



Guest Affiliate Information

The Western Association of Independent Camps (WAIC) is a professional organization of independent camps dedicated to improving and maintaining high standards and quality in organized camps. Since 1951, members of WAIC have been meeting together and sharing ideas, methods, and best practices and have gained from the experience and knowledge of others. WAIC camp owners and directors know that their camps are stronger because of this organization and their commitment to participation and collaboration.

OUR MISSION

To lead and guide the organized camp industry in excellence and longstanding sustainability.

WE BELIEVE IN...

- **Enriching the Lives of Children and the Greater Community as a Whole** - The more children in camp, the better our world
- **The Value of the Organized Camping Experience**
- **Creating Inclusive Environments**
- **A Commitment to Integrity** - Honesty, Ethical Conduct, Trust
- **Robust Collaborative Community** - Open sharing of ideas and supporting one another to build and operate businesses that last - Active development & sharing intellectual property & resources - Proactive and adaptive leaders in camp
- **Professionalism** - Quality, Excellence, Education, Best Practices
- **Having Fun**

Guest Affiliate Member Benefits

All members of WAIC enjoy a variety of benefits that will strengthen the total camp operation.

- Camp **networking** and community support
- Open **sharing** of ideas and information
- Opportunity to interact with **well established** leaders of organized camps
- WAIC is **nationally recognized** as a leader in camping
- Strong **leadership** from Member Camps and Camp Directors
- Members are required to **participate**
- Focus** on the needs and concerns of Independent Camps
- All WAIC Member Camps are **ACA accredited**
- Diversity** of camps, regions and camp experiences
- Annual Conference with outstanding speakers and on-going education for **professional growth**
- Section Meetings with open and candid **discussion** of important topics
- WAIC List online **communication** with valuable updates on important issues and educational articles

Additional benefits after reaching Member Camp status include:

- Listing and link on **common staff application** website
- Access to online WAIC **Resource Library** to share ideas and information
- Listing on the WAIC website with a **link to your camp** in “Explore Camps” and “Work @ Camp”
- Authority to use the **WAIC logo** which provides your camp with another level of **credibility**
- Encourages **professionalism** among camp owners and camp directors
- Provides a **high standard** and Code of Ethics for all Member Camps

Eligibility Standards

WAIC Eligibility Standards Checklist:

- The camp must be accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA) for at least two (2) years prior to the date WAIC Member status is conferred.
- The camp is an independent camp that has been in operation for at least four (4) years as of the date membership is conferred.
- The camp complies with WAIC and ACA ethical standards (there must be no outstanding ethical complaints).
- The camp has at least ten (10) campers at one time.
- The camp has been visited by a WAIC representative.

The designated director of the camp meets the following qualifications:

- Four years of administrative experience in an ACA accredited camp;
- A current ACA member;
- At least 25 years of age;
- Endorses the ACA and WAIC Code of Ethics;
- Attended two consecutive WAIC Annual Conferences;
- Attended two consecutive WAIC Annual Business Meetings;
- Attended two WAIC Section Meetings each year;
- Paid the annual ACA dues;
- Participated annually in continuing education.

Membership Agreement

- * Each active camp pays annual dues.
- * Each active camp submits a factual listing for the WAIC website.
- * A designated director or camp representative with proxy attends at least two WAIC section meetings annually.
- * A designated director or camp representative with proxy attends the annual WAIC conference and the Annual Meeting.
- * Each active Member Camp submits the annual report survey of camp activities, enrollment, health and supervision statistics by the requested date.
- * All active camp members are expected to be active in their local sections of the American Camp Association as well as WAIC.
- * Each member is expected to participate in the operation of the association by becoming involved in elected duties, appointed responsibilities and volunteering for conferences and section meetings.

WAIC Code of Ethics

1. I will assist other camp directors and staff members by sharing such information and advice as can be imparted without detriment to myself or my work.
2. I will be truthful in representing my camp.
3. I will be truthful and professional in dealing with Member Camps.
4. I will be truthful and fair in enrolling campers and in my relationship with campers and parents.
5. I will provide a clearly written camper enrollment policy, including fees charges for services, discounts, refunds and stated policy for dismissal.
6. I will be truthful and fair in negotiating with prospective staff members and maintain in professional confidence staff information, observations or evaluations.
7. I will consider it my professional duty to share information that will protect children and create a safe camp environment.
8. I will honor my financial commitments and contracts with parents, staff and vendors.

Membership Pledge

As a member of the Western Association of Independent Camps, I agree to maintain the approved standards of the American Camp Association and to live up to the principles outlined in the American Camp Association Code of Ethics, in order that:

1. Organized camping will be conducted on the highest possible level.
2. The conduct of my business affairs, as a camp administrator, is ethical in all of my relationships with children, parents, other camp directors, my camp staff and vendors.
3. All concerned may gain from this cooperative relationship of camp directors, working together and striving to improve camping in its many aspects.

Questions?

For questions regarding WAIC and the membership application process, please contact Association Manager, Chelsea Rowe, at membership@waic.org or by calling (949) 407-9242. Please visit our website at www.WAIC.org for an application and more information.

**PROFESSIONALISM.
COMMUNITY.
EXCELLENCE.** 

Application Process

Getting started:

1. Complete a Guest Affiliate Application Form and submit it to the Association Office. The WAIC Board of Directors will review the application and vote on the acceptance as a Guest Affiliate member.
2. Pay the Guest Affiliate dues of \$300 per year to the Association Office. The fee is waived for the first year as a Guest Affiliate. Guest Affiliates are also required to attend two consecutive annual conferences to complete membership requirements (estimated expenses of \$1000-\$1200 are needed for the conference, registration and hotel).
3. Based on location, your camp will be assigned to a section within WAIC (Northern California, Southern California, or Silver States).
4. Prior to becoming a Member Camp of WAIC, the camp must meet all of the WAIC Eligibility Standards. A camp may initiate the Guest Affiliate Status without meeting all of the WAIC Eligibility Standards, however, before becoming a Member Camp of WAIC, all requirements must be met. A camp may be a Guest Affiliate for up to five (5) years.
5. The Guest Affiliate has the rights of full membership, except:
 - Guest Affiliates may not use the WAIC logo on advertising or website;
 - Guest Affiliates have no voting privileges;
 - Guest Affiliates will not be listed in the WAIC Directory or on WAIC.org;
 - Guest Affiliates may not attend closed sessions of the WAIC Annual Meeting;
 - Guest Affiliates will not receive a copy of or have access to the WAIC Annual Report.
6. The designated director of a Guest Affiliate camp must attend at least two consecutive annual WAIC conferences and at least two section meetings per year.
7. The Guest Affiliate camp will be inducted as a Member Camp of WAIC after all of the WAIC Eligibility Standards are met. This process will take no less than two years. Camps are inducted as Member Camps at the third consecutive annual conference if all other Eligibility Standards have been met.
8. Once a camp has been inducted into WAIC as a Member Camp, annual dues are \$750.



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www.waic.org