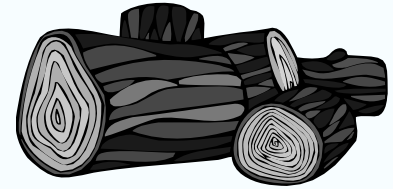


# The WOODPILE



Fall 2005  
[www.aca-michigan.org](http://www.aca-michigan.org)

What is a woodpile? It is that which is at the base of all great campfires. In it's written form, a woodpile is the ideas and connections between camp professionals that provide the spark of yet another life-enriching experience for our campers.

## Accomplishments and Plans for ACA, Michigan by Jack Kooyman, ACA Michigan President



My mind almost gets dizzy when I begin reflecting on all the changes that have occurred within ACA, Michigan during the past year.

Here are just some of the things that have happened:

- ◆ Theresa Moore became our new Section Executive Director following a vacancy in this key position for several months;
- ◆ Several longtime board members moved on to assume new responsibilities elsewhere.
- ◆ We conducted an all member survey last fall;
- ◆ Friday Coordinated E-mail began (we were the first section to do this for our members)
- ◆ New board members were recruited along with the election of new officers
- ◆ We established the first ever Section Diversity Chair;
- ◆ And we began a developing our first comprehensive three year strategic plan with significant input and participation from our members.

With regard to our strategic plan, your ACA, Michigan board recently developed and adopted the following five strategic priorities and accompanying goals. Our next step in this process is to develop action plans for each of these goals. Here then are our strategic priorities and goals for the next three years:

### 1. Media Awareness

*Goal:* Major media outlets (print, radio, T.V.) in Michigan will look to ACA, Michigan as the primary source of information about camps and camp related matters.

### 2. Education & Professional Development

*Goal:* ACA, Michigan will address the educational and professional development needs of its members in order to strengthen knowledge in the field and help members build networks of colleagues.

### 3. Communicate Value of Camp

*Goal:* Communities with ACA accredited camps will become aware of the educational value of the camp experience.

### 4. Build relationships with others outside of ACA

*Goal:* In order to develop a strong membership and volunteer base, ACA, Michigan will develop relationships with organizations that share similar goals and values.

### 5. Increase our volunteer base

*Goal:* To maintain an active and sustainable organization, ACA, Michigan will increase its base of volunteers.

In order to accomplish these goals, we will need and be looking once again to you, our members, for involvement and support. Please let me or any of our board members know if you are interested and willing to help us achieve any one or more of these goals by serving as a volunteer on one of our committees or in some other manner.

Thank you!

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  - Click-n-Connect
- 5.....Local and National Enrollment Trends
  - Mid States Conference Information/Updates
- 6.....Calendar of Events

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# Standards Update

## Thank You ACA Visitors!!

Thank you to all our 2005 volunteer ACA Visitors for all your hard work and time you gave to our 30 camps that completed visits this past summer. This number reflects a slightly higher number of camps than usual for our section (coupled with a decrease in visitors this summer) so I truly appreciated all that were able to take time out of their busy schedule to make the accreditation process a success in the Michigan Section!

Tim Ashburn  
Stephanie Baker  
Jen Beaumont  
Heather Blew  
Paul Bryant  
Dean Buntley  
Nancy Burger  
Kristan Chase  
Scott Crane  
Renee Deroche  
Jon Deveaux  
Deb Dillingham

Dean Elliott  
Brice Emanuel  
John Endres  
Robert Geake  
Emily Golinsky  
Lori Grasty  
Margaret Hoffman  
Jack Kooyman  
Jill Laidlaw  
Rob Lehman  
David Long  
Ian Longman

David Martin  
Jim Peterson  
Kim Ross  
Donald Schmukal  
Clark Shutt  
Craig Soderdahl  
Liz Trapp  
Doug Vanderwell  
Jim VanWingerden  
Mary Walker  
Jim Wilford



## Standards Revision Timeline (What's Happening & When)

As you may already know the Accreditation Standards are in the process of being revised. Below is the timeline of changes.

- Spring of 2005:** Information/feedback sessions at ACA regional conferences; Revisions based on input, Field test draft distributed
- Summer 2005:** Field test of revisions in camps, Regularly scheduled visits on current standards (3rd visits in current standards)
- Fall 2005:** National Standards Committee meeting – evaluate field test data and feedback, Final draft out to field for feedback
- Winter 2005/2006:** NSC meeting to finalize revisions, ACA National Conference – Council Of Delegates adopt revisions
- Spring/Summer 2006:** Write and publish new standards materials and tools, Develop new standards curriculum
- Summer 2006:** Regularly scheduled visits on current standards (3rd visits in current standards)
- Fall 2006:** Begin retraining/updates for camps and standards personnel
- Winter 2006/2007:** Retraining/updates for camps and visitor personnel
- Summer 2007:** First visits under revised standards

# Standards Update

## Upcoming Trainings

### **Standards Course** (4 hours of instruction time)

This course is appropriate for those who are new to the ACA accreditation process, a director of a camp seeking accreditation for the first time, or a new director of a currently accredited camp. If your camp is due a visit in 2006, the person completing the Standards Course is expected to assist the camp in preparation for the accreditation visit and participate in the on-site visit. If you have already gone through a Standards Course training since November 1999 you should have been trained in the "1998 Edition" Standards.

### **Associate Visitor Course (AVT)** (14 hours)

This course is appropriate for those who wish to serve as an Associate Visitor in the Standards program. Participants must have attended the Standards Course prior to attending the Associate Visitor Course. The ACA-Michigan Section is always looking for new volunteers to our visitor teams. We have approximately 40 visitors each year to go to the 25 – 30 we visit each summer (2 visitors are required for each visit).

### **2005-2006 Standards Training Schedule**

(Courses are free and open to all). For more information contact the Michigan Section Office or Nancy Burger, Standards Chair.

*January, 2006 (TBA) Standards Course*  
ACA-Michigan Section Winter Conference

*Jan 6, 1:00 pm - Jan 7, 5:00 pm, 2006 AVT*  
(see insert in this issue of the *Woodpile*)  
Camp Anna Behrens (Grand Rapids, MI area)

*March 6, 2006, 9a-1:30p Standards Course*  
Christian Camping International Conference  
Camp Michindoh (Hillsdale, MI area)

*April 4, 2006 3-9 PM Standards Course*  
*April 5, 9am, - April 6, 4pm, 2006 AVT*  
ACA Mid-States Conference (Chicago, IL area)

## Become an Associate Visitor for the ACA!

Are you looking for a way to become more involved with the ACA Michigan Section? Are you looking for more ways to grow professionally and network with your fellow camping professionals? Come share your professional experience and expertise by becoming an ACA Associate Visitor. Our section is truly in need of more Associate Visitors. Please consider attending one of the Associate Visitor trainings that are coming up. This course is offered at no cost to the attendees; please see application insert in this issue of the *Woodpile*.

**Prerequisites:** At least 21 years old, current ACA Member, completion of Standards Course.

## Camps Due Visits in 2006



It is not too early to begin preparing for your upcoming ACA visit in 2006. Are you planning to update your rental agreement, offering new programs, changing/beginning some long range planning? Start now to review the ACA standards so you become more familiar with what updates need to be completed before your 2006 visit.

Camps will officially receive a mailing about your upcoming visits after the first of the year. You will then receive another mailing around March and will at that time find out who your visitors will be for 2006. Directors set up their visit with your visitors. If you have not completed a pre-visit in the past you may want to do that prior to your summer on-site visit.

If your camp is not listed below and you are expecting to be visited or if your camp is listed and not expecting to be visited, please contact Nancy Burger, Standards Chair, at 1-517-536-8607 ext. 201 or [nburger@ymcatoledo.org](mailto:nburger@ymcatoledo.org).

Adventure Learning Center,	Miniwanca
Eagle Village	Sancta Maria
Brook Cherith	Spring Hill Camp (39)
Camp Baber	Spring Hill Camp (44)
Camp O'Fair Winds	Tamarack Camps
Camp O'Malley	Tannadoonah
Camp Roger	The Fowler Center
Camp Shawadasee	Willoway Day Camp
Camp Tall Turf	YMCA Copneconic
Camp Wathana	YMCA Camp
Camp Westminster	Hayo-Went-Ha
Cedar Lodge	YMCA Camp Manitou Lin
Grand Traverse YMCA	YMCA Camping &
Day Camp	Retreat of Battle Creek
Hawthorne Hollow	
Mystic Lake YMCA Camp	

## Call for Volunteers



The Board of Directors is currently looking for folks willing to join hands and help us fulfill our goals and plans for the future!

ACA, Michigan is a completely volunteer-run section, with the exception of our amazing section executive, Theresa. Everything from the educational conferences to this very newsletter are developed, created and implemented by your fellow camp professionals in the MI section!

We still need to fill the following volunteer positions:

- ◆ Membership Chair
- ◆ Public Relations Chair
- ◆ Camp Leadership Institute Chair
- ◆ Awards/Recognition Chair
- ◆ Nominating Committee

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Theresa Moore at 616.245.5255 or email: mooretee@sbcglobal.net

## What Do You See In Our New Logo?

Discussion around the new logo for the ACA always seems to come around to “what does it look like to you?” The fact is, the new logo was created after extensive research and focus group discussion. The key components of the logo are:

- ◆ **The Icon.** It shows two people, one smaller than the other, representing relationship, mentoring and community. The figures suggest a bridge or transition which represent learning, growth and success. In color, the logo’s colors are meant to represent diversity, and the curved underline is intended to suggest a connection to nature.
- ◆ **The Name.** The playful, handwritten style of “camp” combined with the straightforward “American” and “association” was created to capture the two different elements of the ACA personality: an organic, community-based support system, and a respected corporate entity.



## Click and Connect

Filling your camp treasure chest with the resources of the web

There are a number of wonderful resources for camps online. Staffing, youth development, health care resources...all kinds of great information can be found by searching around the web. Of course, who has time to just search around the web?!?! That’s why we’ve done it for you. Sharing some of these sites with your program staff might just kickstart a new trend or program area at your camp.

<http://www.gameskidsplay.net/>

Includes rules and details for all the traditional kids games, and some new ones! Brush up on the rules for “ghosts in the graveyard” and learn the “icka bicka soda cracker” method (or seven other rhymes) to assign who will be “it” during tag games!

<http://www.geocities.com/suarezgfm/SmoresHistory.html>

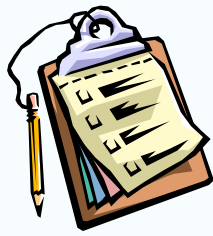
Well, you might know all about how to make the perfect s’more, but do you know that marshmallows date back to ancient Egypt? Or that there are over 80 crafts you can do with marshmallows? Find out here more than you ever knew *anyone* knew about s’mores!

<http://b.webring.com/hub?ring=campfiresongs>

The Campfire Songs Web-ring is a list of sites which offer indexes to camp and campfire songs and music lyrics. Becky’s Campfire Songbook, one of the most popular camp-song indexes is linked here, as well as Sing Along With Me, which offers sound files so you can hear the tune that goes with the lyrics to each song. Add some new songs to your camp favorites or submit your favorite camp songs to be added to this worldwide index.

<http://www.nydic.org>

The National Youth Development Information Center is a great resource for program, staff, fund and youth development at many different levels. Known as a clearinghouse for youth development contacts, it also offers links to many organization-developing resources.



## Online Research Looks at Local and National Enrollment Trends

During the Michigan Section meeting at the MidStates Conference this past Spring, a question was posed by one Michigan-section conference attendee to the group: “where is your camper enrollment this year, compared to last year or previous years?” There was quite a mixed response.

While some camps were concerned that their enrollment numbers seem down, the point was also made that we may be coming out of that period of concern where parents were reluctant to send their children to camp after the events of 9/11. The current survey that ACA National is coordinating asks the enrollment question as well. Michigan camps respond that:

- 33.3%** of us find enrollment to be lower than last year
- 41.7%** are finding enrollment about the same, and
- 25.0%** indicate it is higher than last year.

This survey is currently online and you can learn more about the enrollment of camps across the country, broken down even into topics such as “Compared to last year at this time, what is your best guess at how enrollment in each of the following AGE GROUPS is progressing?” and “How did last year's enrollment compare to the highest enrollment you had in the last five years?” There is also significant and detailed information about staffing statistics and where camps find themselves at this date in the hiring season.

Filters in the survey setup allows you to view camp results relevant for you. The above results are the percentages only for ACA, Michigan section camps, but you can search any or all sections. Or, you can filter by results rather than location. For example, if your enrollment is lower than it was last year, you can view the compiled statistics of only those camps who also reported a lower enrollment. Be sure to click on “View” for the last question (“Our greatest concerns for camper enrollment are...”) to read the open-ended responses about what is happening in enrollments as reported by each camp that took the survey.

The survey is online and continuously updated as more camps contribute — and over 300 have to date. Completing the survey for your camp will make the results more valuable for all of us here in Michigan! To contribute your own data or to read what other camps have contributed already, navigate to [www.acacamps.org/research](http://www.acacamps.org/research) and follow the link to “2005 Camp Enrollment Survey.”

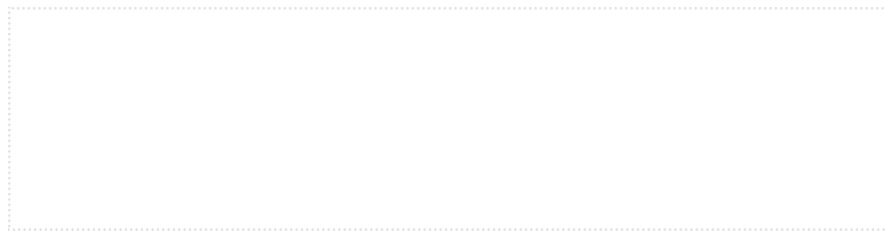
## ACA Mid States Conference Updates & Info

**VOLUNTEER!** The Mid States Website says...“The Mid States Camping Conference is entirely run by volunteers. ACA members are invited and encouraged to consider the benefits of sharing your experiences, talents, and energy to enhance this exceptional, educational experience which serves more than a thousand camp professionals each year.” Applications for positions on the Steering committee and general information about helping out at the conference can be found here: <http://www.acamidstates.org/volunteering.htm>

**PRESENT!** The Mid States Website says... “All Educational Sessions are 1 ¼ hours in length. Educational Session proposals typically include a variety of theory and hands-on sessions. Additionally, an emphasis of the conference is on staff and administration learning together. All presenters will be offered a stipend for participation.” There is currently a Call for Presentations. Forms and details can be found here: [www.acamidstates.org/callforpresentation.htm](http://www.acamidstates.org/callforpresentation.htm) (Due October 31, 2005)

**ATTEND!** Check out [www.acamidstates.org](http://www.acamidstates.org) for details, registration information, and updated info.

# The WOODPILE



## American Camp Association, Michigan CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **National Board Meeting**

#### **Fall Leadership Training on Funds Development**

#### **Field Service Meetings**

October 20 thru October 23, *Indianapolis, IN*

More info: [www.acacamps.org/fallmeetings](http://www.acacamps.org/fallmeetings)

### **Student Camp Leadership Academy**

Nov. 4-6, *Timber Pointe Outdoor Center, Bloomington, IL*

More info: [www.acacamps.org/mi/files/scla-brochure.pdf](http://www.acacamps.org/mi/files/scla-brochure.pdf)

### **ACA, Michigan Fall Conferences**

November 9 & 10

*Camp Tall Turf, Walkerville, MI*

### **ACA, Indiana Winter Conference**

November 15-16

*Country Lake Christian Retreat, Underwood, IN*

More info: Mary Beth at [education@acaIndiana.org](mailto:education@acaIndiana.org)

**ACA National Conference**, February 7-10, 2006

*Chicago Sheraton, Chicago, IL*

**ACA Midstates Conference**, April 6-8, 2006

*Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL*