



City of Los Angeles
Department of Recreation and Parks
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Message to Parents

Fun And Safety — ACA Camps Set the Standard

ACA Accreditation means that the camp you are considering for your child cares enough to undergo a thorough (up to 300 standards) review of its operation — from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. American Camp Association® collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and other youth-serving agencies to assure that current practices at the camp reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation. Camps and ACA form a partnership that promotes summers of growth and fun in an environment committed to safety.

ACA Helps Accredited Camps Provide:

- Healthy, developmentally-appropriate activities and learning experiences
- Discovery through experiential education
- Sharing, competent role models
- Service to the community and the environment
- Opportunities for leadership and personal growth

The Difference Between State Licensing Of Camps And Accreditation By ACA Is

Accreditation is voluntary and ACA accreditation assures families that camps have made the commitment to a safe, nurturing environment for their children. Licensing is mandatory and requirements vary from state to state. ACA standards are recognized by courts of law and government regulators as the standards of the camp community

ACA Standards Exceed State Licensing Requirements

ACA goes beyond basic requirements for health, cleanliness, and food service into specific areas of programming, including camp staff from director through counselors, emergency management plans, health care, and management. ACA applies separate standards for activities such as waterfront, archery, and adventure and travel.

Some Of The ACA Standards That Camps Rely On Are

- Staff to camper ratios are appropriate for different age groups
- Goals for camp activities are developmentally based
- Emergency transportation available at all times
- First-aid facilities and trained staff available when campers are present