

# The Camp\*aign for American Kids

## NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Apr 23, 2009

The Camp\*aign for American Kids works to promote the efforts of the hundreds of Joint Outdoor~Ecumenical Youth programs, JOEYs, throughout the nation. The impetus for The Camp\*aign is the clear link between JOEY children and individuals who are sound, stable and well-adjusted.\*

An effort is being made to increase dramatically the number of individuals serving on National Advisory Council (NAC) of the Camp\*aign for American Kids. The Camp\*aign has found that the reason more parents do not give a child the benefit of a JOEY is **not** due to a lack of funds, but a lack of awareness.

Prior to the Camp\*aign for American Kids *no concerted effort existed to promote a unified JOEY solution*. JOEY staff are already stretched to the edge in caring for hundreds of children. No one would wish that their energies be diverted from this core focus, especially in these times, when the need is greater than ever.

Recently, a camp director from Louisiana, wrote, “*The greatest things we offer children include acceptance, love, guidance, teamwork, confidence, the ability to be in the outdoors, and friendship... if parents only knew!!!!”*

### ***As an NAC Team Member you can help:***

- a) ***Tell parents everywhere*** that, “*JOEY is a kid’s best friend,*” and why.\* Go to the suburbs and the ghetto; the inner city and rural America. Leave no stone unturned. *Go tell ... hundreds of desperately concerned parents will thank God for you.*
- b) Making teachers aware of the **reality** that *JOEY will help their kids, their classroom, and their careers*. It is not the educational system that is broken, but the children within the system. Treating symptoms alone *will only exacerbate the problem*.
- c) Report “from the field,” to Camp\*aign HQ, the media, and NAC members around the country on local incidents relating to the ongoing *Crisis of American Youth*.  
1) Document the present, 2) predict the future, 3) substantiate the solution, 4) repeat1-3. Americans are being *lulled to sleep*, while their young are being consumed alive.
- d) Identifying local funders *whose express purpose* is to help children, support teachers, reduce crime, eliminate poverty, fight bullying, and empower parents. Go find money to provide camp\*ership aid for kids at risk.

**There is no “down side” to being on the NAC team.** Rather, being a NAC member affirms to others that you *understand* the challenge before us; and **you** are committed to being *part of the solution*. Conviction imparts courage; others will follow your lead.

*(Note: The two words NAC team members enjoy most are: **NO**, and, **MEETINGS**.)*



APPLICATION: NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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*Every ruined life ... begins as an innocent child.*

This is one of life's saddest realities. We have all seen it play out in the lives of others. And, many of us have thought to ourselves, "*But for the grace of God ....*"

There is something that *we can do* to **ban** a lifetime of tragedy from stealing the heart of a little one. It's called the JOEY solution (Joint Outdoor ~Ecumenical Youth program).

*Pre-habilitation precludes rehabilitation*

JOEY allows for the confluence of key factors during a particularly critical period of human development. These elements are neither contrived, nor are they based on some Disney-style fantasy. On the contrary, they are grounded in reality and are an integral part of what it means to be a human being.

The JOEY solution proves that a child ... *any child* ... can be so profoundly impacted by *the most beautiful aspects of reality*, that they will *never settle for anything less*. It is well documented that the JOEY experience remains with a person, as a positive, enduring, and healing point of reference throughout life. JOEY doesn't change a child's life. JOEY helps a child develop the kind of life *that doesn't need changing*.

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**YES!** I want to do what I can to prohibit a lifetime of heartache from ruining the heart of an innocent child. Include me as a member of the National Advisory Council of The Camp\*aign for American Kids, representing the \_\_\_\_\_ region.

*✓List me as an NAC team member at The Camp\*aign website as follows:*

(Ms/Mr/Dr)

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Name	Title	City	State	Date
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<b>Special Interests/Comments:</b>

Please send this form to: [HQ@ForAmericanKids.org](mailto:HQ@ForAmericanKids.org) ✦ Camp\*aign Headquarters  
 11616 Long Meadow Dr. ✦ Glen Allen, VA 23059 ✦ (804) 928-6222 ✦ (804) 266-7130

# Camp\*Grounds

**VISION:** To prohibit a lifetime of tragedy from ravaging the heart of an innocent child.

**MISSION:** To enable the children of this nation to overcome the forces of modern life, which now extend beyond a child's capacity to withstand, and which have led to today's record increases in school shootings, violent behavior, classroom chaos, dropouts, and incarcerations.

**GOAL:** To double the number of children in JOEY programs over the next ten years.

**PRIME OBJECTIVE:** To dramatically boost public awareness among parents and teachers about the impact of JOEY programs on positive neurobehavioral development in children.

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## \*JUSTIFICATION

The Camp\*aign cites the following reasons for the above-mentioned linkage.

**1) Outdoor** – Science has established the often devastating consequences of removing a living organism, plant or animal, from its natural habitat. The results range from disorientation, to madness, and even death. Yet, humans have yet to apply these findings to themselves with resolve. The Camp\*aign is an advocate for environmental protection because it views the impact of natural habitat as critical to normal development.

**2) Ecumenical** – Despite every imaginable and concerted effort to extinguish the impulse of Faith from humankind, *pure Faith endures*. Pure Faith must be clearly differentiated from the various human creative expressions it has spawned throughout history. The Camp\*aign posits that *pure Faith is instinctual*.

While the impulse of Faith, like love, may be difficult to explain, that does not negate the *reality of either*. The sheer endurance of Faith, hope and love through the ages is evidence that each possesses *survival value*. Were Faith not necessary to human survival, the forces of natural selection would have eliminated this impulse ages ago.

JOEY programs are beneficial in this respect in that they are thoroughly ecumenical. That is, JOEYs *do not impose* Faith on children; neither do they ignore its reality. Rather than being faith-based *in the extremist sense*, JOEYs might better be described as “reality-based,” with a pure, natural Faith element. The nurturing of all survival values, including Faith, hope, and love, is critical to normal neurobehavioral development.

**3) Physiology** – Humans are born neurologically *unsynchronized*. At birth, the human brain automatically launches a process of self-construction in response to a “*God-given*” survival instinct, common among all living creatures. The brain reads and measures its surroundings and begins hard-wiring itself so as to *maximize survival value in its immediate environment*. The hard-wiring process continues into the teen years.

By providing conditions where children as young as seven are immersed in an environment of kindness, caring, friendship, and trust, against the backdrop of natural creation, JOEYs help create a beautiful, sustainable, and *reality-based* mental point of reference, accessible for orientation and healing throughout the remainder of life.

**4) Results** – Evidence abounds that JOEY kids are simply less likely to stumble onto a path leading to a lifetime of tragedy. JOEY kids are more likely to choose a vocation that involves helping others, including: community service, disaster relief, education, self-help development, public service, and ministry. It is common for the elderly to trace the beginnings of a lifelong friendship to a point of reference seventy-years prior: a JOEY program. All of this in keeping with the observation of Dr. S.W. Eliot, the longest serving president of Harvard University: “*I have a conviction that a few weeks spent in a well-organized summer camp may be of more value educationally than a whole year of formal school work.*”

Granted, the beneficial impact of the JOEY experience for a child may be difficult to explain. But all evidence suggests that, “*JOEY is a kid’s best friend.*” As parents, teachers and loving family members throughout the nation watch helplessly as the pressures of modern life continue to decimate the lives of innocent children, JOEY rises to the surface as the most viable means available for reversing the ongoing *Crisis of American Youth*. JOEYs help kids, “*run like the wind ... from a lifetime of sadness.*”

Given the capacity to altar [sic] the lives of youngsters, *by the tens-of-thousands annually*, The Camp\*aign for American Kids works around the clock to rocket public awareness sky-high about our nation’s vast network of JOEYs. JOEY is the right thing, in the right place, at the right time. JOEY is the solution we have been praying for.

**The Camp\*aign for American Kids:** *a little change ... for a WHOLE life!*