

the Rocky Mountain Scat



all the scat fit to print

February 2005
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American Camp Association
Rocky Mountain Section
PO Box 2566
Estes Park, CO 80517

President's Letter

Nancy Atkinson

Greetings to you all this frosty New Year!



We hope you enjoy this our first edition of the re-born ACA newsletter, "The Rocky Mountain Scat!" (*And we're not referring to vocal jazz!*) We wish you health, happiness and prosperity for 2005, and hope The Scat gives you an opportunity to get better acquainted with the happenings in our section, and a chance to become familiar with the new faces on our volunteer board. Published three times a year, The Scat will help you keep in touch with your fellow camp people, and always fresh and informative is the newly revamped Rocky Mountain Section web site (<http://www.acacamps.org/rm/>). Go here to keep abreast of section news, and to view Mary Marugg's fine work, and for the latest photos, updates, and information.

Over the years I've gotten to know and work with a great many of you, but for those of you who wouldn't know me if I turned up in your soup, let me say how happy I am to be re-involved in our ACA section. I'm looking forward to expanding friendships with all the great Colorado and Wyoming folks who

make up this friendly and energetic group.

I've been a camp director since 1982, with my husband Ken, at Geneva Glen. I've seen the value of ACA over these many years, both from a private-residence perspective as well as from a not-for-profit view. I know what hard work it is to run a camp. I also know it can be the best job in the world. You just need a lot of help . . . and faith . . . along with valuable friendships and associations like we have in the Rocky Mountain Section! One of my very favorite ACA pastimes is to sit with other camp folks and compare notes, to share stories, to express gratitude, to gripe about the latest fatuous dictate from some government entity, or to commiserate over insurance complexities. Knowing you're not alone is a tremendous comfort!

We are fortunate to have a staunch bunch who comprise your board. We will endeavor to make worthy decisions that reflect well on the Rocky Mountain area. We will supply educational opportunities for your camps that help steer you through the dynamic seas of "CAMPDOM." (*It is truly our own little realm of reality, isn't it!?*) We hope to elevate camping in the rocky mountain area to that rightful place of priority in a family's budget so that enrollments for all of us are over-flowing.

The main goal I have planted for myself this year is to add three new camps to our association. With the exceptional work of Jane Sanborn, creating a dialogue with the Department of Human Services, and area day camps (see article) we are already off and running with a fantastic momentum. I must express my gratitude to be working alongside Betsy Thamert as our stupendous executive. She truly keeps all of us productive and focused.

I firmly believe in the spirit created in camps that makes a kid feel big.

I wholeheartedly defend that intangible treasure that deepens friendships, expands self-worth, and offers moments of joy and clarity that help us uplift our lives. I look forward to seeing you soon – at the Orlando conference, and / or at the spring trainings!

Warmly,

Nancy Atkinson
President, RMS ■

Exciting News

U.S Foods has recently signed an agreement with the Rocky Mountain Section to return .05 % of the cost of food purchased by section members to the section. Although this rebate is only available at this time to camps who have not been supplied by US Foods prior to this, the company hopes to work with us in the future to expand their offering. This money given to the section does not reduce, in any way, the rebates the camp would receive from US Food, nor does it increase the price of their products. Any amounts contributed to the section budget will help us to keep our section service fees down and will directly benefit all ACA camps in the section. Talk to your US Foods Representative to sign up for the program.

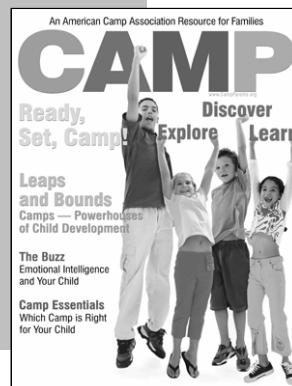
Nobel-Sysco also has an agreement with the ACA National Office to return a percentage of their sales to accredited camps to the section. Although there are some restrictions especially related to order sizes, there are many camps in the section who are using Nobel-Sysco and are not signed up for the program. Please talk to your representative to get signed up. ■

From the Section Office

CAMP Magazine Has Arrived! This new ACA publication made its debut at the end of December. CAMP is an annual family magazine designed to introduce families to the benefits and values of camp. CAMP magazine and ACA’s family web site, www.CampParents.org are designed to serve as resources for parents who want their children to benefit from a positive camp experience.

ACA National has made thousands of copies of CAMP available to the Rocky Mountain Section for free distribution to parents. Ken Atkinson is preparing a magazine insert which will include a listing of accredited camps in Colorado and Wyoming along with a brief description of each camp. As soon as the magazines are “stuffed” with the inserts, distribution to pediatrician’s offices, libraries, children’s museums, and many other locations will begin. If you would like to assist with distribution in your area, contact section public relations chair, Zim Zimmerman (zim@congregationmanuel.com or 303-388-4013). CAMP will also be mailed to parents who call the section office requesting camp information and will be distributed at the Colorado Parent Camp Fair which will be held at Invesco Field on March 12. The magazine may also be ordered online (www.CampParents.org) and or purchased at news stands.

Please help spread the word about ACA’s newest publication! ■



Fall Conference

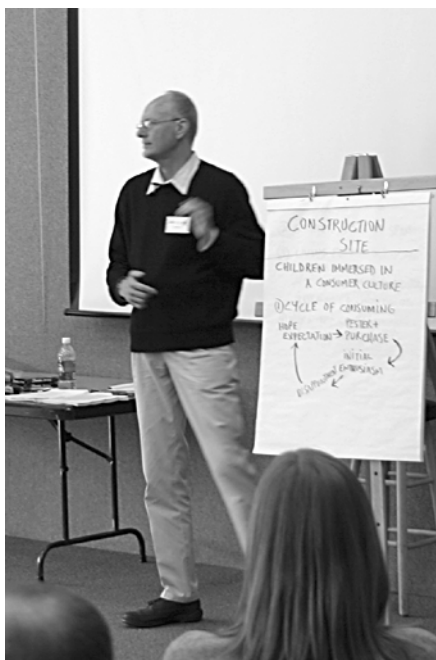
The 2004 Fall Conference for Camp and Youth Development Professionals presented by

American Camp Association Rocky Mountain, held in November at The Nature Center, was a tremendous success. I thought you might be interested in a sampling of the results from the conference evaluations. Here is what you told us:

The highlights included everything related to Bob Ditter, from his keynote to his breakout sessions to his closing. As the conference site, the Nature Center got great reviews overall, with many respondents asking to return for the conference in the future. Nineteen of the 22 breakout sessions were tabbed as "most helpful" by at least one attendee, with each of Bob Ditter's sessions and the Public Policy session tied for "most helpful" overall. The contra dancing and observatory also got rave reviews.

Ideas that you gave us to improve next year's conference included: sending out the schedule early so you will know which staff to send

which days; paying better attention to vegetarian diets; and providing a map of the conference site. There were also 19 topic ideas shared for future conferences.



Thank you to everyone who attended this great event, and thank you to everyone who lent a helping hand to put it all together. We hope to make the 2005 conference even better and your evaluations will help us reach that goal. Be on the lookout for 2005 conference information in upcoming issues of The Scat.

One more blurb:

Please contact Marty Ferguson, Education Chair, with any spring training information you may have. Whether you are offering a

training at your site or need a training for your staff, please call Marty at 970.887.2152 x4172. ■

Spring Workshop

Come join us in Denver on Tuesday, April 19 for our annual spring workshop.

Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas, a psychologist at Regis University, will conduct our morning session on a growing issue facing all of us and our summer staff: alcohol and young people.

David Laskey, from the Institute for Creative Education, will join us for our afternoon session, a transportation risk-management workshop. Come prepared for extensive Q & A regarding owner/operator risk management, insurance issues and designing your own driver training.

But that is not all!

At lunch we will conduct a round-table discussion for day camp staff that will include: how your ACA section can better serve you; what are the pressing issues unique to day camps; what training opportunities exist for day camp staff and much more.

Details and registration information to follow in the coming weeks! ■

New Information on Immunization Record Requirements

In 2005, both the Colorado Dept. of Health and the Colorado Dept of Human Services, Division of Child Care will be requiring residential camps to have immunization records for each child on the Colorado Immunization Form. While we have had to provide immunization records for many years, we have not been required to have them on the Colorado Form until this year. There are a couple of ways to comply with this new requirement.

1. You can get copies of the Colorado Immunization Form (it is a green colored card 8 1/2" x 5 1/2") from the Colorado Department of Health and mail them to each of your camp families. We handed these cards out at the Section Meeting in November; you can also go to the Colorado

Dept. of Public Health and Environment website.

2. If you have developed your own health form which includes immunization history, and this history includes all the information collected on the Colorado form, you can send your form to the Colorado Dept. of Health and ask for a letter which states that your form is consistent with the Colorado Board of Health documenting childhood vaccinations and that your form is approved as an alternative to the Colorado Immunization certificate.

Dana Andrews of the Division of Child Care, Colorado Dept. of Human Services, has assured us that the licensing inspectors will also accept this health department letter as meeting the requirements for child care licensing. Your letter requesting approval for your form should be sent to



3. If you use the American Camp Association health form which includes immunization history: We believe that this form meets the requirements of the Colorado Dept. of Health and have sent a letter requesting approval for this form. We have not received a response at the time of this writing. When we do get this information, Betsy will let everyone know via her e-mail updates. If the form is approved, a copy of the letter of approval will be made available to anyone who requests it through the section office. You will need to have this letter of approval to show your licensing inspector and your health inspector.

If you have questions, call or e-mail Jane Sanborn
Jane@sanbornwesterncamps.com ■

Joni Reynolds, RNC, MSN
Immunization Program
Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, A4
Denver, Colorado 80246

CampWest 2005

April 6 – 9
Riverside, California

CampWest is excited to invite members from all over the western United States for the 2005 CampWest Conference. We want you to be part of the action! Join us from Wednesday, April 6 - Saturday, April 9 at the beautiful Riverside Marriott Conference Center. Hosted by the Southern California/Hawaii and Northern California American Camp Association sections and beginning a new tradition of support by Coronado, Evergreen, Oregon Trail, and Rocky Mountain ACA sections. CampWest, the largest camping conference West of the Mississippi! Registration packets are being mailed to members of the Rocky Mountain Section or online registration and current information is available on the CampWest website, www.campwest.org.

Terrific Keynote Speakers:

Bob Ditter “Camp: For Big People Only” - With over 32 years camp experience, Bob will share what it is about camp that makes a difference in the lives of young people.

Chris Cavert “Roads to Fun” - Camaraderie, interaction, and learning activities staff can use in camps.

Chris Thurber Ph.D., ABPP “Lessons from the Middle of the Night” - Chris will inspire and delight with excerpts from his

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Colorado Parent: THE resource for Front Range families

Kelly Smith

When Colorado families are in need of parenting resources, fun events and activities, and updates on the topics that matter to them, Colorado Parent is the go-to resource.

Colorado Parent magazine is one of a family of magazines from United Parenting Publications, with sister magazines across the country, from Los Angeles to Long Island. This national presence allows Colorado Parent to offer world-class journalism on the topics that parents face every day. Along with offering a nationwide perspective on parenting, Colorado Parent has a local editorial staff that addresses meaningful issues for Front Range families. This blend of national and local focus allows Colorado Parent to offer a broad range of high-quality editorial content for its readers. Recent stories include The AD/HD Parent, A Colorado Ski Resort Primer, Keeping Kids Safe in the Wilderness, How to Host a Great Birthday Bash, and Sesame Street: Why It Still Thrives at 35. The magazine has received numerous editorial awards from Parenting Publications of America.

The monthly events calendar is the core of Colorado Parent, with good reason. This award-winning department is a comprehensive collection of hands-on activities, indoor and outdoor events, museum happenings, book clubs and parent education and support groups.

Additionally, the magazine's annual National Parenting Publications Awards, NAPPA, provide award-winning choices in toys, music, books, videos, and software, giving parents guidance to the best the marketplace has to offer.

Each year Colorado Parent holds a campaign to find Colorado's Best Companies for Working Families. Hundreds of businesses vie for the honor of being counted among the state's most family-friendly employers. Local business leaders gather to determine the winners, and the campaign culminates in an annual luncheon, networking opportunity, and awards ceremony.

Along with a monthly publication, Colorado Parent also offers a quarterly title for new parents called B.A.B.Y., The Best Advice for Baby and You. Covering topics from deciphering diaper brands to daycare options, baby sleep issues to feeding guidance, B.A.B.Y. helps parents adjust to their new roles with confidence.

The semi-annual Phone Book and Newcomer's Guide is an indispensable resource for families who are new to the area. The Guide provides easy-to-use information on hundreds of destinations along the Front Range and in the Rocky Mountains, as well as a yellow-page style listing of community resources.

Get Up & Go is the newest title offered by Colorado Parent. Targeted to the active baby boomer and grandparent crowd, Get Up &

Go is filled with relevant information for boomers and grandparents who know that age is just a number.

The magazines above reach more than 200,000 readers a month, with free pick-up at more than 1,500 locations around the metro Denver area.

Print magazines are just the beginning – ColoradoParent.com offers Internet visitors everything available on the printed page and more. Along with viewing archives of stories and a searchable calendar, visitors to the page can sign up for online newsletters and contests.

Colorado Parent is in the community too; a one-day camp fair scheduled for March 2005 is attended by thousands of families looking for summer camp and adventure programs. Other events which the magazine participates in include the region's largest free Easter Egg Hunt, various Baby Fests, a Cycle Safety Circus for kids, the Cherry Creek Arts Festival, an annual education fair spotlighting childcare, preschools, private and public school options, and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

With so much to offer, it's no wonder Colorado Parent is known as the go-to source for parents. ■

COLORADO
PARENT
MAGAZINE

Announces a Great New Partnership...

2005



DISCOVER
all your summer
activities
in **ONE PLACE!**
swim skate play
dance swing explore
discover learn
create
grow

CAMP FAIR

INVESCO FIELD
at Mile High

Together we're Planning the
Biggest Camp Fair yet!

What are your kids doing this summer?

Seek out a program specific to your child's needs
Preschool through High School

- Sports • Art • Science • Wilderness
 - Computers • Performance • Day and Overnight
 - Special Needs • Out-of-State • Religious
- And Many More!**

• Plus enjoy roaming entertainment, face painters,
balloon animals, stage performances and much more...

ColoradoParent.com

2005 Camp Fair

at INVESCO Field at Mile High

Saturday, March 12, 2005

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Call for Information Today!



Colorado Parent Magazine

5460 S. Quebec Street, Suite 130 • Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Phone: 303-320-1000 Fax: 303-722-2330

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forthcoming book, "Graduate School Was a Waste of Time," subtitled "I Learned It All From Campers."

Peg Smith "Changing lives" – It doesn't matter what age, title, or role one plays, Peg will help you explore the assets within yourself that help you understand how you create a different world for the lives you touch.

Sampling of the wonderful Conference Seminars:

Who's Watching the Kids Watching the Kids? With Bob Ditter - Crucial tips and great skills in making camp safer while helping staff perform at a higher level.

The 7 Essential Skills of Highly Successful Camp Counselors. With Bob Ditter - Some counselors know how to work more successfully with campers than others. Here are 7 essential skills that make it happen.

Understanding Children's Secret Code. With Chris Thurber - All children speak two languages: what they say and what they mean. Around sensitive topics, these two languages are rarely alike. It takes a special kind of insight and empathy to hear beyond children's words and infer their meaning. The payoff is priceless.

Listening to "The Bright Red Scream." With Chris Thurber - Self-mutilation arouses great concern, especially in a camp community. What kinds of treatments work, and can they ever be performed at camp? When is it best to send a cutting camper home? Get the clinical facts you need to prepare an empathetic, supportive, healthy response to this disturbing, taboo behavior.

Staff Relationships: Romance and Sex. With Michael Shelton - Liaisons amongst staff members, either of the romantic or purely sexual type, can lead to a host of challenges. Can a director do anything? Should a director do anything? This session will examine both theoretical and practical aspects of staff relationships and offer guidance in formulating a camp relationship policy.

Camper Sexuality: Normative and Problematic. With Michael Shelton - Each camper can be classified into one of four categories of sexual behavior when entering camp: no sexual behavior, normative sexual behavior, sexually intrusive behavior, and sexually aggressive and compulsive behavior. Devise appropriate responses and begin formulating a general policy in regards to youth sexual activity.

Portable Adventure Based Activities: Community Building on the Go. With Chris Cavert - In this seminar you will discover a wide variety of portable adventure-based activities. Learn how you can build and create, on a tight budget, your own elements and "bag of tricks," and gain access to a plethora of free adventure-based resources available on-line.

Adventure-Based Cooperative Games and Activities. With Chris Cavert - This seminar will include a wide variety of cooperative games and activities that are interactive and fun. All the games and activities presented require only low cost equipment and will be suitable for groups 10 and older.

Feel free to contact Molly Robison (Rocky Mountain Section liaison to the CampWest Steering Committee) at 303-697-4621 ext. 13, or molly@genevaglen.org for additional CampWest Information! ■

Background Checks

The Board of Directors for Rocky Mountain Section of the ACA voted at its December meeting to make a formal recommendation to all its members that they get background

checks on all employees and volunteers, even if they are exempted by Colorado law. As you know, resident camps have been required by Colorado law to obtain background checks on all year round staff and any seasonal staff members who are Colorado residents, but out-of-state

seasonal staff are exempted. As methods for obtaining timely federal background checks have improved, it now seems prudent to be running background checks on all of our staff.

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Who's Who

Board of Directors

ACA Rocky Mountain Section

Betsy Thamert, Section Executive

1-888-926-CAMP
rmexec@yahoo.com

Nancy Atkinson, President

303-697-4621
nancy@genevaglen.org

Mike McDonald, Vice President

719-748-3341
mikemac@sanbornwesterncamps.com

Molly Robinson, Secretary

303-697-4621
molly@genevaglen.org

Juli Kramer, Treasurer

303-741-0159
addipres@aol.com

Gail Albers, Standards

970-586-3341, x1108
gma25@aol.com

Marty Ferguson, Education

970-887-2152, x4172
mferguson@ymcarockies.org

Zim Zimmerman, Public Relations

303-388-4013, x314
zim@congregationemanuel.com

Jeff Cheley, Legislative

303-377-3616
jeffcheley@cheley.com

Bobby Lewis, Membership

719-395-2468
bobby@adventureunlimited.org

Kreg Hamburger, Communications

405-701-1978
kreghamburger@ou.edu

Roman Krafczyk, Member at Large

303-569-2333
rkrafczyk@eastersealscolorado.org

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There are two ways to do this:

1. Get fingerprint cards made for out-of-state staff (as well as for in-state staff) and send them to the CBI with the notation that you want an FBI check (\$39.50). The CBI only check is \$17.50.

- Pros:**
- a. Fingerprint checks provide the most accurate background history.
 - b. The process is simple since it is an extension of what we are already doing with CBI checks.

- Cons:**
- a. Timelines. Although reports are now being returned much faster, it still takes 2 weeks – month for you to receive information.

b. Cost.

2. Use a private company to get background checks.

- Pros:**
- a. Timeliness. These returns often come back within a week.

b. Cost. Depending on how many areas must be checked the cost can be less than the fingerprint check.

- Cons:**
- a. Less accurate. These rely on county databases and some counties do not provide good information. Also, these are name based checks so will not be valid if the person is using an assumed name.

b. Cost. Depending on how many counties need to be checked these can be far more costly than the FBI check. Also there will be a base monthly fee for using the company. ■

Using Commercial Background Checking Services

For companies that perform this service for camps, visit the ACA Web Site at: www.ACAcamps.org/vendors

There are commercial services that will complete this function for you for a fee. One such service lists fees as follows:

- Driver's license record, \$16
- Educational verification, \$18
- Employment verification, \$24
- Felony and Misdemeanor checks at a county level (one county), \$15
- Sexual Offender records (state and county), \$15

These fees represent searches on a single name (not including an additional maiden name) in a single jurisdiction. They represent sample fees from one company. Fees will vary and services will vary. Some services will check state records, others will check federal records.

All record searches done by commercial companies are subject to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). The ACA website provides information on requirements of the FCRA which need to be followed carefully when conducting your own background checks or hiring a service to do so.

When using a commercial service:

- You must notify the employee of your intent to check background (such as criminal background).
- You must obtain permission to do so.

- You must notify them if information in the report will likely cause you to take an adverse action on their application and give them at least five days to respond.
- You must provide them with a copy of the report and the name of the organization that obtained the report.
- You must notify them of their rights at each step.

Resources

- Colorado Bureau of Investigation: <http://cbi.state.co.us/>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation: www.fbi.gov
- Federal Trade Commission: www.ftc.gov
- Fair Credit Reporting Act: www.ftc.gov/os/statutes/fcra.htm
- Parents for Megan's Law: www.parentsformeganslaw.com

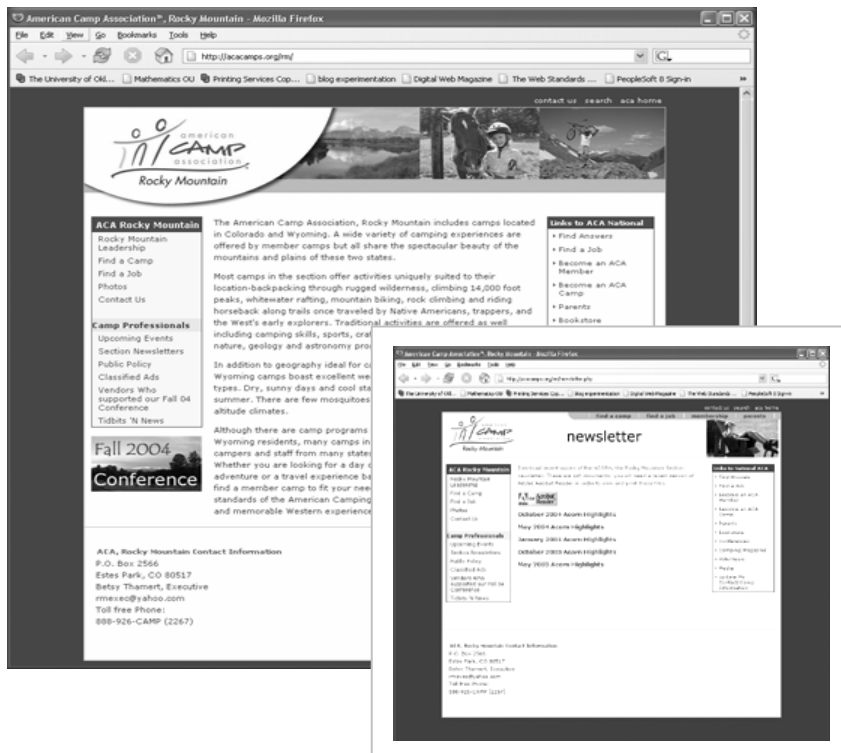
CBI Name Removal

Most of us received a letter last August from Sharon Nichols of the Division of Child Care stating that we need to be diligent about removing names from the list of fingerprints which remain in the CBI database under our facility licenses. The letter also indicated that a licensing inspector could compare a list of the names in our database with our current payroll and list this inconsistency on our Report of Inspection as a violation.

While it is in our best interest to keep our records as up-to-date as possible, this requirement does not make sense for our seasonal staff who may return for another summer. Jane Sanborn talked with Child Care Licensing Administrator Dana Andrews in December and she agreed that this requirement is unreasonable for camps which have seasonal workers. She will work with the licensing inspectors to help them understand this issue, but if your licensing inspector has concerns about this, please refer him/her to Dana.

If you do have workers who will not be on your staff again, you should remove their names from your license by sending a "Notification of Flag Removal" form (one was sent with the August letter or it is available on the CBI website) to:

Criminal Background Check Unit
1600 W. 24th St.
Pueblo, CO 81003 ■



Web Site Postings

Please send information on upcoming trainings you are hosting (*wilderness first aid, ropes course etc.*) to our web manager, Mary Marugg at mary@sonlightcamp.org.

Mary will post the information in the upcoming events portion of the web site. Our web site at <http://acacamps.org/rm/> is a fantastic resource not only for all of us but also for parents and other camp professionals. ■

The Rocky Mountain Scat

American Camp Association
Rocky Mountain Section
PO Box 2566
Estes Park, CO 80517



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

February 2005

Sponsorship Opportunities

Help support the Rocky Mountain Scat

Advertise in the Scat and get into the hands of camp professionals across the Rocky Mountain Region. Contact Kreg Hamburger (pg. 8) for further details. ■

Mark Your Calendars

American Camp Association National Conference

February 22-25, 2005 Orlando, Florida
www.ACAcamps.org

Colorado Parent Camp Fair

March 12 10:00-4:00 Invesco Field, Denver
ACA, Rocky Mountain is one of the sponsors for the fair.

CampWest Conference 2005

April 6-9 Riverside Convention Center, CA
www.campwest.org
Sponsored by the American Camp Association's Southern California/Hawaii, Northern California, Coronado, Oregon Trail, Rocky Mountain and Evergreen Sections, the CampWest conference will be a great event.

ACA Spring Workshop

April 19 Temple Emanuel, Denver, CO

Wrangler Training

Sponsored by the American Association of Horsemanship
May 23-27 Held at J-CC Ranch Camp, Elbert, Colorado
Cost: \$350, includes lodging, meals and materials
For more information, contact Brad Chotiner 303.316.6321 or BChotiner@aol.com ■