

# HEARTBEAT

ACA Heart of the South

Spring 2009

## News from Standards Chair, Jenny Jones

Well, here we go again: for some of you, this summer will bring another (or your first) ACA accreditation visit. We are offering some trainings this spring that will help you get ready.

### Basic Standards Course

Monday, March 16, 2009 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call Jenny Jones at 800-624-4185 or email her at [jenny.jones@girlscoutshs.org](mailto:jenny.jones@girlscoutshs.org) for registration information. Location and details TBA.

Friday, April 17, 2009 in Tupelo, Mississippi at the Girl Scout Office at 1800 W. Main Street. It will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. E-mail Jenny for registration.

Make sure to bring your Accreditation Process Guide with you, if you have one.

We hope to be adding other courses near you. If you have a suggestion for your area, contact Jenny. Check our section's website to see when more are added.

You can also find many standards and visitor trainings online at [www.acaheartofthesouth.org](http://www.acaheartofthesouth.org).

### Are your standards up-to-date?

If you are going through a visit in 2009, it is most likely that this is the first time you will be visited on the "new" standards that began in 2007. You also need to make sure that you have the most recent version of these standards. The latest update came in January 2008. You can download these from the ACA website, under the accreditation link.

You can download these and add them to your APG binder. An easy way to tell if you have the new ones, is to check the bottom of the page for a revision date.

### Standard Compliance Update

Standard HR-4A requires that camps check their employees against the National Sex Offender Public Registry. The website has changed its name to the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Web Site and its new address is [www.nsopw.gov](http://www.nsopw.gov). The site is free to use. If your camp uses a company that says they complete a national background check, make sure that they check this site.

## New Resource Available on-line!

### Award-Winning Parent Resource Now FREE Online--

"Dr. Jon Malinowski and I have put the entire text of The Summer Camp Handbook online," reports Dr. Chris Thurber, who is fast approaching his 30<sup>th</sup> summer at YMCA Camp Belknap. "After selling nearly 15,000 copies of this premier preparatory resource for new camper families, the publisher gave us permission to post the unabridged text online," says Chris. "Any camp that wants to make this material available to parents just needs to post a link to <http://summercamphandbook.com> on their site." Chris and Jon's book, which has been featured on the Today Show, Martha Stewart, Fox News, and CNN, won a Parenting Press Gold Award in 2003. It contains the most complete camp preparation information of any single source, including how to find the right camp, pack efficiently, prevent homesickness, sooth parental anxiety, and get the most out of the experience. To learn more, or to find out how you can advertise your camp on the site, visit <http://summercamphandbook.com> or contact Chris and Jon via: [summercamphandbook@gmail.com](mailto:summercamphandbook@gmail.com).

## Intermediate Archery Instructor Class

Level 2 Class will be held March 28-29, 2009 at "Everything Archery" in Memphis, TN.

Cost is \$200 per person. This includes cost of materials. Meals and lodging not included. You must currently hold a Level 1 archery instructor certification. Class is limited to 12 participants.

Contact Sandra Hannah to register or for more information at [jhannah986@aol.com](mailto:jhannah986@aol.com). Registration closes March 1 or when capacity is reached.

## Trainings Offered at Nantahala Outdoor

Nantahala Outdoor Center will offer several Wilderness First Responder and Wilderness First Aid courses. The partnership between NOC, the Southeast's leader in whitewater adventures and SOLO, the originators of the Wilderness Medicine certification system provides a new venue in the Southeast for classes in outdoor preparedness. For more information, visit [www.noc.com](http://www.noc.com) or [www.solosoutheast.com](http://www.solosoutheast.com).

### MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR!

2009 Fall Conference and Annual Meeting: November 16-18, 2009, Montgomery Bell State Park, TN

2010 Fall Conference and Annual Meeting: November 15-17, 2010, Camp Sumatanga, AL

## Meet a Board Member: Carrie Patterson

Carrie is the General Manager of Tim Horton Camp Kentahten located in Campbellsville, Kentucky. Tim Horton Camp Kentahten is 1 of 6 camps with the Tim Horton Children's Foundation (THCF). *"Fostering within our youth the quest for a brighter future,"* is the mission which is achieved by providing youth from economically disadvantaged backgrounds with an unforgettable camp experience at no cost. Carrie has been with the THCF since 2001 in a variety of roles and locations. Tim Horton Camp Kentahten serves kids across KY, OH, NY, NE, MI and Canada. Carrie is originally from Ontario, Canada. Prior to being part of the THCF team, she received an Honors Degree in Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University located in Waterloo, Ontario. More importantly, she has spent over 15 summers at camp beginning as a camper in 1989 at Camp Ak-o-mak and is aware of the countless positive impacts that camp can have on us all.

## Board Member welcomes new camper!

Amber Jimenez, Arkansas District Chair, along with her husband and family welcomed Nicole Sheri into this world on January 30, 2009. Nicole weighed in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Amber is the Camping Services Manager with the Girl Scouts-Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

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## 2009 Fall Conference and Annual Meeting to be held at Montgomery Bell State Park, TN

Mark your calendars now to attend. The conference and meeting will be held November 16-18, 2009. The state park is just outside Nashville, TN in Burns. Meals and Housing Reservations need to be made through the State Park. Place your reservations before October 1, 2009 and use the code 4797.

Registrations for the conference can be found on the Heart of the South website, [www.acaheartofthesouth.org](http://www.acaheartofthesouth.org). The theme for this year is "Be the Resource." If you would like to present at this year's conference or would

like more information on being a part of roundtable discussions, contact Ben "Smitty" Smith at [ben@heartcamp.com](mailto:ben@heartcamp.com) or 337-233-8437.

Tim Wheatley, the park naturalist at MBSP, will join us for a Birds of Prey program Monday night.

## Virginia Graeme Baker Act

The pool and spa safety act was signed into law in December of 2007. It allowed time for facilities to come into compliance of either December 19, 2008, or for seasonal establishments, of their opening date in 2009. For many of us with newer pools that have dual drains or anti-vortex systems, all we will need is new covers for the drains. For those with older pools, some re-construction may be necessary. To find out exactly what it will take to bring your pool up to compliance, you can contact your state health department. A local pool/spa supply retailer may also be able to tell you what is needed for your particular system.

There is some movement about the community that is trying to get the law's compliance requirement extended for another year, due to inavailability of the approved covers and systems. You can find out more about how you can get involved with this at the National Swimming Pool Foundation's website [www.nspf.org](http://www.nspf.org).

The NSPF's website is a page you will want to bookmark, as it gives updates on the VGB act, information on training, and the latest news in the pool world. There is a FAQ page for the Baker Act that is updated regularly. Another place you may want to visit for information on compliance and even a list of manufacturers of certified equipment are the Consumer Product Safety Commission [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). You should also bookmark the Centers for Disease Control's website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), as it has tons of information, handouts, updates, etc. that are helpful to all members of your camp staff.

If you have news or other submissions (such as recipes or cool ideas) for the newsletter, please feel free to email it to Becky Campbell, [bluedog96@hotmail.com](mailto:bluedog96@hotmail.com).