



Volume 1, Issue 3



ADVENTURE, AFTER SCHOOL AND SPORTS PROGRAMS

CHAMPIONS



I cannot believe it is already October and the summer seems so far behind us. The start of the school year is always exciting for many reasons. One, being a parent of two young girls it's always an adjustment for them going into new classes. Two, for our returning staff seeing them integrate with new staff. And third, seeing all of the students both

new and old enjoying our exciting programs.

Besides running a camp, providing activities for countless other camps and starting four new high school after school programs this summer, we spent a lot of time and money on working on improving everything we do. We are always looking for ways to get better and your input is invaluable. We have been selected by the Los Angeles Unified School District as a model program and we aim to stay that way.

Whether it's a physical education or after school program or adventure activities we strive to create an open and positive partnership with all of our customers. We wish you all a rewarding and fantastic school year.

Gary Lipsky
Co-Founder

Summer Memories of a True CHAMPION

This summer, we at CHAMPIONS hosted over 50 campers a week at Hancock Park Elementary. Campers ranging in ages from 5yrs-11yrs old, enjoyed 9 weeks of fun and excitement as we visited Dodger Stadium, Long Beach Aquarium and the beaches in Marina Del Rey. With enrichment, arts and crafts and outdoor activities planned throughout the day, our campers' return week after week creating memories that will last a lifetime. Thanks to our staff, who dedicate their time and hard work to our summer camp program, our campers will be returning year after year in search of new adventures, friendships and fun filled memories.

With the success of CHAMPIONS Camp, we at CHAMPIONS plan to expand our program and create *Tenderfoot Summer Camp* for children 4-5 yrs of age and a CIT "Counselor In Training" program for children 11-15yrs of age. With these new programs in place, we at

CHAMPIONS hope to provide a fun and safe learning environment for children of all ages and communities alike. For more information regarding our camp programs, please feel free to contact Alex Herrera, at (310) 671-4400 ext 33 or via email at Alex@championsusa.com



At the Long Beach Aquarium

By Alex Herrera

-Senior Director of Camps and Enrichment-



Above: Arts and Crafts with Coach Brittney and Coach Michael. To the left: At the L.A Dodger Game.

Adventure Department

“Island Adventures”

The summer of 2008 was one to remember! Champions had the privilege of facilitating adventure and outdoor education trips to over thousands of students from various schools from Long Beach to Oakland. We traveled up and down the west coast to explore Yosemite National Park, Mammoth Mountain, Catalina Island, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Kern River, Big Bear Lake, Sespe Wilderness and Utah's Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks.

The 6th grade students at KIPP: LA Prep was one example of these trips. They traveled to the secluded beauty of Catalina for a trip of fun filled island adventure. The students earned the right to attend this trip by accruing points during the school year through school work, good grades and attendance. KIPP created these trips to reward their students and encourage them to continue the hard work towards a better education.

The students kicked the trip off with a boat ride to Catalina where they saw dolphins, sea lions, whales and the many wonders of California's coastline. We set up camp at our ocean view camp-

ground and then explored the beaches and island. During the next few days, the students split into groups and rotated through numerous island activities. Each student swam with marine life while they snorkeled along the coast, kayaked secluded coves, enjoyed time on the beach, took a history tour of Catalina, or studied nature's beauty while visiting touch tanks during a tour of the USC Marine Biology Lab. Each night was filled with campfires, teambuilding activities, marine biology lessons and fun at the campground. Champions wanted to thank the students of KIPP for the unforgettable memories and exciting trips.

By Chad Reilly

-Director of Adventure Programming-



CHAMPION Shout Outs

The Adventure Team would like to thank our wonderful staff for all of their hard work and dedication! Special thanks to Naomi, Chris, Ben, Jackie, Nancy and Mike!



GOT OST?



OST or Out of School Time is a vital part of every child's day. It's a proven fact that students that partake in after school programs improve their math and reading test scores as well as personal and social skills. Besides running many after schools programs, CHAMPIONS works with numerous other agencies and school districts supplementing their programs with portable rock walls, bike courses, teambuilding, new games and G.O.A.L.S. Clubs. We not only provide the wow factor for their programs but invaluable learn-

ing opportunities for every participant.

We are members of many committees and associations dealing with the OST movement to further our education and to be on top of the latest trends so that we can provide the best possible programs to our clients. We also collaborate with many community based organizations that help support our programs. If you would like to learn more about the OST movement or how you or your company can get involved, please contact us.

By Gary Lipsky

East Coast Update

The rapid expansion of the east coast has continued in earnest this fall. After a very successful summer, CHAMPIONS East continues to build momentum with new programs and student experiences. We are providing new after school programs at **FOUR** charter schools in Boston.

Joining our “right” coast team is Jeff Ilg; Adventure and Physical Education Director extraordinaire. Affectionately known as the “Games Guru,” Coach Ilg (I.Love.Games) is pushing CHAMPIONS in a very exciting direction in New England. With several GOALS Clubs already started this fall, Jeff has been working tire-

lessly to develop a network of adventure opportunities.

With all of this growth it’s hard to imagine that we also found time to move into a new office space. Please note the CHAMPIONS East information:

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We’ve got lots of room to continue to grow!

All the best,
Chris Rose



Spotlight on a TRUE CHAMPION!



Wanda Williams

Wanda Williams, our Executive Director of After School Programming, is one of the few and the proud to boast over 5 years of service with CHAMPIONS. An avid Ohio Buckeye Fan (just stop by her desk if you need proof), who is always willing to offer a kind word or creative insights, Wanda is the glue that holds the CHAMPIONS team together. Wanda is famous for her sunny disposition and energy that adds to any CHAMPIONS event or program. Her ability to morph from adventure

staff to P.E instructor to after school coach back to Executive Director makes her an invaluable member of the team ready and willing to step up and help out her colleagues at a moments notice. Her willingness to reach out and let staff know how much they are appreciated is just the icing on the cake. We thought we would take this opportunity to let her know how much we appreciate her.

By Monique Jackson

HR Corner– Teambuilding in the Workplace

Is it time for a team building?

There are symptoms that signal a need for team building. These symptoms include decreased productivity, conflicts or hostility among staff, lack of involvement and confusion about responsibilities or long term goals, complaints of discrimination or favoritism. A major symptom is lack of initiation, imagination, innovation; routine actions taken for solving complex problems.

Team building is a never-ending process that helps a work group evolve into a solid unit. The team members not only share expectations for achieving group tasks, but trust and support each other and respect individual differences. As a team builder you

lead your team toward unison and productivity. A team takes on a life of its own and you have to regularly nurture and maintain it, just as you do for individual employees.

With good team-building skills, you can unite employees around a common goal and inspire greater productivity. Without them, you limit yourself and the staff to the effort each individual can make alone.

Employees who feel part of a team experience higher levels of job satisfaction and commitment. This results in higher levels of trust and support. This lays the ground work for diverse co-workers who work well together.

By Monique Jackson





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Mission Statement

CHAMPIONS utilizes innovative programming in outdoor education, adventure retreats, after school enrichment, and physical education to increase self-confidence, communication skills, teamwork, and community. We focus on effort rather than ability, enjoyment rather than winning, as a means of elevating the Champion inside us all.

Upcoming Events:

- November 4th- Election Day, Go VOTE!
- November 11th -Staff Training- In house
- November 15th- CPR/First Aid Training
- Winter Camp: December 22nd through January 9th, Hancock Park Elementary/ Ivanhoe Elementary

Thank you all for making it to the
CHAMPIONS Bowling Extravaganza!



Upcoming Birthdays!

<u>Nov 2nd</u>	<u>Nov 8th</u>	<u>Nov 20th</u>	<u>Nov 21st</u>	<u>Nov 23rd</u>	<u>Dec 2nd</u>	<u>Dec 6th</u>	<u>Dec 8th</u>	<u>Dec 13th</u>	<u>Dec 18th</u>	<u>Dec 30th</u>
Gary Lipsky	Leah Sotto	Anthony Ruiz	Elmer Axume	David Nuñez	Michael Stallings	Cherrie Garcia	Jeff Ilg	Chris Rose	Julio Arroyo	Daisy Estrada