

“The Current”
The American Camp
Association Great Rivers
Section Newsletter
May 2005

From the President, Lee Walz

The National ACA Conference and the Mid States Conference are both over. That means that camping season is upon us, also. It is our busiest time of year. I hope registration is going well for you. We have several opportunities for training staff available in the Newsletter and the Mid-States Conference can help you train staff for your summer. It's a great opportunity to take advantage and have you and your staffs attend.

The National ACA Conference was excellent. The research study material is one item I've brought back and used in my camp talks. The material presented and the booklet Directions has loads of data on positive results of camping programs. It seems to substantiate about everything I talk about our camps doing. It and other resources may be found the ACA web page.

One item talked about at our last Great Rivers Section Board Meeting was communication and how we can better communicate with you, other camps and those who use our camps. If you have ideas or resources, I'd like for you to tell a Board member or me so we may put them into the hopper of ideas as we work on ways to communicate better with our constituents.

May your summer go well and may your camping program give kids a world of good!

ACA STANDARDS REVISION

The American Camp Association Standards are in the process of being revised. At the ACA National Conference, feedback sessions were held to allow camp professionals the opportunity to discuss and give feedback to the suggested revisions. The National Standards Commission has reviewed the input from the ACA Conference, and made adjustments to their draft. These can be found at <http://bb.acacamps.org/cgi-bin/ulimatebb.cgi?ubb=forum;f=53>

Directors can continue to post their thoughts about the standards revision on the ACA discussion board.

This summer there will be field test of the projected revisions. In the Fall, the field test data will be reviewed, and a final draft will be sent out to camps for feedback. The Standards will be adopted at the ACA National Conference in 2006. The new standards will be in effect the summer of 2007.

For more information, check out the ACA web site at www.ACacamps.org.

NEW ACA HOTLINE NUMBER

The American Camp Association has a hotline number that can be called if camps are needing to talk with someone in case of an emergency. Camps may face a situation that they need help in determining the proper course of action. ACA staff are assigned to answer the hotline calls, and then route the calls to the appropriate staff that can assist staff. This number is available 24 hours a day, year round.

The new Hotline number: 800-573-9019.

CAMP ENROLLMENT SURVEY

The American Camp Association is conducting an ongoing survey of directors as related to camp enrollment. In January, they found that

- * Camper enrollments: slightly more than 40% of camps who were already enrolling campers were at about the same enrollment level as '04. Of those running ahead of last year, more than 33% were at least 10% ahead in enrollments.

- * Teen enrollments are up, and enrollments of 6-9 year olds were down.

- * Staff recruitment: 55% of camps were at about the same % of contracted hires as last year. Another 1/3 were ahead of last year.

ACA is asking camps to participate in the camper enrollment and staff recruitment survey. Line to the survey at

www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=16010981100 .

Updated results can always be viewed at

www.ACacamps.org/research/camprecruitment.php

ACA DEDICATED TO PARENT EDUCATION

Thanks to the support of CAMPAign '07, many of ACA's goals in research, image, and public awareness are being reached.

In September, ACA introduced a new family-dedicated web site, www.CampParents.org.

In January, *CAMP: A Resource for Families* was released. Thanks to the work of the ACA Sections and other creative opportunities, they've distributed over 500,000 copies of CAMP.

In February, *Destination Camp*, the new parent outreach brochures – available in English and Spanish – became available.

ACA continues to seek every opportunity to share the value of the camp experience. See the ACA web site for more information, www.ACacamps.org.

ACA ADDS SPANISH SPEAKING SERVICE

To make it easier for Spanish-speaking parents to find expert advice on the camp experience, ACA has a new family-dedicated web site with a section for Spanish speaking families. View the Spanish site at www.CampParents.org, and click on espanol on the top tool bar.

ACA RELEASES RESEARCH STUDY

At the ACA National Conference, ACA released the findings of the largest research study of camper outcomes ever conducted in the United States. The results of the Youth Development Outcomes of the Camp Experience research project, a study that was conducted by ACA in collaboration with Philliber Research Associates and was supported in part by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, confirms what camp directors have always believed – camp gives kids a world of good. Accredited camps have received a copy of the research brochure “Directions”. *Youth Today* approached ACA to place the “Directions” research brochure in their May or June edition. *Youth Today* has a circulation of 18,000 youth development professionals. This is a huge opportunity for ACA to explain the importance of the camp experience!

USE THE NEW ACA ACCREDITED CAMP LOGO

Now that the ACA has officially implemented our new brand, logos, and name, we need to do all we can to promote consistency with the new image and brand. Our collective work to get parents and the public to recognize the value of the camp experience and the credibility of our work will be much stronger if we are all using the same image and name!

Recent ACA research on Web site usage revealed:

- 77% of ACA accredited camps have a web site.
- Of that 77%, 54% mention ACA on their site, 56% do not display the accredited camp logo, 21% display the new accredited camp logo, 22% display the old accredited camp logo, 24% have a hyperlink to the ACA web site.
- Of the 933 camp web sites that do mention ACA, 42% use American Camp Association, and 58 use American Camping Association.

ACA is asking all ACA accredited camps to join in a united marketing effort to enhance the value of accreditation consistently not only in camp marketing materials, but on web sites. Camps can go to www.acacamps.org/accreditation/marketing.php to download the new logo for use in marketing materials and Web site.

GREAT RIVERS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

The ACA Great Rivers Section newsletter is moving to be distributed electronically. The October issue of the newsletter was sent by email and then a hard copy was sent. This newsletter will also be sent by mail to those that request a copy and those not

currently ACA members. If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter by mail, instead of email, please contact DD Gass, Camp Fire USA, 515-274-1501 or email: dd@campfireusaia.com.

ACA NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

The Great Rivers Section was well represented at the ACA National Conference in Orlando. We enjoyed a box supper at the Section gathering. The Conference had great speakers, informative sessions and lots of Orlando Magic!

The next National ACA Conference is earlier than previous years. It will be February 7-10, 2006 in Chicago at the Chicago Sheraton. The following year, the ACA conference will be in Austin Texas the week of February 11, 2007. More information can be found on the web site www.acacamps.org.

ACA MID STATES CONFERENCE NEWS

The ACA Great Rivers Section was also well represented at the Mid States Conference in Chicago. This conference is especially great to take your leadership staff and start the summer out right with learning new information and developing your camp team. The next Mid State Conference is April 6-8, 2006. More information will be on their web site next Fall. www.acamidstates.org.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Jim Cherry, our Section Executive had a heart attack on April 2. He is fine now, after having three stints put into two of his heart arteries. Jim started feeling discomfort in his chest early in the morning. Fortunately Jim recognized that something was wrong and got to the hospital. He has been doing cardiac rehab. We are glad that Jim is doing much better!

Girls Scouts of Mid Continent Council in Kansas City welcomes Kara Kellerman to the year-round staff. Kara will be directing Camp Oakledge near Warsaw, MO this summer after three summers as assistant camp director. Kara has worked at Oakledge in some capacity every summer since she turned 15, with the exception of 1999 when she hiked 900 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Kara replaces Robyn Ratcliff who has moved to a grant writing position with the Council.

Great Rivers Section Calendar

This calendar is an effort to communicate trainings and workshops that are open to any staff. If you have trainings or workshops that are open to others, please contact Jim Cherry, at ACAGreatRiversExec@ACAacamps.org.

May 18-22: Horse Clinic, An American Association of Horsemanship Clinic will be held at Carol Joy Holling Camp near Ashland, Nebraska with varied costs and packages available. The clinic teaches safety and how to teach the basics of working with kids and horses. Appropriate for summer staff, supervisors, stable professionals, and private instructors. Certification is based on prerequisite skills as well as performance in the clinic. This is a great way to meet the ACA standard of certifying horse program staff. For more information, please contact Leslie Hinrichs at lhinrichs@nlom.org or at 1-888-656-6254 ext. 105.

May 20-21: High Ropes and Climbing and Rappelling Tower Training. Iowa 4-H Camp, near Madrid, Iowa. Instructor Certification by Briank Block, Ames Adventure Outfitters from Ames. Cost \$250. Meals and lodging available at an additional cost. Contact Traci Haselhuhn at 515-795-3338 or tracidh@iastate.edu.

May 21: Basic Archery Instructor Level 1 Course. Iowa 4-H Camp, near Madrid, Iowa. Training from National Archery Association, Randy Jimenez. Cost \$65 which includes course, lunch, manual. Bring bow and arrows. Contact Traci Haselhuhn at 515-795-3338 or tracidh@iastate.edu.

May 21-22: Wilderness First Aid Training and Recertification. Iowa 4-H Camp near Madrid, Iowa. \$100 covers class, book, meals and lodging. Contact Traci Haselhuhn at 515-795-3338 or tracidh@iastate.edu.

May 22: Red Cross Community CPR. Iowa 4-H Camp near Madrid, Iowa. Course \$35 or \$25 if recertifying. 2-5 p.m. Contact Traci Haselhuhn at 515-795-3338 or tracidh@iastate.edu.

May 24-25: Low Element Training Course, Tall Oaks Conference Center, Linwood, Kansas. Only a few spots are open for this training provided by Challenge Options. Contact Lysa Holladay, 913-301-3004 or email: oakscourse@att.net.

May 27-31: Standard Riding Instructor Certification. Tall Oaks Conference Center, Linwood, Kansas. Clinic fee \$600. Clinic begins at 4 p.m. Friday and concludes by 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Deposit and pre-registration required. Contact Barb Deaver, 913-301-3004 or email barb@talloaks.org.

May 27-30: Lifeguard Training, Camp Oakledge near Warsaw, MO. Cost \$50. Bring: your own lifeguard books and a pocket mask for CPR. Food and camp style accommodations provided. Contact Kara Kellerman, 816-358-8755, ext. 3039 or kkellerman@girlscoutsmcc.org.

May 31-June 1: Wilderness First Aid Class, YMCA Camp Wapsie, near Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Cost \$110 which covers course materials, meals, and lodging. Contact Paul Denowski, 319-435-2577 or email denowski@crmetroymca.org.

May 31-June 4: AAHS Horsemanship Safety Riding Instructor Clinic. Camp Hantesa, Boone, Iowa. Cost \$425 includes meals and clinic fees. Lodging available for additional fee. Contact Suz Welch, 515-432-1417 or suz@hantesa.com for more information and to register.

June 3: Climbing and Rappelling Workshop, Camp Hantesa, Boone, Iowa. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dan Pervorse from Signature Research will be the trainer. Contact Suz Welch 515-432-1417 or suz@hantesa.com for details and to register.

June 4: High Ropes and Leap of Faith Workshop, Camp Hantesa, Boone, Iowa. Begins at 9 a.m. Dan Pervorse from Signature Research will be the trainer. Contact Suz Welch 515-432-1417 or suz@hantesa.com for details and to register.

June 4: Project Wild, Wild Aquatic and Learning Tree Workshop. One required session 8 a.m. – 12 noon, the rest of the course finished online. Required session at Heartland AEA in Johnston Iowa. Cost \$45. Contact Shannon Hafner at shafner2@netins.net.

June 6: Small Craft Safety, Camp Oakledge, near Warsaw, MO. Cost \$15. Bring swim suit, towel, watersandals (with heel strap) and extra clothes. We have books available to borrow for the day, but it's a good idea to purchase a book and review prior to the class – it's a pretty fast moving day. Food provided. Lodging could be arranged. Contact Kara Kellerman, 816-358-8755, ext. 3039 or kkellerman@girlscoutsmcc.org.

November 8-10: ACA Great Rivers Section Fall Conference. YMCA Camp Kitaki, near Lincoln, Nebraska. More details in future emails and newsletters. Mark your calendar now!! Contact Lisa Nichols if you have ideas about sessions.

A NEW PROGRAM IDEA

Tom Neppl found information on the Internet about youth gardening. He is passing the information on to camp directors as an idea for a new camp program idea. This information is from the American Horticultural Society. See the information at

www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/index.htm

CAMP MAY BECOME STATE PARK

The Iowa legislature is considering a proposal from the Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to acquire 711 acres of prime Loess Hills land contiguous to the Waubonsie State Park in southwestern Iowa. The land, the former Camp WaShawtee girls Scout camp, is one of the largest contiguous woodlands in the Loess Hills.

There is a sale contract on WaShawtee between the current owner and an organization known as the Hole-in-the-Hills at WaShawtee for \$2.6 million. This organization provides outdoor camp experiences for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. They currently have two camps, one in North Carolina and one in California. This would be their Midwestern camp.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, in cooperation with the Iowa DNR is pursuing the acquisition of the total 711 acres to protect it from potential development. The Hole-in-the-Hills at WaShawtee only needs approximately 60-70 acres; the remaining would be part of Waubonsie State Park.

This proposal has not made it through the Iowa legislature to date.

SEARCH FOR NEW DIRECTOR

Lutheran Lakeside camp in northern Iowa is searching for a new Camp Director. Judy Engh, the current director is leaving the camp. Resumes are due by May 15. More information can be obtained at their website at www.lutheranlakeside.com. Good luck to Judy in her future endeavors!

IOWA POOL RULE CHANGES

The Iowa Board of Health has made changes in the Swimming Pool rules. The revised rules and regulations can be found at www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/toxicology_env_health.asp#swimming. If you have questions, you can contact Michael Magnant at the Iowa Department of Public Health, at 515-281-8722 or mmagnant@idph.state.ia.us.

DIABETES AWARENESS CONFERENCE

Vivian Murray shares the following information. Each summer 325 youth with diabetes attend Camp Hertko Hollow at the Y-camp at Boone. They learn

about managing their diabetes from physicians, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists and other staff members. This is a great experience for them as they meet new friends who also prick fingers to test blood sugars, take insulin injections, and count carbohydrate grams for all food eaten. The camaraderie that happens when children meet other children who also have diabetes is really terrific. These kids also have fun at summer camp--just like other kids.

Often the child with diabetes wants to attend a church camp, sports camp, Girl Scout camp, or other camps. **Is YOUR CAMP prepared to monitor the child with diabetes?** Can your staff members recognize and treat hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) or hyperglycemia (high blood sugar)? Do you have a glucagon kit for emergencies? What if the child gets sick at camp and can't eat? What if a child has celiac disease in addition to diabetes--would you allow the child to attend your camp?

The Diabetes Camping Association is planning an international conference on October 11-15, 2006 at the Y-Camp. It seems like a long ways away---but we are currently in the planning stage.

- Would you send your staff members to a one-day seminar to learn the basics about diabetes? If so, how many? - Would a Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday be the best day for such an event? - What questions do you have about diabetes?

Please send answers & comments to Vivchismurray@aol.com THANKS...

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Roster 2005**

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