



“The Current”

**The American Camp Association
Great Rivers Section Newsletter
June 16, 2008 Special Edition**

From the Section President, Robyn Ratcliff

Looking back on the last two weeks, I am especially grateful for ACA standards. I'm grateful for SF-3, Contact With Local Officials, because before the chaotic weather started, and before our campers arrived, we took the time to communicate with our local police, fire and ambulance services. I am confident that these folks know who we are, where we are, and what kind of help we could need in an emergency. I'm grateful for OM-3, Risk Management Planning, which helped us really sit down and look at our risk exposures and risk control techniques. And, I'm especially grateful for OM-7, Emergency Procedures! Our severe weather plans have been tested and tested again in the early weeks of this summer session. I am so grateful for these standards—helping us make sure we have good plans in place and have considered important possibilities and made good plans BEFORE we need them.

My thoughts are with all of our camps, our campers and our staff members during this time. Whatever the weather is bringing your way, whatever surprises your campers and parents have in store for you, we all know camp gives kids a world of good! Your work is critical, your impact is huge, and your outcomes are changing the world. Here's to drier days ahead! As Dave Sherry at Des Moines YMCA Camp says in the information below, "Camp ON!"

P.S. I found a really handy service at www.weather.com that contacts our camps by phone in the event of severe weather warnings in our area. It has given our staff in really rural areas some additional warning and some additional peace of mind.

The Midwest Hit Hard with Storms

We know that many of you are aware of the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding in much of the Midwest over the past several weeks. And many of you have made frequent trips to storm shelters at your camp. It is a busy time of year, so we thought we would share information we have received about camps in the Great Rivers Section. It is camp season, and we do not want to discourage parents from sending kids to camp and we don't want the media to highlight storm damage at camps, we know camp professionals are concerned for and care about what happens at other camps. The information below is intended for the camp community. Please do not share this with the media.

Little Sioux Boy Scout Camp

A tornado hit the Little Sioux Boy Scout camp in western Iowa Wednesday evening, killing four Boy Scouts and injuring between 30 and 40 others. There were 94 registered Boy Scout campers at an elite leadership training camp for a week, along with 25 adult and junior counselors, seeking shelter in two one-room cabins when the storm hit. Some scouts were out hiking Wednesday afternoon, but had weather radios and a response plan in case severe weather struck. The boys had already sought shelter in the camp's two main structures when the tornado touched down. Many of the Boy Scouts helped with rescue and first aid efforts following the tornado. Robyn Ratcliff, ACA Great Rivers section president sent an e-mail to the Omaha Boy Scout Council to offer support and condolences. Following is the response from Lloyd Roitstein, the executive director:

Robyn, thank you for your message. We appreciate your prayers and support. By all accounts we can be proud of the young men who were at Little Sioux Scout Ranch – they acted with courage and honor, just as Scouts should—they were truly heroes. Please share that story with the other Scouters in your area and ask all to keep us in their prayers.

Our Council is asking everyone who is interested to please monitor our website for updates regarding the Little Sioux tragedy. As time allows and information becomes available it will be posted there. This will include any information about potential assistance that will be needed and what to do for those who wish to offer condolences to the families of the Scouters affected. Our web address is www.mac-bsa.org/. Thanks again for your concern as we work through this event.

Other Camps in the Midwest have also been affected by the weather and flooding. Here is information that was gathered this past week.

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp in central Iowa had flooding which caused it to cancel, June 8-14, the first week of camp. At last notice, they plan to open again for the second week, provided there was not additional flooding.

Camp EWALU in northeast Iowa has had minor damage, but camp has continued. Two of the year-round staff members at EWALU experienced significant damage to their homes in the local community. .

Jeanne from Camp Courageous in Iowa reports: "We are on high ground thank God, so Camp Courageous is OK. Just a few down trees and a little water in a basement or two. Camper departure may be tricky today since parents may have a hard time getting here... but we are so fortunate."

Camp Fire USA Iowa Council, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is not located within the city itself where most of the flooding and evacuation is occurring. Camp Hitaga is located on a bluff, and Executive Director Marian Zupke reports that Hitaga has been able to offer shelter to displaced families.

We have not heard from Camp Wapsi, the YMCA camp based out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Our thoughts and support go out to the whole Cedar Rapids community facing massive clean up efforts

From Girl Scout Camp Tahigwa: "Camp Tahigwa in northeast Iowa suffered damage from weekend flooding. Camp staff members are safe and working very hard to get camp up and running for the summer. Ranger Gene Averhoff has been working night and day to ensure there is a safe environment for the girls when they arrive in the next few weeks. There is a great deal of cleanup taking place at camp and the council hopes to have camp looking better than ever before. During the flooding, Averhoff said that Camp Tahigwa lost its swinging bridge and a building that contained life jackets, tubes and more also was lost in the flooding. The lodge basement sustained 6 inches of water, too."

Dave Sherry, Des Moines YMCA camp reports: "We've been hit very hard, lost dining hall, sewer, pool, craft lodge and most of field. Our spirits are high and we are taking care of the kids, and having fun with it considering. We start clean up tomorrow at noon. The river has crested and is going down, it was two feet higher than 93. We did not close and do not plan to, CAMP ON!!!"

Camp Hantesa, in central Iowa has sustained flood damage to its main lodge. They are still holding camp sessions and the camp staff "are doing heroic work holding back the water and giving kids a great camp experience despite the high waters and frequent storms." In addition, while two of their day camp sites have been closed in the Des Moines area due to flooding, the staff have moved the campers to other sites.

Gretchen from Camp Carol Joy Holling in Nebraska reports the following: "We have pulled into shelter twice--it's becoming a Wednesday night activity to have a two hour sing-a-long! But we have had NO damage or anything. Hooray!"

As the water moves south, rivers will rise in Missouri and other southern states. If your camp needs help, be sure to send an email to our Great Rivers section executive, Jim Cherry, so that he can pass the message on to others, executive@acagreatrivers.org.

ACA Hotline Number

The American Camp Association has a hotline number that can be called if camp directors need 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 Hotline number: 800-573-9019.

ACA Great Rivers Section 2008 Fall Conference

Plans are already underway for the 2008 ACA Great Rivers Fall Conference, November 11-13, 2008 at Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center near Indianola, Iowa. The Great Rivers section has decided to offer the Fall Conference at the same location two years in a row. The theme for the conference is "Building Something Great Together". The Tuesday Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Jim Cain, from Teamwork & Teamply, with a session

titled, "The Value of Play". You can read more about Jim Cain at his Web site, www.teamworkandteamplay.com. On Wednesday there will be a variety of sessions including a special focus on food service track with a day-only package including access to the expanded vendor show, lunch, and workshops.

Something new this year, is the opportunity to participate in a Pre-Conference session with Dr. Jim Cain presenting the interactive session, "Exploring Leadership Actively" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10th. The fee is \$75 per person if registered by 10/13/08. Visit the Great Rivers section Web site at www.acagreatrivers.org for the following conference details: registration form, event schedule, pre-conference information, vendors and workshop session proposals. If you have questions, please contact our section's Education Chair, Traci Haselhuhn, at 515-795-3338 or tracidh@iastate.edu.

ACA Great Rivers Section Board Roster 2008

If you have questions about the ACA Great Rivers Section, contact Jim Cherry or one of the board members listed below.

Section Executive:

Rev. Jim Cherry, 2335 300th St., Ventura, IA 50482
Voice Mail: 888-748-3783, Home: 641-927-4428
Email: executive@acagreatrivers.org or jjcherry@peconet.net

President:

Robyn Ratcliff, Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri, 8383 Blue Parkway Dr., Kansas City, MO 64133
Phone: 816-358-8755, ext. 3068 E-mail: robynratcliff@girlscoutsksmo.org

Vice President Development:

Lee Walz, United Methodist Camps, 4800 Santana Circle, Columbia, MO 65203
Phone: 573-814-1999 E-mail: LWalz@moumethodist.org

Vice President Program, Nominating and Awards:

Lisa Nichols, Kansas City MO, Parks and Rec. 4600 E. 63rd St, Kansas City, MO 64130
Phone: 816-513-7532 E-mail: lisa_nichols@kcmo.org

Treasurer:

Chris Klingenberg, YMCA Camp Kitaki, 6000 Cornhusker Way, Lincoln, NE 68507
Phone: 402-434-9225 E-mail: CKlingenberg@ymcalincoln.org

Secretary:

Anne Snyder, YMCA Camp Wood, RR 1, Box 78, Elmdale, KS 66850
Phone: 620-273-8641 E-mail: ymca@campwood.org

Standards Chair:

Linda DuBrul, Girl Scouts of Dogwood Trails Council, 210 S. Ingram Mill Rd., Springfield, MO 65802
Phone: 417-862-0004 E-mail: ldubrul@dogwoodtrails.org

Education Chair:

Traci Haselhuhn, Iowa 4-H Center, 1991 Peach Avenue, Madrid, IA 50156
Phone: 515-795-3338 E-mail: tracidh@iastate.edu

Legislation Chair:

Public Relations Chair:

DD Gass, Camp Fire USA, 1100 Walnut, Suite 1900, Kansas City, MO 64106
Phone: 816-285-2004 E-mail: dd.gass@campfireusa.org

Membership Chair:

Tom Neppel, Neppel Landscape Architecture, PO Box 906, Ames, IA 50010
Phone 515-232-6530 E-mail: Tom@NeppelLandscapeArchitecture.com

Complaints Resolution Chair:

Dave Sherry, Des Moines YMCA Camp, 1192 166th Dr., Boone, IA 50036
Phone: 515-432-7558 E-mail: david.sherry@dmymca.org

Board Member-At-Large:

Lynn Steinkamp, Girl Scouts of the Great Plains Council, 2121 S. 44th St., Omaha, NE 68105
Phone 402-558-8189 ext. 215 E-Mail: lsteinkamp@gpgirlscouts.org.

Nominating Chair:

Becky Godfrey, Burlington, Iowa 52655
Phone: 319-753-6209 E-mail: yerfdogs@yahoo.com.

Have a Fun and Safe Summer!!

