



## **Netop receives national accreditation**

The American Camp Association (ACA) announced in 2007 that Netop has achieved accreditation status. ACA accreditation means that Netop submitted to a thorough (approximately 300 standards) review of its operation by the American Camp Association – from staff qualifications and training to emergency management – and complied with the highest standards in the industry. ACA's nationally-recognized standards program focuses primarily on the program quality, health and safety aspects of a camp's operation. Accreditation indicates Netop's total commitment to health and safety and the highest quality experience for its campers.

Q: What areas of Netop's operation were reviewed in the accreditation process?

A: There are nearly 300 standards in 9 key areas of operation:

- Facilities & food service
- Transportation
- Health & wellness
- Operational management
- Human resources
- Program design and activities
- Aquatics activities & management
- Program adventure & challenge
- Trips & travel

Q: How does ACA establish the accreditation standards?

A: 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.

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

A: 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.

Q: How do ACA standards exceed state licensing requirements?

A: ACA goes beyond basic requirements for health, facilities, cleanliness, and food service into specific areas of programming, including camp staff, waterfront procedures, emergency management plans, health care and management. ACA applies separate standards for activities such as boating, archery, adventure trips, transportation and events out of camp.