



ACA FAQs

From ACAcamps.org

What's the difference between state licensing of camps and accreditation by ACA?

Accreditation is voluntary and ACA accreditation assures families that the Phoenix Ranch Camp has made the commitment to a safe, nurturing environment for children. If a state requires licensing, it is mandatory; licensing requirements vary from state to state. ACA standards are recognized by courts of law and government regulators as the 'best practice' standards of the camp community.

How do ACA standards exceed state licensing requirements?

ACA goes beyond basic requirements for health, cleanliness, and food service into specific areas of programming, camp staff, and emergency management plans. ACA applies separate standards for activities such as swimming, horseback riding, and adventure and travel.

What are some of the ACA standards that camps rely on?

- 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

Does ACA accreditation require criminal background checks?

ACA accreditation standards require a staff screening system which include criminal background checks, where permitted by law. In addition, all staff are checked annually against National Sex Offenders Registry. When selecting a camp, talk to the camp director about the hiring and screening process for all staff.

How can I verify that my child's camp is ACA accredited?

Parents can (and should) verify the accreditation status of any camp at any time by visiting ACA's Web site at www.ACAcamps.org or by calling 1-800-428-CAMP.

If your child's camp isn't ACA-accredited, ask **WHY NOT?**

Keep in Mind — Informed parents are best prepared to select a camp that meets their standards for staff, programs, safety, and facilities and strives to promote the welfare of every child.