

The Acorn Highlights

May 2003

The quarterly newsletter of the American Camping Association®, Rocky Mountain Section

Rocky Mountain Section Office

Betsy Thamert,

Section Executive

PO Box 2566
Estes Park, CO 80517

www.acarockymountain.org

888-926-2267

e-mail: rmexec@yahoo.com

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Dear Friends,

I know that everyone is busy this month with final preparations for camp, and we hope you will find some helpful information in this Acorn. Education Chair Marty Ferguson has collected information on trainings being held throughout the section on everything from Archery to Wilderness First Aid. I also want to thank Marty for putting together an outstanding Spring Training with Nan Waller Burnett and Dan Fox. Evaluations from the workshop indicated that everyone who attended felt the speakers were excellent and provided valuable insights and skills .

We have had an active Spring in the public policy area and Legislative Chair Jeff Cheley's report provides information on working with DIA, training van drivers and Colorado Senate Bill 253 which will again allow parents to sign liability releases for their children.

We have a number of business members in the Rocky Mountain section and hope that everyone will reward their support for ACA by supporting them whenever possible. A list of our business members with their contact information appears in this Acorn.

Thank you too to our Standards Visitors and chairperson Gail Albers who is coordinating the visits for all the camps in our section who will receive accreditation visits this summer. We appreciate the time that

all of you spend on implementing this very important role of ACA.

We wish you all a safe and happy summer with many rain showers, much laughter, and many special moments with campers and staff. If you need anything during the summer, please contact Betsy Thamert at the ACA office. Until next Fall....

Jane

From the Section Office

ACA recently announced the creation of a student membership category. Please encourage your summer staff to consider becoming ACA members. Membership for students is affordable and offers many benefits to those working in a camp setting or interested in pursuing a career in camping.

The student member rate is \$35 a year and is available to anyone who is a full or part-time student. Student members will receive the May/June issue of Camping Magazine and can subscribe to a full-year subscription at a discount. Student members will also receive ACA's Student Member eNewsletter, a quarterly e-mail written for students by students and ACA's eNewsletter a monthly e-mail highlighting a specific core area of camp management. Other benefits include the opportunity to participate in the student member list-serve, access to the student's area of the ACA web site, discounts on purchases from the ACA bookstore, and discounts on ACA national conferences and educational events. Student members who are part of the Rocky Mountain Section will receive discounts on the Fall Conference and Spring Workshop.

Membership applications are available from the National office (765-342-8456) and the Section office (888-926-2267). It is also possible to join online at www.acacamps.org/membership/studentapp.htm.

Have a Great Summer,

Betsy



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Legislative Update

SB 253 - A bill was introduced recently that permits a parent of a child to release, on behalf of the child, a prospective negligence claim of the child. This has been the case until last year when the Colorado Supreme Court decided that parents could not sign these liability waivers for their children. This is a great step for camps in our risk management and insurance situations. Both the house and the Senate realized that camps, and other youth organizations, still have strict policies they have to follow regarding participants safety. This bill also does not mean that we are not responsible if a child is injured because of gross negligence.

From the ACA National Office

We have had a number of calls expressing concern about SARS for this summer. We encourage camps to stay updated by monitoring the CDC Web site and we have placed information on our Web site about CDC and made some suggestions for the camp to consider. To find SARS information on the ACA Web site(www.ACAcamps.org):

- From the Home page - Click on International Staff or on Camp Directors
- From the Camp Knowledge Center - Click on Human Resources or Health & Wellness
- Or directly by entering: www.ACAcamps.org/international/sars.htm

15 Passenger Vans and Driver Training

David Laskey at The Institute for Creative Education is a good source for information. He hosted a session at the National Conference in Denver. He has pertinent information regarding transportation issues beyond just 15 passenger vans - though they, of course, are on everyone's mind. He can be reached at (303) 442-7073 or David@iceonline.org.

§ *Mark your calendars* §

Rocky Mountain Section Fall Conference November 12-13, 2003

The Rocky Mountain Section Fall Conference and Annual Meeting will be held **November 12-13, 2003** at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center in Colorado Springs. The Conference will feature a wide variety of breakout sessions, a combination silent and live auction, opportunities for visiting with old and new friends and networking. Please contact Marty Ferguson (mferguson@ymcarockies.org, 970-887-2152) if you have suggestions for presentations or would like to do one yourself. New this fall will be an exhibitor/trade show area. Please contact Betsy in the section office if you know of vendors/businesses who would be interested in participating in the trade show. Look for more information on the Fall Conference in the fall edition of the Acorn and in section updates.

Archery Training

YMCA Camp Chief Niwot is hosting an archery training on Saturday **May 31st** at the Boulder Elks Club. The class will begin promptly at 8:00am. Participants should arrive at 7:45am. The class will run until 5:00pm. This class is very intensive and participants should expect a long day (note from the instructor). For questions or to register call Andrew VanDerWege at 303-664-5458 ext. 8350 or email him at campchiefniwot@yahoo.com. The cost of the training is \$50 per participant. Course materials and certification cad are included in the cost of the training. For directions to the Elks Club call or e-mail.

Riflery Training

Camp Chief Ouray will be hosting a riflery training on **May 28-30**. Please contact Trueman Hoffmeister or Marty Ferguson at the camp office at (970) 887-2152 ext. 4172 for all the details.

WAIC Conference

The Western Association of Independent Camps Conference is in Vancouver, British Columbia next **November 6,7,8,9** at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Vancouver. Please contact the WAIC office at WAICOFFICE@AOL.COM to receive conference registration information coming out this fall. The conference promises to be a great time! eh!

Horsemanship Training

An American Association for Horsemanship Safety training clinic will be held **May 28th through May 31st** at the JCC Ranch Camp. The clinic will run from early on the 28th until late evening on the 31st. Only a limited number of spaces are still available. The cost of training and lodging (27th through the 30th) for the clinic is \$350.00. Please contact Juli Kramer (see page 6).



17th Annual Camp Nurse Conference

Mountains, Kids and Camp **May 30 - 31, 2003**

Sanborn Western Camps at Colorado
Outdoor Education Center
Florissant, Colorado 80816
Coordinator: Betty B. McLain, RN, MSN
719-748-3435
McL26@att.net

AIRPORT UPDATE AS OF 4-25-03

Again this year, United has agreed to issue us Escort passes at DIA so counselors can go pick up campers at the gates on arrival days and take campers to the gates on departure days. Our contact this year is Darrel Wilson, Security Supervisor for United Airlines.

Ground Transportation

They are willing to work with groups if you call and arrange your plans in advance. Terry Smith is wonderful to work with and will do what he can to make things work. If you are only picking up a small group of campers, it may not be worth the trouble. If you are using charter busses, I would recommend you call him to arrange for the bus to load curbside. His number is 303-342-2200 ext. 4070. Tell him you are with the American Camping Association and he should work with you.

Inside the Airport

Last year we had a great meeting with Jim Ronan, Terminal Business Unit Manager for United, and Darrel Wilson, Security Supervisor. As we prepare for arrival and departure days, these are some good ideas to keep in mind.

1. Ask campers to limit carry-on baggage to expedite the security line procedure.
2. Encourage campers to use the least amount of bags while making sure the pack everything.
3. They are more strict on the weight limit on bags this year. Be prepared to pay the fee for additional bags or bags over the weight limit. United's fee for bags 51 lbs – 99 lbs. is \$25 and the extra bag fee is \$80.
4. Make sure campers do not have anything in their possession that would set off the x-ray machines. If they have to stand in line to be checked again with the wand, it adds about 5-10 minutes.
5. Camper's baggage must be with them at all times. This means that the luggage legally has to be in the same vehicle as the camper. Putting all the bags in a pickup truck and the campers in a van means that the bags have been out of their control and will need to go through secondary screening. This will add about 10-20 minutes to the process.
6. Make sure campers do not joke about bomb, hijacking, etc. This has always been true but they are a even more strict about it now.
7. Passengers must check in at the counter **at least 60 MINUTES** before their flight. This is a new regulation. It used to be 30 minutes but with the possible length of the security lines, they have extended it. **They recommend arriving to the airport 2 hours early.**
8. Monday mornings are the busiest time at the airport. If you have to drop off or pick up campers on a Monday morning, allow more time.
9. We recommend that you utilize the Sky Caps on both inbound and outbound. Curb-side check-in is much more efficient than standing in lines in the terminal. We tell our campers to tip the Sky Caps \$1 per bag.

United and Darrel Wilson are willing to issue Escort passes to camp staff members again this year to gain access to the concourses. To obtain these passes, you need to fax a list of staff members needing passes at least 1 week in advance to him at 303-348-4770 (please use the supplied form). Please limit the amount of passes you need. Each staff members will need to check in at United Odd Size Counter behind position 89 (inside West Door 614) with a legal ID to receive their passes. **PLEASE NOTE THIS LOCATION IS DIFFERENT THAN LAST YEAR.**

ATTN: Darrel Wilson or GSC

ESCORT PASSES NEEDED FOR ACA CAMP

Camp Name _____

Contact

Phone Number

Date at Airport: _____

Arrivals or Departures: _____

Number of campers being picked up: _____

Names of Staff Needing Escort Passes

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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Fax form to Darrel Wilson at 303-348-4770

Section Tidbits

Ten Things I Learned at the ACA Spring Workshop

Marty Ferguson, Education Chair

The recent Spring Workshop, held at Link Recreation Center, was very successful. We had a total of 38 participants show up and Nan Waller Burnett and Dan Fox each gave outstanding presentations. This was my first opportunity to plan an event as Education Chair, and I thought I would share a few things that I took from the day.

1. I learned that simply telling someone that I have heard him or her could go a long way in resolving conflict. I know it sounds simple, but how often do I actually do that?
2. I learned about the four approaches to changing conflict: try to change the other person, try to alter the conflict conditions, try to change how you view the issue, or try to change your communication.
3. I learned that avoidance is the fuel for conflict. But lets talk about that some other time.
4. I learned that gender patterns generally work like this: the female is the pursuer and the male is the avoider. I have to be honest that this did not come as any big surprise to me.
5. I learned that accurate communication happens when intent = impact, with intent being the message intended by the speaker and impact being the message received by the speaker.
6. I learned that if you remove something from a teen's foundation, such as a sense of belonging, that you must replace that with a different sense of belonging in order for the teen to continue to have direction.
7. I got to watch the video game "Grand Theft Auto" in action. From that experience I learned that I was just as appalled after seeing the game as I had been when I had only heard about it. I had a sneaking suspicion that I had been slowly "losing touch" with teens, but it surprised me that people really want to spend their time with stuff like this.
8. As a great follow up to #7, I was given a new perspective on how to view what I consider "destructive" or "non-productive" behaviors by teens.
9. A teenager must have a sense of personal competence and identity before they can have a sense of purpose.
10. And lastly, I learned how to do the "cool" handshake currently popular with Colorado teens.

As a bonus to all of that, I re-learned that I don't particularly like reading aloud. My introduction of Nan in the morning session, as I read her biography, was less than enthusiastic. Hopefully I redeemed myself in the afternoon session. Sorry, Nan. But putting the pieces together for the bigger picture, I was given two things during the Spring Workshop, both very intangible but both very important. First, I was given a foundation by Nan for not only resolving conflict, whether it is between staff or campers, but also actually reducing it. And Dan gave me a better understanding and appreciation of the purpose that our Teen Leadership Program serves in the lives of its participants. Thank you so much to Dan and Nan and thank you to those who attended our Spring Workshop. I would also like to extend big thanks to Betsy Thamert for help in coordinating registrations, to Jo Burns for securing Link Recreation Center for our use, and to Kat Harvey for designing the registration form. The event would not have happened without you!

ACA Spring workshop evaluation results

1. Please describe the best part of the workshop for you today.
 - *Dan fox (6 answers)*
 - *Both speakers were great*
 - *Energy: seeing commitment to youth*
 - *Direction/foundation piece*
 - *2nd half*
 - *Info on adolescents*
 - *Great speakers*

2. Please describe anything about today's workshop that you wish had been different.
 - *Wonderful*
 - *More camp specific tools (2 answers)*
 - *I felt that Nan's could have been more specific*
 - *More of an effort to introduce new faces*
 - *The first speaker didn't seem to talk to us in meaningful "camp" ways*
 - *Nothing*
 - *The first speaker was too brief and not very clear*
 - *Have tables and chairs (sic)*

3. What spring workshop topics do you think would be useful to you and your staff in the future?
 - *Umm, call me later. Part 2 of Dan Fox would be great.*
 - *Dan's topic was great. Good jumpstart on the summer.*
 - *Middle management: tough fit in the middle between owners/seasonal staff*
 - *Same sorts of stuff*
 - *Communication, working on foundations for teens*
 - *Dealing with parents*
 - *Dan Fox strategic intervention (part 2)*
 - *Training tips*

4. Is there anything else about today's workshop that you would like for us to know?
 - *Sorry, can't think of anything*
 - *Thanks for coordinating this!*
 - *Great*
 - *Great! Thanks! Looking forward to fall!*
 - *Yeah for chocolate!!*
 - *Good location!*
 - *It was great!!*

Bonus Question: We are already planning the Fall Conference. What breakout sessions would you like to see then?

- *See #3*
- *Program*
- *Homesickness*
- *Making staff training new – beyond brandwein*
- *Bring back Dan Fox*
- *More time with Peg Smith*
- *Maybe a "how to survive & succeed in the section" kind of thing to (illegible word) people & teach them how to get involved.*
- *Social Services re: Day Camps and Licensing*
- *Marketing ideas*

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American Camping Association®,
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Who's who??

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ACA

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Jay Poulter, Past President	970-879-4816	poulter@poultercamps.com
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Molly Robison, Secretary	303-697-4621	molly@genevaglen.org
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Gail Albers, Standards	970-586-3341, x1108	gma25@aol.com
Marty Ferguson, Education	970-887-2152, x4172	mferguson@ymcarockies.org
Jo Burns, Public Relations	303-987-4866	joabur@lakewood.org
Jeff Cheley, Legislative	303-377-3616	jeff@cheley.com
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Mike MacDonald, Communications	719-748-3341	mikemac@sanbornwesterncamps.com
Dave VanDerWege, Member at Large	719-380-7635	vanderwege@adelphia.net