



# CAMP NOTES

Summer, 2006

*"I encourage you to take a look in the MIRROR, rekindle the spark for why you got hooked on camping."*

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## President's Message

### Smoke and Mirrors –

Among my earliest camp memories are those as a young camper. A YMCA day-camp held at a local park enrolled my younger brother and me for month-long session one hot summer week. Important memories from that week still are etched on the experiential cortex of my mind:

- **Separation** – being age divided into different groups from my brother. My brother's panic stricken eyes, tears welling up, mingle with my own raising anxiety until I saw him - an endless moment later - enthralled and laughing aloud with his counselor and new found friends.
- **Awareness** – never before being aware of how sharply a human scapula can jut out when patting oneself on the back; I freak-out thinking for certain that I've mortally wounded a fellow camper during some type of big field game of tag, when his team of "skins" vs. our "shirts", reached his arm over his head to scratch the spot on his bare back which I'd just soundly tagged.
- **Power** – During the week's one overnight campout, the campfire included a ghost-story of terrifyingly talented tale telling; including a gruesome story of a one-armed bogey man with a dramatically on-cue scream and sightings of a dead-ringer counselor – turned costumed bogey man silhouetted high on the ridge in the light of a blood red moon. Even as the brave older brother I couldn't offer any condolence to my near-hysterical baby brother, since I had already wet my own pants in sheer fright.
- **Slight of Hand** – Having, somehow, tearfully, survived a sleepless overnight in that vast bogey man's backyard, we were all rewarded with our counselors helping each group create a T-shirt stencil of the group name of our own choosing. Feeling every ounce of our 7-year old oats, my group quickly reached concurrence... we'd be forever known as the *"Mighty Tarantulas!"* However, after a quick caucus with his fellow counselors, our spelling-challenged leader announced: "We'll name you guys the *"Killer Spiders!"*

Flash forward to Mother's Day 2006. With confirmed Sunday Brunch reservations for almost 700 beginning the initial seating at 10AM, receiving a 7AM call from my Food & Beverage director that there's no gas to our sites - all gas- \$6 million kitchen; is not a good morning wake-up for this former day-camper-turned-quickly-graying-camp-professional.

Quickly, and in coordinated unison, we convert the back loading dock into a swarm of camp stoves and barbecues. In starched white chef's coats and tall hats our team of cooks quickly coaxed rich sauces and delicate crepes from a makeshift filed kitchen for the arriving hordes of Mother's in fancy bonnets escorted by their children dressed in requisite ties and Patton leather shoes. These are the same burners and grills that will soon feed boat loads of spaghetti and beans-n-franks along distant rivers and climbing sites to children – this time more comfortably

dressed - in shorts and sandy shoes.



Encounters like this remind me that the magic of camp is much like the powerful illusion encountered when the curtain is drawn on a finely staged drama. Smoke & Mirrors contain both the power for enchantment as well as the power to cause a painful burn.

Whether it's an inappropriately spun ghost story around a campfire. Or a quickly rekindled spark of creative outdoor cooking leadership that enables us to bypass a rendered non-functioning on Mother's Day kitchen because of a mere .23 cents worth of failed circuit control boards. The decision of what to do with the Smoke & Mirrors is up to us.

The camp experience presents us each summer with the young and old who are SEPARATED from their typical comfort zone. Here they are keenly AWARE of themselves and their new surroundings. You and your staff are given the POWER enabled only through the theater of the camp experience. I encourage you to take a look in the MIRROR, rekindle the spark for why you got hooked on camping. And through trainings and team work ignite the flame of another creative and outstanding summer! (And never let the campers/audience know that you can't spell Tarantulas or that their dessert was just cooked in a dutch-oven on the back loading dock!)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
CampWest Conference  
March 14-17, 2007  
Las Vegas, NV

## Thanks to your support of CAMPAign '07

**Many of our goals—  
in research, image,  
and public  
awareness—are  
being reached.**

- In September 2004, we introduced a new family-dedicated Web site, [www.CampParents.org](http://www.CampParents.org).
- In January 2005, *CAMP: A Resource for Families* was released—and thanks to the amazing work of our 24 sections and other creative opportunities, we've distributed over 500,000 copies of CAMP.
- In February 2005, at the ACA National Conference, we officially launched the new name and image—a new identity that conveys the value of the camp experience and ACA's

value to the human service community through more than just a logo or slogan.

- At that same 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 generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., confirms what camp directors have always believed—camp gives kids a world of good.
- Also in February, *Destination Camp*, the new parent outreach brochures—available in

English and Spanish—became available

- On March 21, 2005, the Spanish version of the parent Web site went live.

ACA continues to seek every opportunity share and elucidate the value of the camp experience—through *CAMP: A Resource for Families* published each year and through energetic public relations and awareness initiatives. Our research efforts continue and expand. The work of your national association is not over—your continued support makes every opportunity possible.

**Thank you for believing.**

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## Their Space ... Or Yours?

### Internet Issues Come to Camp

Stephen G. Wallace, M.S., Ed.



The popularity of social networking sites, such as Myspace.com and Facebook.com, raise important issues for camp directors intent on protecting their campers—and their camps—from the dark side of the online world.

Traditional concerns about youth and the Internet took a high-tech turn with the advent of this new breed of the “local” hangout—places where young people post personal information often accompanied by pictures of themselves and their (perhaps unwitting) friends.

Free to all comers, such forums provide easy and anonymous access to anyone searching for e-mail addresses, cell phone numbers, or details about body type, sexual preferences, or alcoholic beverages of choice. And the information flow doesn't stop there. A recent *Dateline NBC* investigation of teen pages found scenes of binge drinking, apparent drug use, and sex acts.

So concerned are school officials that some are considering banning the posting of personal pages by their students. And so concerned are law enforcement officials that at least one state, Connecticut, is investigating the link between these sites and incidents of sexual assault.

Wiredsafety.org, an online safety, education, and help group, points out that while users sometimes share their personal information in order to find romance, this is not okay for kids. Indeed, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* recently reported the arrest of a twenty-six-year-old California man on charges of felony child molestation of a fourteen-year-old he met on Myspace.com.

But child predators aren't the only problem—and harm to youth not the only risk.

A review of Myspace.com

reveals “group” pages created by teens and incorporating the name, and sometimes the logo, of their school or camp. These virtual campfires allow for cyberbullying and the unsupervised exchange of often-inappropriate ideas and pictures that would never be tolerated within the confines of a classroom or cabin.

In some instances, content amounts to sexual innuendo and in others not-so-subtle sexual solicitation. Also featured are photos of kissing, fondling, and groping and dialogue about getting high, getting wasted, or just plain getting mad. And all of this under the banner of organizations committed to education, youth development, and safety.

A natural reaction might be to simply ban teen participation in online networking. But attempting to

### Keeping Campers and Camps Safe

So, what's a camp director to do?

1. Establish and disseminate policies regarding the posting of personal information online.
2. Prohibit the use of images (pictures or logos) of or from your camp.
3. Visit the sites to monitor compliance.
4. Notify campers *and* their parents about violations of your policy.
5. Follow through with consequences.

### Educating Parents and Teens

Camps can also play a valuable role in educating families about the threats posed by social networking sites. Wiredsafety.org offers some online safety guidelines for parents.

- Personal information stays personal.
- Make sure your child doesn't spend all of his or her time on the computer.
- Keep the computer in a family room, kitchen, or living room, not in your child's bedroom. Knowing you are watching, kids are less likely to put themselves in risky situations, and you can safely oversee what's going on.
- Learn enough about computers so you can enjoy them together with your kids.
- Watch your children when they're online and see where they go.
- Make sure that your children feel comfortable coming to you with questions.
- Keep kids out of chatrooms unless they are monitored.

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## EVERGREEN SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE!!

NOVEMBER 14, 2006  
(Yes, Tuesday the 14th,  
not Monday the 13th!)

Education Session  
Featuring  
Bob Ditter

Dinner Meeting and  
Auction

Plan to spend the day  
in education and  
networking and  
remembering the  
summer.

### Educating Parents and Teens, cont.

- Discuss these rules, get your children to agree to adhere to them, and post them near the computer as a reminder.
- Help them find a balance between computing and other activities.
- Remember to monitor their compliance with these rules, especially when it comes to the amount of time your children spend on the computer.
- Get to know their "online friends" just as you get to know all of their other friends.
- Warn them that people may not be what they seem to be. Predators often pose as children to gain our children's trust.

### Developing Protocols for Staff

Camps might also develop protocols for their staff, prohibiting, for example, any online exchange that would be considered a violation of existing personnel policies and the posting of any inappropriate information or photos that can be accessed by campers. Finally, camps may wish to consider using these sites as screening tools when hiring counselors.

Don Schroeder, an employment lawyer in the Boston office of Mintz Levin, says, “While you may not be able to keep people from doing what they want on the Internet, you can certainly take action if you don’t like what you see,” including dismissing, or not rehiring, any staff member found to be in violation of the policies you have created.

As with most things Internet, social networking sites offer content both bad and good. At worst, they perpetuate bawdy exhibitionism. At best, they provide a place for the meaningful exchange of creative ideas, memories, and dialogue, keeping young people connected to the friends and experiences that matter most.

In that way, your space is their space, too.

*Stephen Wallace has broad experience as a school psychologist and adolescent counselor. He serves as director of counseling and counselor training at the Cape Cod Sea Camps, chairman and CEO of SADD, and adjunct professor of psychology at Mount Ida College.  
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### Seeking Board of Directors Nominations

The Nominations Committee is seeking Section Board of Directors nominations. Serving on the Section Board of Directors is an opportunity to shape the section activities, provide leadership and be an active member of a strong network system in the camp community.

Our intention is to create a diverse board made up of ACA members who represent, Alaska, Montana, Washington, and Idaho, day camps, resident camps, agencies, religiously affiliated, private non profit, and private for profit and medical specialty camps. We also look for members who represent young professionals to retired professionals. The board meets 5 times a year (January, March, May, October, and November) mostly in the Seattle area. Each board member is asked to serve on a committee in an active capacity (PR, Education, Standards, Finance, Membership and Legislation). Committees meet on the convenience of members. If camping is your career, get involved with the section, your time and energy will be well rewarded by the networking and knowledge gained from this diverse, devoted group of camping professionals.

Please send your nominations to the Nominations Chair: Jan Milligan, Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council, 14500 Sw Camp Sealth Road, Vashon Is. WA 98070-8222, or email [jan-m@campfire-usa.org](mailto:jan-m@campfire-usa.org).

## Seeking Recognition Award Nominations

To be awarded at the Evergreen Section Annual Meeting and Dinner in November.

**GORDIE HAMILTON AWARD** – To Camps for Excellence in Camp Programming

### CRITERIA

- Creative and imaginative planning, programming and implementation
- Relevance to the needs of camper (and staff)
- Involvement of campers (and staff) in planning and implementation
- Potential for replication and adaptability
- Cooperative efforts with other organizations, agencies or camp
- Activity evaluated in of attainment of stated objectives

**HENDERSON AWARD** - The Henderson Award is given to individuals in recognition of exceptional service to camping and the Evergreen Section of the American Camp Association. The Award was established in 1973 to honor Frank and Lucille Henderson for their many years of dedication and service to the field of camping in this area.

### CRITERIA

- Contributions to camping in the Evergreen Section
- Significant involvement in offices (local or national)
- Involvement in own agency, or in camp
- Length of ACA service
- "Uniqueness" of contribution over long period
- Impact on camping, staff or agency

**SECTION SERVICE AWARD** - This award is given to a member who has been associated with the Evergreen Section for at least 5 years and who has given outstanding service above and beyond expectations.

**SECTION NEWCOMER AWARD** - This award honors newer members (less than 5 years) who have been actively involved in Section activities.

Please send your nominations to the Nominations Chair, Jan Milligan, Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound Council, 14500 Sw Camp Sealath Road, Vashon Is. WA 98070-8222, or email [jan-m@campfire-usa.org](mailto:jan-m@campfire-usa.org)

## CAMP NOTES Submission Guidelines & Requests

Want to submit to this publication? Great! Here are a few things to keep in mind:

### Picture submissions!

We need more pictures to print throughout our pages. We especially need pictures from residential camps and day camps. If you have delightful pictures that really just say "camp!" please submit them for future issues. Contact [evergreen@acacamps.org](mailto:evergreen@acacamps.org) to submit pictures. Please ensure you

already have guardian permission to use the photos. Photos should preferably be .tif or .jpg format (.giff is possible).

### Article Submissions!

Submit those to [evergreen@acacamps.org](mailto:evergreen@acacamps.org). However, please ensure articles are not formatted (no bubbles, text boxes, pictures inserted, bizarre fonts,

spacing, etc. Ideal if no bold/italic/underline either) MS Word documents are best.

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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO NEXT CAMP NOTES-**  
*September 15, 2006*



## Spring Skills Trainings at Camp Killoqua

### 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](mailto:evergreen@acacamps.org)

We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.acaevergreen.org](http://www.acaevergreen.org)

June 1-4, 2006

These courses are useful for summer staff, as well as staff who work other seasons. Prices include instructor fees, training materials, meals and lodging during the training, and certification fees, if applicable. After

registering, you will be mailed more details about your training, a packing list and driving directions.

Courses may be cancelled if enrollment is too low. Please register early to make sure they can be offered!

On Line Information  
[www.acaevergreen.org](http://www.acaevergreen.org)

E-mail  
[Evergreen@acacamps.org](mailto:Evergreen@acacamps.org)  
for details



*HAVE A GREAT  
SUMMER!*

# ACA HOTLINE 1-800-573-9097

Call anytime. 7 days a week. 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](mailto:President@acaevergreen.org)  
Executive Director Tom Nielsen, 1-877-888-2267, Home Office: 206-923-2322



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

[www.acaevergreen.org](http://www.acaevergreen.org)