



CAMP NOTES

Fall, 2007

President's Message

"This is the best camp ever!" was frequently exclaimed with 100% confidence.

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SAVE THE DATE

CampWest 2008
April 2 - 5
Las Vegas, NV

A quality camping experience is sure a super paradigm buster.

This past summer I found myself bouncing down a back road on one of Puget Sounds many peninsulas. Looking for a telltale camp sign to signify that I'd successfully found my ACA Accreditation visit location.

Less than 16 hours earlier I was at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana with nearly 7,000 Sr. Higher youth and adults concluding a weeklong church conference.

At Purdue they used Hollywood's best stage effects to convey the keynoters' message. Conferees stayed in modern university dorms, and dined all across campus at enormous food court-factories. Logistics were complex. Everything from international flight schedules, to coordinating a candlelight "campfire" for 7,000 had to be well planned in order to come off without a hitch.

As we boarded the luxury air-conditioned coaches' to leave Purdue, youth hugged their newfound best friends, assuring them they'd text, IM,

e-mail - yet never "write" – at every possible moment, each exclaiming the fact that "this was the best camp ever!"

Back on the peninsula I finally arrived at the camp for my scheduled visit, and thanks to the preceding days huge thunderstorms, I essentially slid into the dirt parking area - turned mud bog.

There under clearing skies I was warmly greeted by the director and staff. Only 50 lucky campers get to attend each session of this annually sold-out camp. They live in open-air platform tents. Their dining room is essentially a large covered patio which doubles as program space only when the weather is really foul. Meals are served from a tiny two-person kitchen. And after a week campers develop fledgling gills and webbed toes thanks to the abundant aquatic opportunities found right in front of them.

As I ate lunch with a table of Sr. High campers I asked what made this camp special for them. Like my Purdue campers the day before these campers talked about a

strong community wherein new friendships are made, existing relationship strengthened, and everyone can share in a unique experience, full of teamwork and support. "This is the best camp ever!" was frequently exclaimed with 100% confidence.

It's incredible that we support a camping model that is so diverse that the same quality outcomes can be achieved with 7,000 participants on one of America's largest university campuses or standing-room-only with 50 on a remote Puget Sound beach. And that high-tech and high-fives are equally used to communicate the same good news.

Fellow camping professionals, rest on the well-earned rewards of another successful summer full of offering a full spectrum of camp experiences. However, join with me in never remaining at rest when someone attempts to pigeon hole us into the paradigm of claiming they "know" what camping is all about! Quality Camping – Too vast to define! (How's that for the ultimate job security!)

EXECUTIVE NOTES



To all you who are camp directors and camp staff – WELCOME BACK!

It seems at times that the world passes us by during the weeks spent at camp. Some things change and some things stay the same. At times I have felt like a Rip Van Winkle awakening from a long nap to find the world has gone on without me.

Well, I hope you are reorienting yourself and that you have taken the time to reconnect with family and friends and

even yourself since camp ended.

I would like to invite you to “re-connect” with American Camp Association, Evergreen as well.

There are some exciting things coming up as you plan and look forward to the first day of camp in 2008!

Check out details in the body of this newsletter and on-line at www.acaevergreen.org. Coming events you may want to check out include:

- ACA Evergreen Annual Meeting and Education Event-- Shoreline, WA November 13, 2007
- ACA National Conference-- Nashville, TN Feb 12-15, 2008
- CampWest – Las Vegas, NV April 2-5, 2008

As I say, Welcome Back and I look forward to seeing you as we gather for training, renewal and telling the stories of summer.

Tom Nielsen
Section Executive

WATERFRONT PROGRAMS – EAT & GREET

Tuesday, Oct 16th,
6:00pm-9:00pm
Tukwila Azteca
Restaurant
(just off 1-5 at
Southcenter)
17555
Southcenter Pkwy

Join us to network with other camp professionals. Discuss waterfront program design, operations and staff training. Denise Mahnke, Instructor Trainer of Small Craft Safety, Mike Dilly – Authorized Provider support for the

American Red Cross Chapter serving King & Kitsap County, and Andree Hurley, Regional Representative for the American Canoe Association will attend to present certification training options, best practices information and discuss potential for staff training. Bring your questions associated with lifeguard training and options for boating programs to this informal education gathering.

Like the idea of Eat & Greet trainings? If you have a great idea that you think would be appropriate for an Evergreen Section Camp Professional gathering, let us know! We want your local leadership! Contact your Education Chair for further information: denisecm@girlscoutstem.org



Networking opportunity for camp professionals- Bring your questions about lifeguard trainings, and boating programs.

LEARNING RESOURCES



2008 National Conference
Gaylord Opryland Hotel,
Nashville, Tennessee

Many Voices, Once Community . . . Join a nationwide network of camp professionals and others furthering child and youth development.

Programs are designed around you. A variety of program formats fit almost any learning style. Attend this educational event and bring back valuable insights. "The Strength of Many Voices" offers a platform to explore ways to share what we know with new and expanded audiences, in a compelling way.

Programs, offered in a variety of learning formats, will address:

Child and Youth Development and Behavior — Preparing young people, through the camp experience, for healthy, successful, and meaningful lives. Topics may include exploring participant development and behavior in the areas of health and wellness, bullying, program design, and other methods to build on the joy of camp and link activities to desired outcomes.

Staff Training and Leadership — In addition to critical areas in human resources like skillfully recruiting, selecting, managing,

training, and motivating staff and volunteers, we'll address goal setting, leadership, outcomes attainment, youth involvement in decision making, and developing life skills on the job. Sessions that address staff health and wellness will be highlighted.

Business and Operations — Learn about successful fundraising strategies, best practices in finance, risk management issues, strategic planning, site and facility management, marketing innovations, environmental issues, food service, transportation, technology solutions, and public policy.

Emerging Issues, Tools, and Strategies — We'll devote significant program time to the Just-in-Time learning needs, their potential solutions, and the innovations that our audience provides through highly participatory sessions. Some sessions will explore the adaptability of solutions provided by related organizations to the camp community.

Innovative Programs and Activities —

Experience Nashville
www.nashvillecvb.com

Discover more about specific sessions and kindred and affiliate events.

www.ACAcamps.org/conference

BUSINESS RESOURCES

USA TODAY'S CAMP TODAY—The Place for Your Camp Message
ACA members—take advantage of a Buy-One-Ad, Get-One-Ad-FREE promotion.

Why should you advertise your camp in *USA TODAY'S* Camp Today? Get a jumpstart on Summer 2008 enrollment!

Your message will reach a daily audience of 4.4 million readers, 50% of which have children and household incomes in excess of \$90,000 annually.

USA TODAY would like to thank every camp that participated in the CAMP TODAY February 2007 edition. Due to the success of past features and continued interest from those who participated, we will be publishing a CAMP TODAY November 2007 edition! **Rates start as low as \$561!!!** (net rate)

The CAMP TODAY November 2007 edition will include editorial submitted by ACA within both publication dates. Topics covered will include:

- Benefits of the camp experience
- The variety and diversity of opportunities for all children to enjoy camp

Camp Today 2007
Publication Schedule:
November 6, 2007
November 8, 2007

Deadline for space reservation, material and payment:
October 31, 2007

For more information or to place an ad, contact:
Lance Gordon,
Account Executive
USA TODAY
Marketplace Today
Tel: (800) 397-0070
Email: lgordon@rja-ads.com

CampWest Conference, April 2-5, 2008

Building Connections: Creating Camps That Make a Difference

Join us as the best of the west meet together in fellowship, learning and fun! CampWest is the premier Camping Conference west of the Rockies. Hosted by ACA Evergreen, Northern California, Oregon Trail, Rocky Mountain, Southern California/Hawaii, and Southwest sections; the 2008 CampWest will be held at the

Alexis Park Resort
375 E. Harmon
Las Vegas, NV 89109
(800) 582-2228

For more information visit
www.campwest.org

Represent Evergreen Section at Camp West!

The PREMIERE western regional camping conference needs YOU to volunteer. By volunteering and attending Camp West you are supporting Evergreen Section, below are the ways you can help.

Volunteer your time and energy as a Conference Sub-Committee Member. Use your skills and talents to better the conference. For more information contact Jaclyn Mallery, Evergreen Section Camp West Representative and Camp West Operations Chair at jmallery@campfireinc.org OR Sharon Kosch, Camp West Conference Chair at skosch@earthlink.net.

Volunteer during the Camp West Conference!

Host for the Day

This is a chance for you to be a resource for the conference community. Make sure conference participants find answers to their questions and feel connected to others. During transition times, be available in the lobby/resting areas to ensure that each person is greeted and acknowledged. No need to know the answers to every question...we will set you up with fantastic resources!

Night Time Activity Leader

Does sampling a smattering of buffets appeal to your taste buds? Ever been ice-skating in the desert? Fancy karaoke with a live band behind you? Dare to try the devilish desserts of sin city? This is a fun opportunity for you to lead a group of conference participants to and through these experiences! No need to worry about the particulars --we've taken care of that! Your job is to lead an activity (from our list of schedule evening events), and include every participant in the fun!

Young Professionals (YP) Social & Networking Event

We are also looking for motivated YPs to assist in planning this event. To sign up for these GREAT volunteer opportunities call (213) 483-4300 or email info@acasocal.org or fill out the volunteer form online at <http://campwest.org/2008cwfinalvolunteerform.doc>.

Be a presenter! Share your knowledge with other camp professionals. **Building**

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Connections: Creating Camps That Make a Difference is the theme of the conference. Visit the Call for Proposals at <http://campwest.org/pdf/RFP%202008.doc> or click on Call for Proposals from the Camp West home page to view the critical issues statements and fill out the Proposal form. All proposals should relate to one or more the critical issues statements.

Join the Camp West Exhibit Hall OR be a Sponsor for the Conference. Visit <http://campwest.org/exhibitors.php> to learn more about being an exhibitor or sponsor and download the informational brochure.

If you don't have a business of your own, but know a few great vendors share the informational brochure with them! What a great way to bring the vendors you love to more Camps!

SAVE THE DATE! Evergreen Section Annual Dinner and Education Event

ACA, Evergreen

6523 California Ave. SW
#305
Seattle, WA 98136-1833

PHONE:
1-877-888-2267

FAX:
206-935-4424

E-MAIL:
evergreen@acacamps.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.acaevergreen.org

Plan ahead and mark your calendars for the 2007 Evergreen Section Annual Dinner and Education Event.

**November 13, 2007
in Shoreline, WA**

Socialize, network, learn and eat with fellow camp professionals.

Additional information will be sent out via email, including your registration information

for attendance, location and driving directions.

ACA HOTLINE 1-800-573-9019

Call anytime- 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Camp Notes is published quarterly by the American Camp Association, Evergreen and is provided, at no cost, to members of the section. Anyone wishing information about ACA and the Evergreen section may contact:

President Steve Shively, President@acaevergreen.org
Executive Director Tom Nielsen, 1-877-888-2267, Home Office: 206-923-2322



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