

- A new 800 number to call for ACA book orders! **888-229-5745**
- Members can continue to order ACA titles online at www.ACABookstore.org.
- All forms will be available through the online bookstore for download (charged as now).

Other Improvements:

- Inventory will be in Healthy Learning's warehouse, not ACA's;
- Shipment of orders will be the same day or next day;
- Any calls to the national office will be transferred directly to Healthy Learning;
- Pricing of all books and materials through HL will reflect a new valued pricing structure;
- Additional books published by Healthy Learning will be available; and
- ACA members will continue to receive a discount, which will be reflected at "check out."

ACA HOTLINE * ACA HOTLINE * ACA HOTLINE

The ACA Camp Crisis Hotline is a 24 hour a day service available to all ACA camps. The Hotline serves as a resource for camps in crisis and provides callers the opportunity to talk through their crisis with a trained third-party. While the hotline is not a medical nor legal "expert" call line – it can help you think through your issues and discuss options. The hotline staff can help you think of issues and questions and identify other resources that can help you.

The ACA Hotline is available year round, 24/7 at 800-573-9019.

What's Up With Research??

written by: Deb Bialeschki, ACA National Staff, Senior Researcher

While you have all been focused on running great camps this summer, we have been busy gathering information and developing resources to help answer some of the questions we get from you. We want to highlight just two of these projects and let you know where you can find more details.

- Financial/budget Information for Camps: This project provides you with the latest financial data from over 1000 ACA accredited camps. The information is broken out by day and resident camp. For each one, you can look at a summary of findings by region and sponsorship or you can look at tables broken out by gross revenues and sponsor on areas such as annual camper days, gross revenues, expense categories, weekly fees, profitability, and revenue and expense by camper day. The information is available in PDF to members by going to <http://www.acacamps.org/research/> and clicking on 2006 Business Operations Survey. Also look for an article in Sept-Oct. *Camping Magazine* as well as a new book to be published in 2007 to help camps with budgets and financial management!
- Look for your mailed copies of *Inspirations* and *Innovations* in September! These booklets provide the benchmark (starting point) of 80 camps who participated in Phase I of the Program Improvement Project (PIP) that assessed youth development supports and opportunities at camp. The *Inspirations* booklet provides a summary of this information based on camp and camper characteristics. *Innovations* is the third in this series focused on outcomes and opportunities for youth development in camps. This booklet provides a summary of the strategies and practices implemented by 23 camps that went through a program improvement process and offers camps a step-by-step way to carry out your own process. Both of these projects were generously funded by the Lilly Foundation, Inc. Beside the mailed copies, you will be able to find both booklets as PDFs on the ACA Research website at <http://www.acacamps.org/research> - also look for a series of PIP articles in *Camping Magazine* as well as other educational resources.

Stay tuned this fall for several other exciting research-based resources! Here's a hint of what is to come:

- New Outcomes Tools that are camp specific as well as age-appropriate are currently being tested. We hope to have 6-7 outcomes available for next summer that are modular (you select the ones you want to intentionally target) as well as a way to easily score and interpret what the numbers mean! This project was funded by the Independent Not-for-Profit Council and matched by Lilly Endowment Inc.
- New Enrollment data will be collected in Sept-Oct so be sure to go online and enter your information! This information is one of the most requested sets of data, so watch for the email request to add your enrollment numbers!!
- A new Salary Study will be conducted in November. Like the financial/budget data, this information is critical to camp professionals, so we need your input!

There are several other exciting projects underway so we will keep you posted on their progress as the year goes on. If you have any questions about these (or other) projects, just contact Deb Bialeschki (dbialeschki@acacamps.org).

We wish to Congratulate Kat Shreve on her new position with the American Camp Association, Inc. As ACA National Staff can not serve as Board Members, Kat has resigned her position as Section Delegate and Secretary. Judith Bevan will serve as Secretary through the end of the year.

Great Programs? Great People? Great Board Members?

Do you know of a unique program? You know, the type you see and go "wow" that is really cool. Do you know other ACA members that have should be recognized for all they do for ACA - at both the National and Local level? What about Section Board Members? We KNOW there are individuals who would like to serve. NOW IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO NOMINATE FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE! *Submission Deadline: September 4, 2006.*

Eddie Klein Award for Program Excellence is given in recognition of existing programs of an exceptional nature occurring at a camp or retreat center in the Southeast.

Gay Byers Newcomer Award is awarded for outstanding involvement in section activities and/or decision making.

Distinguished Service Award is for service to the section which is outstanding and above and beyond the expectations of the position held.

Section Community Award is awarded for outstanding contributions and/or support by local individuals or groups to the field of camping or to the local section.

Appreciation Award is awarded for outstanding contributions outside the section.

Section Board Member positions to fill for the upcoming year (or longer) include: President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, SC and FL District Chairs and Delegate.

For more information on all of the above, visit the home page of the Section website and click on the appropriate link.

You're watching their backs...

Who's watching yours?

Camps have a special responsibility to protect more than buildings and contents. As the largest insurance agency serving camps in the southeast, we've created unique programs and specially designed coverages for all types of children's camps. Let us tailor a comprehensive package of coverage for you. Call today to find out what you may be missing—there's no obligation!

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3308 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd., #101
Durham, NC 27707

(919) 402-4336 Phone
(919) 402-4766 Fax
info@ACASoutheastern.org E-mail
www.ACASoutheastern.org Web

Welcome New ACA Southeastern Members!

(New members from May 1, 2006 - July 31, 2006)

Florida

Darren Blum, Coral Springs
Jennifer Brown, Jacksonville
Ari Golub, Boynton
Christopher Hill, W Palm Beach
Jamie Mafdali, N Miami Beach
Julie Racich, Sarasota
Sara Scangarello, Sarasota
Rich Schellhase, Apopka

Georgia

Ben Brown, Sandy Springs
Vonda Carrasquillo, Brunswick
Sallie Galyean, Saint Marys
Faye Noel, Hapeville



North Carolina

Kristen Andrews, Wilmington
Tara Dixon, Randleman
Mary Beth Fraley, Randleman
Michael Luplow, Hendersonville
Rocco Richard, Randleman
Jonathon Sparks, Randleman
Matthew White, Climax
Jim Bob Wilson, Flat Rock
Nancy Wilson, Flat Rock

Membership

As of July 31, 2006 the
Southeastern Section Hosts:

CAMPS

Accredited Camps	193
Camp Affiliates	28
Business Affiliates	25
Total Camps	221

MEMBERS

Professional Members	521
Associate Members	128
Student Members	19
Life Members	12
Total Members	680