

## **SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

The CampWest Conference opening session begins at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, 2007.

### **Wednesday, March 14, 2007**

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Pre-conference Courses and Workshops  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm Ticketed Events – Cheri Torres & Jim Cain  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm Las Vegas City Tour  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm New Director Orientation Course  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm Standards Course  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm Standards Update Course  
9:00 pm – 4:00 pm Visitor Update Course  
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Ticketed Event – Mike Anderson  
5:30 p.m. Section Gatherings  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Opening General Session – Faith Evans & Jim Cain

### **Thursday, March 15, 2007**

9:00 am – 10:15 am Interactive General session – Cheri Torres  
10:30 am – 12:00 pm General Session – Dr. Stephen Sroka  
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Standards visitor, Instructor Informal Gathering  
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Great Conversations  
2:00 pm – 5:15 pm Special Ticketed Sessions  
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Interest Sessions  
3:45 pm – 5:15 pm Interest Sessions  
Evening Optional Fun Activities

### **Friday, March 16, 2007**

9:00 am – 10:30 am Interest Sessions  
10:45 am – 12:00 pm Mini General Session – Faith Evans & Chris Thurber  
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch for Sale Inside/Outside Exhibit Hall  
12:00 pm – 7:30 pm Exhibit Hall  
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Great Conversations  
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Interest Sessions  
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Exhibit Hall Activities  
3:45 pm – 4:15 pm Great Conversations  
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm Interest Sessions  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm Exhibit Hall Dinner and Activities  
Evening Optional Fun Activities

### **Saturday, March 17, 2007**

9:00 am – 12:15 pm Special Ticketed Sessions  
9:00 am – 10:30 am Interest Sessions  
10:45 am – 12:15 pm Interest Sessions  
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch  
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Closing Session – Christine Stevens & Faith Evans  
3:15 pm – 5:15 pm Post-conference Courses and Workshops  
Evening Optional Fun Activities

### **Sunday, March 18, 2007**

11:30 am – 4:00 pm Mini Hoover Dam Tour

*\*Schedule subject to change*

## **SPEAKER BIOS**

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Cheri Torres** is a doctoral student in Educational Psychology/Collaborative Learning at the University of Tennessee and an educational/organizational consultant with MTC Associates, LLC emphasizing sustainable, transformational learning. She has authored or co-authored numerous articles and books including *Dynamic Relationships: Unleashing the Power of Appreciative Inquiry in Daily Living*, *The Appreciative Facilitator: A Handbook for Facilitators and Teachers*, *From Conflict to Collaboration*, and *Inspire Cooperation: Teaching Young People to Manage Conflict*. In addition, she co-designed and patented Mobile Team Challenge, an award winning, innovative portable low ropes course.

**Dr. Stephen Sroka** is an award winning educator (Disney Health Teacher of the Year, National Teachers Hall of Fame), author (*Educator's Guide to HIV/AIDS and other STD's*), and has presented to millions of students and adults around the world. Dr. Sroka is President of Health Education Consultants and is an Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, Division of Adolescent Health, Case Western Reserve University. He delivers cutting edge information and skills in an entertaining, motivating, and inspirational presentation that lets theory translate into practice. Dr. Sroka's spirited programs bring to life the belief that you have the **Power of One** to change schools, communities and lives to help make sure that no child is left on his or her behind. He has been a guest on *Oprah* and featured in *USA TODAY*.

**Faith Evans, M.Ed.** is owner of Playfully, Inc., a nationally recognized staff trainer, author, speaker and player. She is highly acclaimed for her informative and interactive conference presentations and for making action-learning FUN and applicable to camp! Faith's professional history in the world of camping spans 40 years. Faith is co-author of *99 of the Best Corporate Experiential Games We Know* and a new book, soon to be published, *The More the Merrier, Lead Playful Activities with Large Groups, Why, What and How*.

**Christine Stevens** is an internationally acclaimed author, music therapist, and speaker. The founder of UpBeat Drum Circles, she has appeared on NBC, CBS and Living Better TV. She is a frequent contributing writer for a variety of health magazines on music and wellness. She has drummed with many Fortune 500 companies internationally, students at ground zero and most recently survivors of Katrina in New Orleans. She is the author of *The Healing Drum Kit* and *The Art and Heart of Drum Circles*.

## **FEATURED SPEAKERS**

**Chris Thurber, Ph.D.** is a board-certified clinical psychologist, author, father, and consultant. A graduate of Harvard University, Chris co-authored the critically acclaimed *Summer Camp Handbook*, and recently published a DVD/CD set for new camper families entitled *The Secret Ingredients of Summer Camp Success*. With over 30 years of camping experience Chris has written for *Camping Magazine*, and he has shared his youth development expertise on the *Today Show*, *CBS Morning News*, NPR, and PBS.

**Mike Anderson, M.Ed.** has worked in all areas related to adventure play, community building and team development for 13 years. He is author to *Teambuilding Puzzles* as well as contributor to numerous other texts on adventure play. Mike is owner and Executive Director of Petra Cliffs, a senior partner in Ezra Holland Consulting; a Sausalito, CA based consulting firm as well as senior trainer for Challenge Works; a Santa Cruz, CA based ropes course construction company Mike's specialty areas are conflict resolution, peer mediation training and the development of bully prevention programs for camps and schools.

**Scott Arizala, B.A.** has been involved in camping as a camper, counselor, administrator and consultant for over twenty years. Scott is a double major in Sociology & Psychology with a concentration in Gender Studies. Professionally he has worked with kids of all ages and stages as a Preschool Teacher, Social Worker, Camp Director and Consultant, with his own company, The Camp Counselor. He has spoken at numerous ACA conferences and other professional events.

**Deb Bialeschki, Ph.D.** is currently on the American Camp Association's Research team as the Senior Researcher. She is also a Professor Emeritus from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill after 20 years of faculty service in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies. Deb's research interests include youth development, the value of outdoor experiences, gender perspectives, and evaluation.

**Jim Cain, Ph.D.** is the owner of Teamwork & Teamplay and a former Executive Director for the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT). He is the author of five adventure-based teambuilding texts: *Teamwork & Teamplay*, *The Book on Raccoon Circles*; *A Teachable Moment*; *Teambuilding Puzzles*; and *The Value of Connection - In the Workplace*. He holds four engineering degrees. He frequently serves as a visiting professor and staff development specialist on subjects ranging from teambuilding and experiential education using adventure-based and active learning strategies to corporate culture and leadership.

**Michelle Cummings, M.Ed.** is the Big Wheel and creator of her business Training Wheels Inc. Michelle has created a wide variety of facilitation, debriefing and reviewing activities that have collectively changed the way experiential educators and trainers work. Michelle has authored three books, *A Teachable Moment*, *a Facilitator's Guide to Activities for Processing, Debriefing, Reviewing, and Reflection*, *Bouldering Games for Kids*, *an Educational Guide for Traverse Walls* and *Playing With a Full Deck, 52 Team Activities Using a Deck of Cards*.

**Jennifer Selke, Ph.D.** is a University of California, Berkeley Camp Director, Professor, and School Psychologist. She is in her 16th year running summer recreation and after school programs. Currently the director of a summer camp at U.C. Berkeley, Jennifer has also run youth programs for the U.S. Air Force and was the Director of Research and Evaluation at the Positive Coaching Alliance at Stanford University. Jennifer is a speaker at national conferences on youth and training issues.

## PROGRAM

### KEY

**General Session:** Create an esprit de corps throughout the conference based upon the conference theme. Open to all.

**Ticketed Event:** In-depth exploration of a specific topic. Most have additional cost, pre-registration required.

**Interest Session:** Designed to give you nuggets of wisdom and help focus attention toward the summer ahead. Open to all.

**Great Conversations:** Facilitated informal discussion time. Bring your questions and answers! Open to all.

**Commerce Session:** Presenter will be promoting a specific product to enhance the educational component. Open to all.

*\$ Ticketed Event: Advanced Purchase Required. CHECK REGISTRATION AND INSERTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN ADDED POST-PRINTING OF THIS PROGRAM BOOK.*

### Wednesday, March 14, 2007

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

#### **\$ Las Vegas City Tour**

**Hotel Lobby**

Gray Line shows you the historic and the modern Las Vegas on our City Tour. From the gambling Meccas to the homes of our pioneers and the new residential areas - you'll see it all. Walk along Heritage Street at the Clark County Museum, where a collection of actual historic homes & other important buildings of that period have been restored. The museum is a place where you will discover the rich and colorful history of Southern Nevada's early residents. We'll tour along the Strip, Glitter Gulch as your driver/guide entertains you with stories about legendary figures like Bugsy Siegel, Benny Binion who started the World Championship Poker Tournament and other early gambling legends. Visit the Fremont Street Experience in Downtown Las Vegas. See the Neon Museum, Government Center and Las Vegas' own China Town. This tour will leave and return from the Alexis Park Hotel. Your tour tickets will be included in your registration packet at Camp West check in. A minimum number of participants must register for this event, in order for it to run, so please encourage your friends and co-workers to register early! \$38/person

#### **\$ Conflict: An Invitation To Deepen Our Relationships!**

**Apollo 7**

*Cheri Torres, Educational & Organizational Consultant, MTC Associates, LLC*

This workshop will explore the nature of conflict from the practical viewpoint of relationship and collaborative learning. Participants will engage in activities designed specifically to teach groups to work in ways that capitalize on controversy, diversity, and differences in perspective. Expect to learn something about parallel thinking strategies, dialogue, collaborative inquiry, mutuality, and ways of generating shared solutions. Leave with activities you can do with campers and staff and a new perspective that just might have you smiling excitedly the next time conflict emerges! \$75/person

#### **\$ A Day of Teamwork & Teamply**

**Athena**

*Jim Cain, Ph.D., Owner, Teamwork & Teamply*

Join author and teambuilding expert Dr. Jim Cain, for a full day of activities that will build unity, community, connection and teamwork first with your staff, and then also with your campers this season. Learn dozens of simple team activities that build valuable life skills, without breaking your limited budget. Participants will get to choose one of Jim's teambuilding texts or useful teambuilding props as part of your workshop fee. \$75/person

**9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

#### **\$ New Director Orientation**

**Apollo 4**

*Jennifer "Dot" Mains, Camp Director, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times*

*Kat Shreve, Director of Education, American Camp Association*

A special eight hour session for seasonal or new camp directors, assistant directors, program directors or persons that have been in other administrative positions and are considering directing camp. This is an overview of all the aspects of the director's job with its primary focus on summer operation. It is an interactive session that includes risk management, camper behavior and staff training and supervision. \$60/ACA Member, \$70/Non-member

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

#### **Standards Update Course**

**Apollo 3**

*Denise Thomson, Standards Instructor, ACA, Northern California*

This course is designed for the person experienced in guiding a camp through the accreditation process. It is an orientation to the revised standards and is a requirement for an experienced camp director before going through a visit. This course is also the first part of the visitor update course. Advanced registration required. Bring your Accreditation Process Guide. FREE

## **Standards Course**

**Apollo 6**

*Tina Fisher, Standards Instructor, ACA, Southern California/Hawaii*

*Jennifer Young, Standards Instructor, ACA, Northern California*

This is a basic course for persons new to standards that cover the accreditation process and an overview of the new standards. This course is a requirement for standards visits with new camps or directors and is expected to assist the camp in preparing for that visit. Advanced registration required. Bring your Accreditation Process Guide. FREE

## **9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

### **Visitor Update Course**

**Apollo 3**

*Denise Thomson, Standards Instructor, ACA, Northern California*

This course is an update for current visitors and consists of the Standards Update Course and a special module specifically designed for visitors. Advanced registration required. FREE

## **2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

### **\$ Applications of Learning Strategies in Adventure Play Programming**

**Zeus A**

*Mike Anderson, M.Ed., Senior Partner, Ezra Holland Consulting*

Based on the work of Dr. Marsha Tate, this workshop will explore the application of most if not all of the 20 learning strategies identified by Dr. Tate and their relationship to adventure based learning. Through the participation in numerous adventure activities we'll play our way to understanding and create individual action steps to incorporate these all so commonly overlooked learning strategies in camp activities, especially adventure programming. \$30/person

## **5:30 pm – 6:45 pm**

### **Section Dinner Gatherings**

This is a GREAT opportunity to socialize and enjoy the company of others from your section. Your section leadership will update you on current affairs in you area and provide you with a fantastic networking opportunity.

A la carte food options available for purchase.

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Evergreen/Oregon Trail Combination | <b>Apollo 5-6</b> |
| ■ Rocky Mountain                     | <b>Apollo 4</b>   |
| ■ Northern California                | <b>Apollo 7</b>   |
| ■ Southern California/Hawaii         | <b>Athena</b>     |
| ■ Southwest Section                  | <b>Apollo 3</b>   |

## **7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

### **Opening General Session: "A Clear Line of Sight"**

**Parthenon Ballroom**

*Faith Evans, Owner, Playfully Inc.*

*Jim Cain, Owner, Teamwork and Teamplay*

Can we catch emotions from others like a cold? "We certainly can", says Daniel Goleman in his new book, Social Intelligence. Join Faith Evans as she sets the stage for exploring some of Goleman's theories of social intelligence while building the relationships of our conference community. Our brains are wired to connect and we certainly will through a lively multimedia session of positive emotion, interactive dialogue and play. Jim Cain will join Faith to help us build community through music and dance. They'll help you set your clear line of sight through the conference and right into your camp.

## **Thursday, March 15, 2007**

## **9:00 am – 10:15 am**

### **Interactive General Session: "Stop, Look, and Listen! Building Relationships that Last!"**

**Parthenon Ballroom**

*Cheri Torres, Educational & Organizational Consultant, MTC Associates, LLC*

We heard these three words many times while learning to cross a road safely. They are just as important for building healthy, positive and sustainable relationships. The power of words is incredible and words create relationships that create the world! Join Cheri Torres as she helps us explore how these three words challenge our thoughts, focus, language and actions. Learn how to build positive relationships with campers, colleagues, and parents.

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**General Session: "The Power of One! Make a Difference in Children's Lives"**

**Parthenon Ballroom**

*Dr. Stephen Sroka, Educator and Author*

Dr. Stephen Sroka's high energy presentation integrates cutting-edge research, including brain based learning, social and emotional intelligence, media literacy, character education, and youth and asset development programs. Using humor and real-life stories, he inspires building positive camper and family relationships. This session will explore how camp staff can address the whole child- socially, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. You will leave knowing you have the Power of One to make a difference in children's lives.

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

Lunch on Your Own

**12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

**Standards Visitor, Instructor Informal Gathering**

**Apollo 4**

If you are a standards visitor or instructor, join us for a celebration and informal discussion regarding anything standards! Beverages and snacks will be provided. Lunch will be available for purchase.

**1:00 pm – 1:30 pm**

**Great Conversations**

**Zeus Foyer**

*Faith Evans, Owner, Playfully Inc.*

If you like a good discussion, you won't want to miss "Great Conversations," a series of interviews with some of our veteran, expert, seasoned, experienced, and most honored and recognized contributors to the world of professional camping. This is your opportunity to ask them the secrets to their success!

**2:00 pm – 5:15 pm**

**\$ Recognizing and Overcoming the 5 Dysfunctions of a Summer Camp Team**

**Zeus A**

*Mike Anderson, M.Ed., Senior Partner, Ezra Holland Consulting*

Based on the best selling book; *The 5 Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni; this workshop will explore the 5 dysfunctions of a team, discuss how to recognize them and finally provide strategies on how to combat them using initiatives as tools. Through active learning and adventure activities, we'll play our way to success. \$30/person

**\$ A Teachable Moment, Processing the Experience**

**Zeus B**

*Michelle Cummings, Ph.D., Author and Creator, Training Wheels Inc.*

Need more to processing than sitting in a circle, asking questions, and talking about what happened? This workshop is based on the book, *A Teachable Moment, A Facilitator's Guide to Activities for Processing, Debriefing, Reviewing, and Reflection*. It will give you access to 30+ different processing tools that are simple and easy to use. Increase the quality and value of your programs through powerful reflective learning. These processing activities will help you creatively get your participants to take responsibility and ownership for their experiences and transfer those experiences to real life situations. \$30/person

**\$ Cracking Kids' Secret Code**

**Apollo 4**

*Chris Thurber, Ph.D., Board-certified Clinical Psychologist, Author and Consultant*

All children speak two languages: What-they-say and What-they-mean. Learning to hear the underlying message in what children say is the fastest way to cultivate the kinds of respectful relationships that increase compliance and decrease behavior problems. Entertaining video clips give staff lots of practice using this advanced technique. \$30/person

**2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**You Be the Judge and Jury Part I**

**Apollo 3**

*Ian Garner, National Director of Camp and Youth Relations, Markel Insurance Company*

Was the camp and/or staff right or wrong? You be the Judge and Jury as we examine real camp insurance claims and situations. You'll determine what happened, how it might have been prevented, what the outcome was and what risk management lessons can be learned from other's experiences. This session continues from 3:45-5:15.

**Flash Judgments--Creating a more Respectful Camp Culture****Apollo 5***Robin VanWinkle, M. Ed, 4-H Faculty, Oregon State University**Wells, 4-H Faculty, Oregon State University*

Research has shown that people make “flash judgments” about intelligence, credibility, likeability, health, politics, race, ethnicity, gender and age among other things in the first 40 seconds of meeting someone. Creating a respectful culture where all people are valued is an important goal of any camp setting. This session will take participants through a series of video clips, activities, and discussion questions to discover the biases that creep into our behaviors without even knowing it. Participants will learn activities that can be used at camp staff trainings to help everyone appreciate each other.

**Gossip, Backbiting and Drama: Relational Aggression at Camp****Apollo 6***Gretchen Vaughn, Staff Specialist, Girl Scouts, Mile High Council*

Take a fresh look at what you think a bully is, especially in girls. Can you tell the difference between relationship drama and emotional violence? Awareness is the key to stopping relational bullying.

**Standards Q and A****Apollo 7***Dan Gelineau, President/Owner, Camp and School Consulting**Michele Branconier, Executive Director, ACA, Southern California/Hawaii*

You've been to a Standards course or update using the new Accreditation Process Guide (APG) and you have questions! Get the answers at this open forum session.

**Recruiting Latino Youth to Participate in Resident Camp****Apollo 8***Mario Magana, 4-H Regional Educator, Assistant Professor, Oregon State University*

Looking for ideas and answers on how to Recruit Latino Youth to Residential Camps? This workshop describes some of the challenges and barriers in recruiting Latino youth for residential camps and strategies used to overcome these barriers. Using the Oregon 4-H Latino Olympic Summer Camp as a model we will focus on the process used to create a resident summer camp that has enjoyed great success in engaging Latino middle school and high school youth, college students, and professionals. We will share three years of successful camp experience on Residential Camps for Latino Youth in Oregon.

**Camper "Foodies"****Athena***Tina Fisher, Owner, Sushi U*

We need it to survive, we use it to socialize, and we can develop very picky likes and dislikes. Yes – it's food! Food exists in camp on a daily basis – but are your campers just consumers, or are they future foodies? Learn to take food to the next level with your campers – from safety, to skill development, to tasting, to planning. We'll also take a look at the power of food – how it energizes, relaxes, and even affects mood. (Good to know for menu planning!)

**Programming With the Brain in Mind****Zeus C***Mike Ashcraft, Founder and CEO, Children's Choice*

How can you create a program that promotes brain development, a program that kids will remember positively for many years? Attend this workshop! This training addresses cutting-edge neuroscience and the practical applications of this information through intentional programming in school-age care, with the purpose of facilitating positive development. We will discuss what needs to be present and what needs to be eliminated in programs for young brains to develop positively.

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm****You Be the Judge and Jury Part II****Apollo 3***Ian Garner, National Director of Camp and Youth Relations, Markel Insurance Company*

We will share and discuss current statistical accident and loss trends in camping. What type of accidents are really happening in camps? We will provide recommendations for increasing camper and staff safety as well as suggestions for helping your staff become more safety conscious. Continuation of 2:00 – 3:30 session.

**Commerce Session: Search Engine Marketing/Online Marketing****Apollo 5***Evan Heltay, President and CEO, MySummerCamps.com & AllensGuide.com*

Camp professionals involved in the four critical issue areas understand the strength of the internet in distributing their message to a broader audience. Many are building websites and waiting to found. The best way to become more visible is to understand the tools of Search Engine Optimization, keyword search, and targeted traffic. Although this terminology may seem daunting, Evan Heltay can explain it simply and effectively.

**Using Emotional Intelligence...Especially Under Stress****Apollo 6***Cheri Torres, Educational/Organizational Consultant, MTC Associates, LLC*

Have you ever been on the edge of "losing it" because there is too much on your plate, you just can't take it any more, or they just don't understand? You're not alone! Come explore your capacity to stay cool and move gracefully through even the most stressful times. Discover the key elements to increasing your emotional intelligence and competence in the face of stress.

**Standards Documentation-The "Write" Stuff****Apollo 7***Kat Shreve, Director of Education, American Camp Association*

Whether new or a veteran, we've all struggled with how to work with staff to document our work. Accreditation is the synthesis of policy, practice, and documentation, but sometimes challenging to put into writing. Join us as we share ways to document the toughies: challenge course, skills verification for program and food service staff, various logs, outcome evaluations, and more.

**PROTECTScreen-Your Access to the FBI for Criminal Background Checks of Volunteers****Apollo 8***Sharon Kosch, Chair, National ACA Public Policy Committee**Jane Sanborn, National ACA Public Policy Committee*

Find out about ACA's exciting new partnership with the FBI that allows ACA-accredited camps to submit fingerprints of their volunteers to the FBI. This criminal background check program, authorized by the PROTECT Act, costs \$18 and provides the camp with a determination of the fitness of a volunteer to serve based upon criterion developed by a partnership of youth serving organizations. Turn around time is less than seven business days! Session will also provide basic information on background checks in general.

**Dancing in Lines, Squares and Circles****Athena***Jim Cain, PhD., Owner, Teamwork and Teamplay*

Join third generation square dance caller and musician Jim Cain as he demonstrates how to build community using music, singing and dancing.

**Getting Along: Teaching Social Skills at Camp!****Zeus C***Mike Ashcraft, Founder and CEO, Children's Choice*

How can you guarantee a strong-sense of community in your camp? Attend this training! This training focuses on the intentional teaching of interpersonal and intra-personal social skills such as confidence, control, coping, curiosity, communication, conflict resolution, and community building. It is filled with many practical methods to teach social skills through direct, situational and integrated teaching in camp.

**6:00 p.m.****Hotel Lobby**

Evening Optional Fun Activities

**Friday, March 16, 2007****9:00 am – 10:30 am****Hot Topics and Trends in Camp Regulations, Laws and Public Policy Issues****Apollo 3***Sharon Kosch, Chair, National ACA Public Policy Committee**Jane Sanborn, National Public Policy Committee*

Discuss the trends and hot topics emerging in Washington, D.C. and the States that are relevant to camps including camp regulations, laws, and other policy-related issues such as minimum wage, immigration, public lands issues, criminal background checks and more. Anyone interested in legislative and policy matters is invited to attend.

**Making Program Matter--Designing Program to Meet Developmental Needs of Campers****Apollo 4***Cathy Scheder, Director, Camp Nicolet**Maggie Braun, Director, Camp WeHaKee*

Relationships, Safety, Challenge, Involvement... would these describe your program? Intentional program is a critical component of youth development. Join us for a step by step process that models key staff training to get your staff to understand their role in your camper development. Session is appropriate for administrative staff, program directors and area heads or directors. Participants will walk away with usable tools and tips to enhance staff training.

### **Addressing Self-Harm Issues at Camp**

**Apollo 5**

*Marah Lyvers, Camp Director, Tom Sawyer Camps*

*John Beitner, Executive Director, Tumbleweed Day Camp*

You find out a camper in your care is slashing or involved in another form of self harm. Do you have a plan of how to help? What signs should you look for if you suspect someone is in crisis? What is in your “tool belt” of resources, because chances are this problem is not an “if” but a “when.” Come to this session and learn how to identify and respond to the rising critical issue of Self Harm and Destructive Behavior.

### **What You See Is What You Get” A look at Behavior Based Interviews**

**Apollo 6**

*Tom Neilson, Executive Director, ACA Evergreen and Oregon Trails Sections*

Do you get “Surprises” when new hires get to camp and don’t seem to match how they presented themselves in the interview? Perhaps a different interview style might help.

**Fri 9:00-10:30**

### **Friendly Faces in Friendly Spaces**

**Apollo 7**

*Art Harrison & Don Marnar, Landscape Architects, Snyder & Associates*

A discussion of how positive and negative spatial relationships between persons and the common physical structures they utilize, within and intentional small community can influence the outcome of the experience.

### **Special Needs of Campers with Diabetes and Associated Diseases**

**Apollo 8**

*Cheryl Sheppard, Executive Director, Gales Creek Camp Foundation*

With the rise in childhood diabetes and other associated diseases such as Celiac Disease, it's likely that some of your campers will need some special accommodations. Learn how to plan for these campers including special diets and medication management.

### **The World of Raccoon Circles**

**Athena**

*Jim Cain, PhD., Owner, Teamwork and Teamplay*

Join author Jim Cain for the newest Raccoon Circle activities from around the world. A new version of the book is now available, recently revised and greatly expanded, just in time for your camping season. Learn how to lead hundreds of group activities with only minimal equipment.

### **Playing with a Full Deck**

**Zeus A**

*Michelle Cummings, M. Ed., Big Wheel and Creator, Training Wheels, Inc.*

This workshop will be based on the new book, *Playing with a Full Deck*, 52 Team Activities Using a Deck of Cards, by Michelle Cummings. Sometimes the simplest prop can be the best item in your bag of tricks. This workshop will be jam packed with over 10 of the best experiential activities out there using a simple deck of playing cards. Activities will range in style from diversity, icebreakers, problem solving, communication, debriefing, and social norms. Come prepared to play a lot and learn even more. Jokers welcome.

### **Activity-Based Learning for the Adolescent Brain**

**Zeus B-C**

*Jennifer Selke, PhD., Professor, Camp Director, School Psychologist, University of California, Berkeley*

*Mike Anderson, M.Ed., Owner/Executive Director, Petra Cliffs*

*Kennerly deForest, President, Challenge Works, Inc.*

Looking for a deeper understanding of the teen brain and how to more effectively run programs and trainings? From reading facial cues and describing intrapersonal feelings to organizing, planning and problem solving, teen brains are undergoing a major neurological overhaul that effects how they learn and play. In this session you will learn some basics of teen brain development as it relates to camp programming and training. You will also learn a few activities that you can use with this group as well as processing techniques specifically for teens.

**10:45 am – 12:00 pm**

### **Mini General Session: "Relating Through T-Shirts – What Are They Saying?"**

**Zeus Ballroom**

*Faith Evans, Owner, Playfully Inc.*

*Chris Thurber, Ph.D., Board-certified Clinical Psychologist, Author and Consultant*

T-shirts are as common at camp as sun, sandals, and s'mores – and as diverse and colorful as the people who wear them. Ever wonder why someone dons a particular t-shirt? Is there a message to be sent, an intention to be decoded, or a relationship to be established? Join Chris Thurber and Faith Evans for a fun, insightful session that unlocks T-shirt mysteries, metaphor, and mirth. *Participants are encouraged to come wearing their own favorite t-shirt...perhaps with a message.*

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

Lunch for Sale Inside/Outside Exhibit Hall

**12:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

**Exhibit Hall**

**Parthenon Ballroom**

**1:00 pm – 1:30 pm**

**Great Conversations**

**Zeus Foyer**

*Faith Evans, Owner, Playfully Inc.*

If you like a good discussion, you won't want to miss "Great Conversations," a series of interviews with some of our veteran, expert, seasoned, experienced, and most honored and recognized contributors to the world of professional camping. This is your opportunity to ask them the secrets to their success!

**2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Commerce Session: On the Move with Speed Stacking: Sport stacking and Fitness Fun!**

**Zeus B**

*Daniel Wolff, Education Team Representative, Speed Stacks*

Attendees will receive a lesson in sport stacking. We'll begin at stage one, and work our way up to a 3-6-3. We'll have lots of fun playing games and doing activities, and when we are all finished, you'll get to keep your own set of Speed Stacks, and an instructional DVD!!

**Commerce Session: The "Pinball Machine Approach"**

**Zeus C**

**To Promoting Social Competence: Hitting the Target by Chance or by Design?**

*Wendy Calla McDermott, Ph.D., President, GoodSense English LLC, Author*

Camp is based on the premise that children move ahead faster and better if someone designs relevant and fun learning experiences for them instead of leaving their progress up to chance. If we agree that it is desirable to promote social competence and character because they form the foundation for success in every area of life, and that camp is one of the best venues in which to do this, then we must give our staff the tools they need to work toward this objective.

**2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Effective Delegation**

**Apollo 3**

*Kelly Privitt, Director of Programs, Ability First*

A must for any supervisor struggling with delegation. Learn skills and techniques to increase staff follow through with tasks you delegate to them.

**Identity Creation--Adolescent Development and Social Networking**

**Apollo 4**

*Jennifer Selke, Ph.D., Professor, Camp Director, School Psychologist, University of California, Berkeley*

This is the first generation of youth who are involved in a social context their parents have not experienced. What is the appeal of social networking sites for adolescents and how are they using them? How is the use of social networking impacting your camp? Come learn about adolescent social and moral development within the context of social networking.

**Defusing Emotional Bombs: Secrets of Effective Communication**

**Apollo 5**

*Chris Thurber, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Author, Father, Consultant*

No one does their best thinking or problem solving when they're upset, but it's human nature to try. Learn cutting edge therapeutic techniques that quell anger and anxiety as a first step toward need-based problem solving. Effective communication hinges on a combination of listening and self-expression skills that few leaders express.

**Cultural Competency: Widening the Circle of Understanding**

**Apollo 6**

*Gretchen Vaughn, Staff Specialist, Girl Scouts, Mile High Council*

Culture is more than ethnicity. Broaden your view of culture, and how to better meet the needs of the populations you serve. Take home evaluation and training tools to reach beyond tolerance to true inclusiveness.

**"Are You Ready For The Summer!" A Fun and Interactive Approach to Successful Risk**

**Apollo 7**

**Planning and Management for All Staff in Camp**

*Tina Fisher, Owner, Sushi U*

Yes – it's that fun opening song to the movie "Meatballs." Could a Meatballs camp exist in today's camp climate? What are you doing to forecast your success and minimize risk? This session will cover risk management assessment (as well defined in ACA Standards), the pros/cons of being human (we're risky creatures!), and how to involve everyone in your camp in risk management (including the campers!)

**What's Up in ACA Research****Apollo 8***Deb Bialeschki, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, ACA*

Come to this session to learn about some of the cutting edge research conducted by ACA and how the information can help YOU and YOUR CAMP! We will briefly talk about the Enrollment survey, the Financial/Budget survey, the Program Improvement Project(PIP), and the Healthy Camps study. Sneak previews will be shared on the upcoming Salary study, the Camp Outcomes Measurement tools, and this year's Enrollment survey. Participants will leave with a handy resource sheet that summarizes how the projects can help Directors and provides links to additional informational.

**Make Great Hires . . . Avoid Big Mistakes:****Athena****Using a Unique Assessment to Unlock the Door to Staffing Success***Tom Etzkorn, MBA, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Wyman Center**Carl Harshman, Ph.D., President and CEO, The Institute*

Attitude & Motivation are the hidden keys to your camp's success. This session will show you how to identify the Attitude and Motivation factors each potential staff member brings to camp and how to use that information in hiring, developing and managing your team.

**Commerce Session: Using the Web to Interact with Parents; Marketing, Registration and Communication****Zeus A***Jacob Zlotoff, Director of Client Development, Bunk1.com*

Learn how you can utilize the web; we'll go over specific tools and programs you can use to better interact with camp parents through technology. Specifically we will cover ways you can better market your program, improve your registration process, and better communicate with parents (before, during, and after the summer).

**3:45 pm – 4:15 pm****Great Conversations****Zeus Foyer***Faith Evans, Owner, Playfully Inc.*

If you like a good discussion, you won't want to miss "Great Conversations," a series of interviews with some of our veteran, expert, seasoned, experienced, and most honored and recognized contributors to the world of professional camping. This is your opportunity to ask them the secrets to their success!

**4:30 pm – 5:30 pm****Commerce Session: On the Move with Speed Stacking: Sport stacking and Fitness Fun! (Repeat)****Zeus B***Daniel Wolff, Education Team Representative, Speed Stacks*

Attendees will receive a lesson in sport stacking. We'll begin at stage one, and work our way up to a 3-6-3. We'll have lots of fun playing games and doing activities, and when we are all finished, you'll get to keep your own set of Speed Stacks, and an instructional DVD!!

**4:30 pm – 6:00 pm****Camp Culture and the 3 C's****Apollo 3***Scott Arizala, Consultant and Trainer, The Camp Counselor*

Uncover the secrets to creating intentional, deliberate and specific camp culture. Let's create what we want at camp, the kind of culture that our campers can learn and grow from... this session will explain how to do it. Whether it is a high retention rate (the "lifers"), teaching life skills through programming or instituting significant change, the key is your community, communication and connections. Through specific leadership, management, programmatic and counseling techniques we can create exactly what we want... with a little intention of course! The 3 C's will give you direction and guidance as you discover how to take your camp culture from where it is to where you want it to be.

**Recruiting On Campus--Tips from the Inside****Apollo 4***John Lofthus, Director, Family Vacation Center*

This interactive session will examine how the University works--and how to best use its resources to find the staff you need. I will bring my 10+ years of experience as both a camp professional and full time University employee to unlock the mysteries.

**"Secrets of the Siren" A Translation of the Best Practices of the Starbucks Corporation into Potential Best Practices for Camps****Apollo 5***Tina Fisher, Owner, Sushi U*

What do you get when you put a 10+ year camp veteran through a Starbucks supervisory training experience? A happy barista with a perma-grin who is secretly translating the best of the biz to practical tips for camps during training! As a recent "graduate" of Starbucks School, I see commonalities in business goals between camps and this coffee conglomerate. It's time to learn a few more successful strategies for our tool kits, from a company that is a clear leader in its industry!

**Troubles Talk: Why Staff Can't Help Gossiping and What to Do about It****Apollo 6***Gretchen Vaughn, Staff Specialist, Girl Scouts, Mile High Council*

Research shows that we often build closeness and status by sharing negative opinions about others. Learn how to form a staff culture that provides support and the feeling of belonging to a group, yet rejects gossip. Take home staff training and supervision techniques to create appropriate forums for venting troubles while keeping the social atmosphere positive.

**Camp Administrator's Cracker Barrel****Apollo 7***Jane Sanborn, CEO, Sanborn Western Camps**Nancy & Ken Atkinson, CEO's Geneva Glen Camps*

An opportunity to share concerns, successes, questions, and advice relating to any of the many issues Camp Administrators need to deal with.

**Making a U-Turn about Interns****Apollo 8***Kat Shreve, Director of Education, American Camp Association*

No doubt many of us have been approached by a potential staff member with a request for his/her summer experience be part of an academic credit process for his/her college. How do we host this student in the camp environment and have both sides prosper from the experience? How can I use my ability to work with interns as a recruitment tool? We will look at several approaches to the process, have some time for question and answering, and share our own experiences.

**Putting on Your "Thinking Camp"****Athena****A Learner-Centered Approach to Problem-Solving***Jennifer Selke, Ph.D., Professor, Camp Director, School Psychologist, University of California, Berkeley*

Experience a new way to learn and problem solve! Bring your most pressing issue you want to tackle. With focused facilitation we will work on challenging, invigorating issues and questions for day and resident camps with the specific goal of taking back action plans to be implemented in our programs. You will learn a new approach that you can also use with staff and campers.

**Building Buy-In with Seasonal Staff****Zeus C***Judy Winsberg, M.Ed., Camp Director, Whispering Pines Adventures*

Camp Programs are often created and written long before the summer camp staff arrives. Learn how to create a sense of ownership for camp staff by writing a summer mission statement and staff agreements.

**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm****Parthenon Ballroom**

Exhibit Hall Dinner and Activities

**8:00 pm****Hotel Lobby**

Evening Optional Fun Activities

**Saturday, March 17, 2007****9:00 am – 12:15 pm****Apollo 5****\$ We Know It's Important But...***Scott Arizala, B.A., Preschool Teacher, Social Worker, Camp Director and Consultant, The Camp Counselor*

This session covers everything you want to cover in staff training, but just don't have the time for. Unfortunately, the stuff we cut is the stuff our counselors need. We will take 6 skills and work out techniques to teach them effectively without squeezing in one more session sitting on the dining hall floor. We will cover patience, enthusiasm and the huge topic of "Body Talk" the most important (and often forgotten) form of communication and how it is related to everything at camp. Finally, we will debrief the session by learning what has been role modeled throughout the entire session... a technique for teaching and evaluating yourself. \$30/person

**\$ Prove It! New Tools To Measure Camp Outcomes****Apollo 7***Deb Bialeschki, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, American Camp Association's Research Team*

Always wished for a way to measure just the outcomes you focused on for the summer? See a demonstration of the seven new modular outcomes tools available from the ACA website. Learn how to access the tools to build your individualized survey, report the data, and receive your analysis report. See the two versions available for 10-17 year olds as well as a specially designed version for 7-9 year olds. No Ph.D. required- just an interest in learning how to "prove" that you do what you say! \$30/person

### **\$ Training Staff with Semi-Scripted Role-Play**

**Apollo 8**

*Jennifer Selke, Ph.D., Camp Director, Professor, and School Psychologist; University of California, Berkeley*

Interested in using role play and scenario's in training yet struggle with how to make it real? Come experience semi-structured role-play with situations based on actual camp events. Learn how to run this type of training, the elements that make up the scenarios, and develop your own to take back to your staff training. \$30/person

**9:00 am – 10:30 am**

### **Bringing in the Experts: Collaborations and Contracts**

**Apollo 3**

*Sara Morrison, Day Camp Specialist, Girls Scout, San Diego Imperial Council*

Expand your potential, don't try to be the expert on everything. Make connections while meeting your mission. This session aims to focus on developing collaborations of camps with outside service organizations. This directly helps camps to structure programs and opportunities that support positive social interaction and promote social competence providing a healthy and safe environment for camper growth.

### **Under Construction: Designing Training to Meet Developmental Needs of Staff**

**Apollo 4**

*Cathy Scheder, Director, Camp Nicolet*

Happy staff equals happy campers. Research indicates that the brain is not fully developed until age 25. With the average age of camp staff being under 21, what are the implications? How can you construct staff training to enhance staff learning and create dynamic social opportunities that enhance the team dynamic and ultimately create a positive environment for your campers? We'll look at opportunities to create positive social opportunities as part of that training, and collaborate to design a model-training day that participants can use in the development of their own training programs

### **Managing Conflict Before it Manages You**

**Apollo 6**

*Gretchen Vaughn, Staff Specialist, Girl Scouts, Mile High Council*

Conflict is inevitable! Learn how to create a caring camp community that solves problems gracefully. Learn how to teach staff and campers (and even parents!) to fight fair and produce their own win-win solutions.

### **The More the Merrier: Lead Playful Activities with Large Groups**

**Zeus A**

*Faith Evans, M.Ed., Owner, Playfully, Inc.*

Come and play with a purpose or just for FUN! *The More the Merrier* means that, the more players, the merrier it is! Feel good answering "yes!" to requests to lead play for large groups. We'll taste as many games as we have time for, from Faith's new book—some will be new to you and some are classics converted from small group play to large. Come with your questions and receive lots of tips. Similar to a smorgasbord, we invite you to take some and leave some, and be satisfied in the end.

### **Challenge Course Staff Training--Options, Standards, Planning...Oh My!**

**Athena**

*Kennerly deForest, President, Challenge Works, Inc.*

Interested in more effective and engaging training for your challenge course staff? Want to learn how the new proposed ACCT certification standards may impact your program? In this session you will get up-to-date information on the status of the new certification standards and the impact on the operation of your challenge course. You will also participate in an activity that will help you generate some ideas for your individual program plan to take your training to the next level.

**10:45 am – 12:15 pm**

### **Building Strong Relationships with Funders - Tools for Camp Professionals**

**Apollo 3**

*Sarah Meacham, Executive Director, ACA, Northern California*

Getting a grant is hard work. Don't be fooled by advertisements and promotions that tell you that you can get "free money" just by writing a letter. There is a lot of competition for grant funds and busy camp professionals don't have time to waste on dead end funding prospects and no hope proposals. This roundtable workshop will provide participants with the tools they need to build strong relationships with funders through an organized and engaging fundraising philosophy. Added Bonus – In addition to resources to help find funding, participants will receive a complimentary proposal review with suggestions on how to revise a proposal to make it stand out from the rest

### **Expanding Your Program to Meet Special Needs**

**Apollo 4**

*Kelly Privitt, Director of Programs, Ability First*

Explore the exciting possibilities of promoting inclusion in your camp community. This training will help identify some barriers to inclusion, explore the possibilities of expanding your program to meet with needs of children with Special Needs, and discuss the key components to training staff and campers.

### **Adult Mentoring Programs for Children**

**Apollo 6**

*Jared Knight, Manager of Programs, Aspen Grove Family Camp*

Learn how to increase adult mentoring moments for children and youth through structure programs designed for the development of their physical skills, cognitive exploration, social interaction, and character development. Explore how adult mentoring can teach citizenship, inspires teamwork, and motivate children.

### **The Game Connection--Building Social Competence Through Play**

**Athena**

*Steven Peck, Director/Lead Facilitator, Champ Camp, Camp OO-U-LA, et. al.*

Join us for a few hours of fun! "You can learn more about a person in an hour's worth of play than a lifetime of conversation." Plato Games are a perfect venue for connecting with campers and counselors. Take advantage of walking to the dining hall or interact with the 3 campers that are ready to go to the lake while Bobby finds his towel. We will play games designed to connect our campers the moment they arrive at camp.

### **"Cooperative String Phun" Weaving a Team—String by String**

**Zeus A**

*Mike Spiller, Co-Director/Owner, Physicians of Phun*

Life is like a string—it's what we make of it. Don't miss this highly interactive session on string games and cooperative PHUN. Stringing improves coordination, memory, reading skills, imagination, reduces stress levels and can help develop great social skills. Come get a free professional string and learn dozens of ways to use this ancient tool to enhance your program.

### **If Staff Training Were a Game Show and You Were the Host**

**Zeus C**

*Kat Shreve, Director of Education, American Camp Association*

This interactive session will examine creative approaches to share a significant amount of information to your staff during pre-camp in a lights, camera, (into) action way. Be prepared to be a contestant as we go through your camp's personnel policies, staffing structure, time off policies, changes from last season, and more.

### **12:15 pm – 1:30 pm**

Lunch on Your Own

### **1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

#### **Closing General Session, "The Pulse of Community"**

**Parthenon Ballroom**

*Christine Stevens, Founder, UpBeat Drum Circles*

*Faith Evans, Owner, Playfully, Inc.*

Don't miss an unforgettable experience in liberation, stress-reduction, communication, and community! This interactive "endnote" event guided by Christine Stevens and Faith Evans will show you how to discover your rhythm and learn fun activities to build relationships through sound, music, and rhythm. Drums provided by Remo. NO prior musical experience necessary.

### **6:00 pm**

**Hotel Lobby**

Evening Optional Fun Activities

### **Sunday, March 18, 2007**

### **11:30 am – 4:00 pm**

#### **Mini Hoover Dam Tour**

**Hotel Lobby**

As you stand on top of the great structure that spans Black Canyon, you will understand why Hoover Dam is rated one of America's Seven Modern Civil Engineering Wonders. Completed in 1935, it remains the number one sightseeing attraction in Nevada. With two-hours at Hoover Dam, you will have the opportunity to take the optional Bureau of Reclamation Discovery Tour, which includes: Entrance to the multi-million dollar tour Center and movie of the Dams construction. Also, be sure to visit the museum and exhibit areas. This tour will leave and return from the Alexis Park Hotel. Your tour tickets will be included in your registration packet at Camp West check in. A minimum number of participants must register for this event, in order for it to run, so please encourage your friends and co-workers to register early! \$40/person

## **FREE & INEXPENSIVE LAS VEGAS FUN!**

Sources: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5396173/> & <http://www.vegasfreebie.com/>

**White tiger exhibit at the Mirage.** Famed illusionists Siegfried & Roy once presented a world-famous magic show complete with lions and rare white tigers at the Mirage hotel. When Roy Horn was bitten and dragged offstage by a white tiger in the fall of 2003, the show was canceled. Fortunately, Horn is recovering, and you can still see the big cats that are the show's legacy. Step inside the Mirage's lobby, and there to the left, several of the rare white tigers play and nap inside a lavishly painted habitat resplendent with swimming pool and fountains. The white tiger habit is open throughout the day and evening. When you're finished gazing, cross Las Vegas Boulevard (a.k.a. The Strip) and walk directly to The Venetian hotel to enjoy ...

**Gondola watching at The Venetian.** Whether you've visited Venice or not, you're bound to enjoy the surreal experience of watching gondoliers maneuver their elegant wooden boats through the "canals" of a 500,000-square-foot shopping mall. The mall, also known as the Grand Canal Shoppes, is located in The Venetian hotel. Yes, just down from Ann Taylor and Brookstone, handsome men in striped shirts and ribboned hats gurgle Pavarotti tunes until they echo off the faux Italian storefronts. Couples cuddle amorously in the gondolas ... or laugh nervously that they've subjected themselves to such a spectacle. Watching is free; a gondola ride will cost you \$15 per adult. Ready for more faux Italy? Cross the street to Caesars Palace. Stroll to the Forum Shops, and watch a seven-minute show of special effects as Roman statues come to life. All the fun of Rome without the traffic jams or oppressive summer heat! Cross the street and hike south to...

**Gaze upon the Eiffel Tower.** Paris Las Vegas opened in September 1999 complete with faux Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe. The Eiffel Tower has legs rooted in the hotel's giant casino & stretches 50 stories into the Nevada sky. Have a seat on the rim of one of the hotel's fountains and simply gaze upon this focal point of the Las Vegas strip. No charge to gaze, but if you'd like to take the hair-raising "Eiffel Tower Experience" ride to the 50<sup>th</sup> story, it will cost you \$9 to \$12 per adult depending on day of the week. From the Eiffel Tower, head for the front door of Paris Las Vegas to...

**Stroll the streets of Paris.** Feel the surrealism as you open the door to Paris Las Vegas, walk through a noisy casino, and find yourself ambling down the cobblestone pathways of The City of Light. Most people find themselves doing a double-take, not just because of the French boutiques, street performers and singing bread deliverymen, but because of the effect the ceiling creates on visitors. Ceilings are painted turquoise with billowing clouds, and are lit in such a way to trick the eye into believing you're walking around Paris, outdoors, at dusk. Walk south to...

**The lion habitat at the MGM Grand** is a glassed-in enclosure, which opened in July 1999, showcases up to five lions daily, including the descendants of MGM Studios' famous signature marquee lion. There's even a transparent tunnel through the habitat. Walk through it if you wish to be surrounded by lions. When you're ready to leave the "wilds" of Africa, take the sky bridge across Las Vegas Boulevard to New York City. New York, New York Hotel & Casino opened in 1997. Outside, a faux Statue of Liberty stretches her torch between palm trees and a Coney Island-style roller coaster that does loop-the-loops in front of faux skyscrapers. Inside, patrons can pretend they're in the Big City, strolling through an art-deco themed interior and a recreation of Central Park. All the fun of New York — without the muggings! When you've had your faux bite of the Big Apple, leave the hotel & prepare for a long walk north up the Strip toward your starting point. Just when you think your feet might crumple beneath you, you'll be re-invigorated by...

**The dancing fountains of Bellagio.** The Bellagio hotel opened in 1998. Every afternoon and evening, the hotel's manmade turquoise lake becomes the staging ground for a 1,000-foot-long fountain display. Watch jets of water burst 240 feet in the air, sweeping and dancing up the lake to the strains of Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman singing "*Con Te Partiro*." Or, you might hear the more whimsical "Singin' in the Rain." ("What a glorious thing ... I'm happy again!") Now it's time for dinner. Tightwads, might we recommend the \$11.95 Prime Rib or T-bone steak dinner at the Barbary Coast? Wait for the sun to go down, then walk to ...

**The flaming volcano at the Mirage.** Every 15 minutes from 7 p.m. to midnight, the Mirage's faux volcano erupts only a few steps from Las Vegas Boulevard, sending fire 100 feet into the sky and transforming a waterfall into streams of molten lava. It's a rough life for the mallard ducks who hang out at this tourist attraction, for they must take wing every 15 minutes or risk being flambéed. But it's great fun for Homo sapiens. Speaking of birds, cross the street to visit ...

**The Wildlife Habitat at the Flamingo Las Vegas.** This resort is host to a collection of more than 300 birds, including a flock of pink Chilean flamingos. African penguins, swans, ducks, and turtles also cavort amid lush tropical foliage imported from all over the world.

**Circus Acts at Circus Circus Hotel and Casino** The largest permanent circus in the world. One of the oldest and most loved free shows in Las Vegas, this show features aerialists, jugglers, trapeze artists and clowns. The show is performed in the big-top at the midway, which is one level up from the casino. Each show last about 10 minutes. There are a limited number of seats available, and people typically start filling them about 15 minutes before the show, but if you can't get a seat, there is plenty of standing room as well. **When:** Daily 11 a.m. to midnight, every half hour. **Where:** Circus Circus Casino and Hotel 2880 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas, NV 89109.

**Court Jester's Stage at Excalibur Hotel and Casino** A family-oriented show with a medieval theme. This show has musicians, puppetry, magicians, and juggling. The costumed performers put on a small variety show with both contemporary and medieval acts. Adults may not get too much out of this show as it is geared towards children. The performers from the show may also be found strolling the hotel lobby or casino floor. The show lasts ten minutes and is located on the Medieval Village level, one level up from the main casino floor. **When:** Daily, every 45 minutes from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. **Where:** Excalibur Hotel and Casino 3850 Las Vegas Boulevard South Las Vegas, NV 89109.

**Rock and Roll Memorabilia at The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino** The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino has collectible from all of you favorite rock and roll stars. They have many displays featuring lots for rock and roll fans from Beatles collectibles to Madonna's underwear, motorcycles from Guns N Roses' Matt Sorum and Motley Crue's Nikki Six, autographed guitars and drum sets from many bands and leather jackets from the Ramones and Aerosmith. **When:** 24 hours and day, seven days a week **Where:** Hard Rock Hotel and Casino 4455 Paradise Road Las Vegas, NV 89109.

**CBS Television City the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino** Watch and rate new television shows. To do research for their new shows, CBS and Viacom have set up a research center to gauge audience reactions. Shows from CBS, MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon, UPN, Showtime, TNN and CMT are screened in small theaters. Audience members use touch-screen computers to record their responses. Some participants are also selected for longer focus group discussions. The research center is located by the pool, and free tickets can be picked up at the research center or at the entrance of the MGM Grand parking lot. The screening runs from about 45 to 90 minutes. **When:** Daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. **Where:** MGM Grand Hotel and Casino 3799 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89109.

**Aquarium at the Mirage Hotel and Casino** The Mirage Hotel and Casino has a 20,000-gallon saltwater aquarium in its hotel lobby. This is another one of the Mirage's attraction that adds to its tropical theme. You can watch a shark swimming through a coral reef while you check into the hotel. The aquarium has over 1,000 coral reef animals including angelfish, puffer fish, tangs, sharks and other exotic sea creatures. The tank is 53 feet long, eight feet from top to bottom, and six feet from front to back. **When:** 24 hours a day 7 days a week **Where:** The Mirage Hotel and Casino 3400 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89109.

**Masquerade Village Sky Show at the Rio Hotel and Casino** This Carnival-themed show features fantastic floats that ride on tracks above the casino floor. Energetic dancers in exotic masks and costumes throw beads into the crowd. Clowns and acrobats help boost the energy. There is also a multi-level main stage on the casino floor with a live band to provide the music for the show. The show is about 20 minutes long. Try going to the upper level for a good view of the action. You can also get in on the action yourself. For \$9.95 you can get into costume and ride the floats. There is a three-foot height requirement. Tickets are available at the Rio Box Office and there is a limit of 21 riders per show. **When:** 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. daily. **Where:** Rio Hotel and Casino 3700 West Flamingo Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89103.

**Sirens of TI at Treasure Island Hotel and Casino** The Treasure Island Hotel and Casino describes its Sirens of TI show as a "modern musical-meets-action-movie spectacular". The shows features music, dancing, swordplay, acrobatics, pyrotechnics and even a full size ship sinking. The show is about 15 minutes long and features a group of scantily clad women fighting a band of pirates. What used to be the Treasure Islands Pirates Battle was replaced by the Sirens of TI show as they try to get a sexier image for the hotel and casino. You might want to arrive early to get a good spot close to the action so there are no problems seeing over the crowd's heads. **When:** Every night at 7:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 10:00 p.m. & 11:30 p.m. **Where:** Treasure Island Hotel and Casino 3300 South Las Vegas Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89109.

**Conservatory and Botanical Gardens at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino** is an indoor garden with a spectacular floral display. The 50 foot high glass roof provides a sunny place for great photo opportunities. The displays are changed each season and for major holidays. The setting is a wonderful, peaceful break from the bright lights of the strip and the bustle of the casino. The garden is located inside of the Bellagio Hotel and Casino, walk through the lobby (and be sure to look up at the ceiling to view some beautiful art as you do) to get there. The garden has over 13,500 square feet and has 1,200 bins of exotic plants. **When:** Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week **Where:** Bellagio Hotel and Casino 3600 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89109.

**Atlantis Water Show in the Forum Shops at Caesars Hotel and Casino** features animatronic statues acting out the story of the fall of Atlantis. Fountains, lasers, fire, steam and sound effects add to the excitement of the action. This high tech production is one of the most popular free shows in Las Vegas. There is also a 50,000-gallon salt water aquarium located here that features tropical puffers, flounder and sharks. Daily feeding take place at 3:15 and 7:15 p.m. daily. The show takes place next to the Cheesecake Factory in the Roman Great Hall. When: Every hour on the hour Sunday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to midnight Where: The Forum Shops at Caesars Hotel and Casino 3570 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89109.

**Fremont Street Experience** A 90 foot high, four-block-long electronic canopy that presents spectacular sight and sound shows. This pedestrian promenade was built to attract visitors to the Downtown area of Las Vegas. It is surrounded by 10 casino/hotels. Every night at dusk the shows begin and continue throughout the night until midnight. The Light and Sound show features over 2 million lights and a 28 speaker, 540,000 watt sound system. **When:** Nightly at dusk **Where:** Downtown Las Vegas Fremont Street at Main Street Las Vegas, NV 89101.

**Hawaiian Marketplace Performers** is a troupe of Polynesian born performers put on free shows every day at the Hawaiian Marketplace Shopping Mall. Team Aloha will sing, dance, tell stories and demonstrate crafts from the Polynesian islands throughout the day. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday there are longer shows that include fire knife dancers, Samoan singers, Tahitian dancers and a live bird show. There is also the Enchanted Forest in the mall that has animatronic birds singing original songs in a five minute act that happens every hour. When: 7 days a week during the days and in the evening. Where: Hawaiian Marketplace 3743 Las Vegas Boulevard South Las Vegas, NV 89109

**Sunset Stampede at Sam's Town Hotel and Casino** is an animatronic, laser light and water show with a western pioneer theme. The show takes place in Mystic Falls park, an indoor forest with a glass ceiling ten stories high. The lasers and fountains are choreographed to a symphonic score which is heard from over 100 hidden speakers. The show lasts about 8 minutes. Sam's town is located about 6 miles east of the Strip. When: Daily at 2:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Where: Sam's Town Hotel and Casino 5111 Boulder Hwy. Las Vegas, NV 89122.

#### **FREE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS**

##### **Barbary Coast, Orleans and Gold Coast Shuttles**

The Coast Casinos offers free shuttles between the Barbary Coast, the Orleans Hotel and Casino and the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino. The shuttle run roughly every 20 to 30 minutes, check with the hotels for details.

**When:** 9:00 a.m. to midnight

**Stops:** *Barbary Coast and Casino* - Mid Strip, *Orleans Hotel and Casino* - Tropicana Avenue 3 miles west of the Strip, *Gold Coast Hotel and Casino* - Flamingo Road 1 mile west of the Strip

##### **Excalibur-Luxor-Mandalay Bay Tram**

A free tram runs between the Excalibur, the Luxor and Mandalay Bay hotels. The southbound tram runs only from the Excalibur to the Monte Carlo, but the northbound tram starts at Mandalay Bay, stops at Luxor and ends at the Excalibur. The shuttle runs every 3 to 7 minutes.

**When:** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Stops:** Excalibur Hotel and Casino - South Strip, *Luxor Hotel and Casino* - South Strip, *Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino* - South Strip

##### **Hard Rock Shuttles**

The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino offers free shuttles between the hotel and several strip locations. The shuttle departs the hotel north of the main entrance of the casino on the hour and makes stops at Caesar's Palace Forum Shops at 10 minutes past the hour, The Fashion Show Mall at 15 minutes past the hour and The Stardust at 20 minutes past the hour. If you happen to see one of these purple shuttle buses between stops you may be able to flag it down and hop on.

**When:** 10:00am to 7:00pm

**Stops:** Hard Rock Casino and Hotel - Off Strip, Caesar's Palace Forum Shops - Mid Strip, The Fashion Show Mall - North Strip, Stardust Hotel and Casino - North Strip

##### **Rio Suites and Harrah's Shuttles**

Rio Suites offers free shuttles between the Rio and their sister properties on the strip: Caesar's Palace, Bally's, Paris and Harrah's. The shuttle runs roughly every 30 minutes, check with the hotels for details. No luggage is allowed on the shuttle.

**When:** Monday - Wednesday: 10:00am to 1:00am, Thursday - Sunday: 10:00am to 4:00am

**Stops:** *Harrah's Hotel and Casino* Shuttle/Bus/Trolley drop off, *Bally's/Paris* Limousine entrance