

Heartbeat

ACA Heart of the South

Spring 2008

Spring Trainings

Several Spring Training Opportunities are scheduled around the section. Also, if your camp or center would like to host a spring or fall training session (either separate or along with your regular training), we would love to help you promote it. There are also mini-grants available for host sites. Contact your district chair or Celia Ward, membership chair, for more information. Camp Coleman in Trussville, AL is offering some trainings this spring. Information is posted on the HOS website or you can contact Laura Elliott for more information at (205) 655-3782.

Low Ropes--May 12-14

High Ropes--May 14-17

American Archery Association, Level 1

Instructor--May 17

CHA Seasonal Equestrian Staff Certification--May 16-18

American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification-May 23-25

American Red Cross Basic Water Rescue and Small Craft Safety--June 5

Accreditation Visits

Summer is just around the corner and the section is gearing up for another fun season of Accreditation Visits! Visit notification letters went out the first week of March and are due back to Jenny Jones by March 31st. If you have not received your visit notification letter and form yet, please contact Jenny immediately at 662-844-7577 or e-mail her at shine@girlscoutsnems.org. Visit assignments cannot be made until all forms are received, so please submit your information, along with 3 of camp brochures and directions to your camp.

Basic Standards Courses

Basic Standards Courses are MANDATORY each time a camp is due a visit. If you or a representative from your camp have not taken the NEW Basic Standards Course since October of 2006, you must make plans to attend one of the offered trainings this spring. The NEW Basic Standards Course covers materials from the Accreditation

Process Guide which was mailed to each camp in the fall of 2006. Make plans now to attend a training by contacting the person listed at the location you prefer.

Monday, April 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Tupelo, MS. Contact Jenny Jones at 800-624-4185, or email her at shine@girlscoutsnems.org.

Tuesday, April 22, 2008 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Trussville, AL. Contact Laura Elliott at 205-655-3782 or email her at LElliott19@aol.com.

Thursday, April 24, 2008, 1:00 p.m. in Lafayette, LA at the Camp BonCoeur office. Contact Susannah at 337-349-9994.

Tuesday, May 6, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Chattanooga, TN. Contact Jenny Jones at 800-624-4185 or email her at shine@girlscoutsnems.org.

Make Plans for 2008 Fall Conference

The ACA Heart of the South section will be holding its Fall Conference and Meeting at Camp Henry Jacobs, in Utica, Mississippi, November 10-12, 2008.

This year's theme will be "Get Out and Go Green: People, Places, and Programs." The theme relates to the ever-growing concern about our opportunities in leadership roles as we promote environmental responsibility. Proposals for presenters are now being accepted. Some suggested topics are: Bullying, Staff Training, Special Topics for Kitchen and Maintenance Staffs, Year-Round Programming, Day Camps, Recruitment, T-Shirt Designs, and, of course, Making Your Camp Green. Of course, these topics are not limited. If there is something you have found helpful, fact is, there are others who would find it just as useful. Proposals are to be submitted to Ben Smith by September 1. His email is ben@heartcamp.com and you can contact him at 337-233-8437.

If your proposal is accepted, the section will pay your conference registration fee.

Introducing Keynote Felder Rushing

Felder Rushing will be one of the keynote speakers at this fall's ACA HOS Conference in Utica, MS.

Felder Rushing is a defender of truth in gardening and is dedicated to educating both

children and adults. He raised his two children from the perspective that gardening is natural and easy as well as productive. While studying and teaching in youth gardens on four continents, he helped disadvantaged children build raised bed gardens in South America and Africa. As a member of the National Youth Garden Advisory Committee, the teacher and author of over a dozen gardening books helped design the Walt Disney World Kids' Garden at Epcot in Florida, and has provided many youth-oriented teacher education programs and hands-on workshops around the country. Working with Master Gardeners, librarians, and schoolteachers, he has personally designed several children's gardens in his home state of Mississippi. Believing that too many educators and scientists make gardening and environmental education more complicated than need be ("We are daunted, not dumb," he says), Rushing continually uncovers simple lessons to stimulate all the senses and inspire a new generation of gardeners--and their grownups.

--From "Meet the Author" appended to Felder's book, *dig, plant, grow: A Kid's*

Guide to Gardening.

A note from the

President

Greetings to all,

A few weeks ago at the ACA National Conference in Nashville, the Heart of the South Section shone as bright as all the stars at the Opryland Hotel. Members of our section filled key leadership roles, provided many hours of volunteer work, and throughout the entire event demonstrated what Southern Hospitality is all about. I am still receiving words of appreciation from across the country for the twelve hundred roses we passed out to participants on Valentine's Day.

One of the many great new projects revealed at the conference is the 20/20 Vision for ACA. This is a new goal for ACA that is endeavoring to increase ACA membership to 20,000 members and have 20,000,000 campers in camps by the year 2020. This is a very ambitious undertaking and will be the driving force in programs and future development of our organization. It is quite a challenge and our section will be sharing this Vision along with the rest of the sections in the country. We will be hearing more about

it as more plans are developed. I know that when the time comes, the great members of our section will be ready to do their part.

Terry Everitt
HOS President

International Camping Congress

The 8th International Camping Congress will be held in Quebec City, Canada October 4-7, 2008.

You can find information about it at www.iccquebec2008.com

ACA Basic Camp Directors Course

The Basic Camp Directors Course is a comprehensive look at the major aspects of camp administration, linking your program to your mission, then putting together all the logistics, services and supports to serve your clientele. Taught in a fun, interactive way, you'll create a model hypothetical camp from the information presented. Offered 3-4 times per year in various parts of the country. For details, contact Melanie Irvin at the National ACA Office, 800-428-2267.

April 6-10, 2008 at the JCYS Camp Henry Horner in Ingleside, IL. Registration is

available online at www.acacamps.org/education/bcdc/bcdcva.php

Tips for your ACA Accreditation Visit

The National Website has several helpful tips for those being visited this summer (or any summer)! Check them out at www.acacamps.org/accreditation. You can also check out this page for updates to add to your Accreditation Process Guide.

Websites to Check Out

Here are a list of some useful sites. If you have some, please send them in to the newsletter editor for printing in the next newsletter.

*www.animalpicturesarchive.com

I ran across this one looking for pictures to use in nature programs. You search for the animal, you get tons of color pictures available for you to print--FREE.

*www.acacamps.org/publicpolicy/regulations

Talks about state regulations and gives an overview on some.

*www.foodallergy.org

The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network. Has updates on Food Allergies and Health Concerns.

*www.acomplaintfreeworld.org

Here you can find information and news about creating a more positive world. (You can also get the purple bracelets!)

Job Opening

Camp Pemigewasset, a residential summer camp for boys located in Wentworth, New Hampshire, is searching for a new full-time director. Visit their website at www.campsemi.com. For more information, contact Fred Fauver at fauverf@maine.rr.com.

If you have any news or information that you would like to add to our newsletter, please feel free to email it to Becky Campbell at bluedog96@hotmail.com. Information that is needed immediately will be posted online.

We hope you have a fun and safe summer.