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Welcome to Parallel Lines™!

We are pleased to present our Members with this online, user-friendly design and format. Our goal is to provide our Members with an accessible and useful periodical that reflects the modern world in which we live.

In this edition of Parallel Lines we will be sharing the 2014 — 2018 Strategic Plan member survey results, information about our upcoming 25th Anniversary ACCT Conference, the 2014 ACCT Research Grant recipient, and much more.

We encourage you to share Parallel Lines with your colleagues in your community. Remember, you can view the publication on our website at www.acctinfo.org. As always, if you have a program, member, or topic that should be included, then please let us know! We can be reached at membership@acctinfo.org.

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**THE NEXT ISSUE OF PARALLEL LINES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY.
ARTICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 23, 2014.**

October

- 14-15
ACCT Board Conference Meeting,
Scottsdale, AZ
- 15
ACCT Conference Scholarship Deadline

November

- 3
Parallel Lines - Fall Edition
- 17
Early Bird Conference Registration Ends

- 20
ACCT Board Conference Call

December

- 5
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or Organization Members
- 18
ACCT Board Conference Call
- 22
Late registration begins for 25th Annual
International ACCT Conference & Expo
opens

About ACCT

The Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) is a standards developer recognized by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and was responsible for the development of the first Challenge Course Technology standards that were originally published in 1994. These internationally recognized standards are currently being maintained by ACCT through our accredited ANSI public comment process.

ACCT has served as the leading trade association for the Challenge Course industry (including Aerial/Adventure Parks, Zip Lines, Canopy Tours, Team Challenge Courses, and Climbing Structures) worldwide since its inception. Currently ACCT has 41 accredited Professional Vendor Members (PVMs) and over 2,600 individual and organizational members globally.

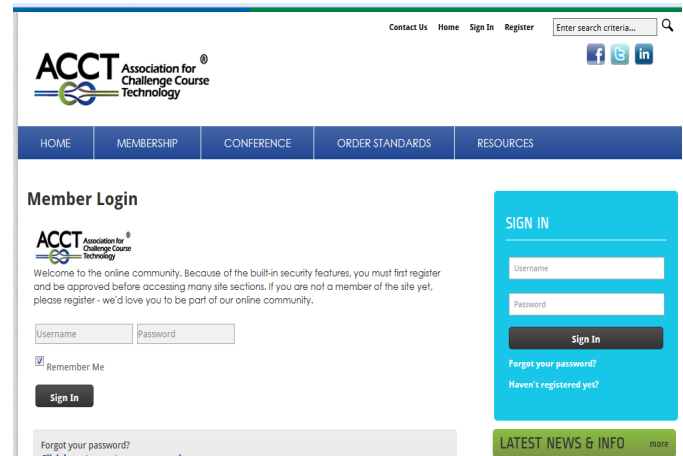
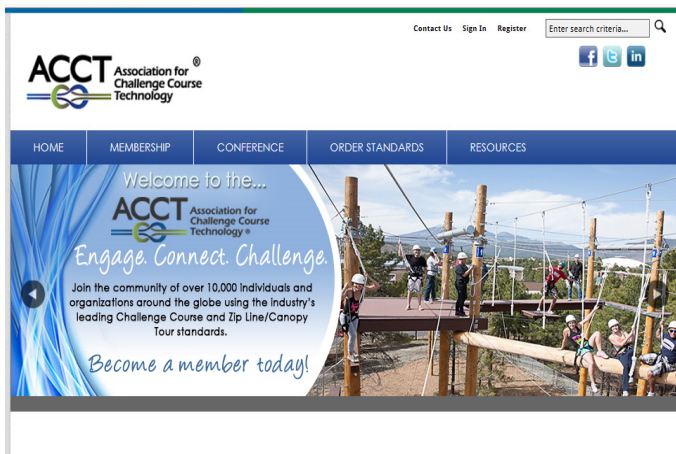
What is a Challenge Course?

Challenge Courses are organized environments that rely on structures composed of, but not limited to, poles, buildings, trees, beams, and cables. They may incorporate specialized technology and components, such as fall arrest systems, trolleys, pulleys, harnesses, and ropes. Operation often includes, but is not limited to, staff-managed and participant-directed activities by groups and/or individuals navigating various challenges where the perception of risk is an essential component in the overall experience. They are managed and maintained by qualified professionals functioning under strict standards, including those developed by the Association for Challenge Course Technology.

Some examples of Challenge Course Technology include Aerial/Adventure Parks, Zip Lines, Canopy Tours, Team Challenge Courses, and Climbing Structures.

ACCT's New Website

For those of our members who may have been too busy this summer and have not had the chance to check out the new ACCT website, make sure to log in and look around your new member profile and the additional member online resources available. Check out the fresh new look of the ACCT website at www.acctinfo.org.



If you have not signed in on the new ACCT website, please be aware that your login name will remain the same, but your password for the first time you log on is "**ACCT2014.**" You can change your password once you have logged in by going to "Manage Profile" and then "Edit Bio."

This new platform has many new features for our members and is much more user-friendly. You have the ability to update your own bio information, renew and pay your membership dues online, view or print invoices and receipts, share or view resumes (depending on membership type), print a membership card with your membership number, and utilize some great networking resources. We have received great feedback from our members who are very pleased with the new resources that are now available. If you haven't done so already, be sure to check them out!



Strategic Action

by Micah Henderson
ACCT Board Chair

Completing our recent strategic planning process has clarified the project focus and responsibilities of your ACCT Board of Directors. We have come to understand that the volunteer recruitment strategies of the past are no longer serving the Association well. Involvement in ACCT committees, task forces, and service on the Board of Directors have been widely needed, but the needs and tasks have been unclear and not well advertised.

As a Board we have been focusing our energy on improving our existing committee structure, reporting, and recruitment systems. Our Association has grown so large that it can sometimes be difficult for members to find a place where they can fit in and be involved in impacting the future of our industry.

The Board recently voted and accepted a revised committee framework that clarifies volunteer roles within the Association. The following definitions and information are included in the revised framework.

Committee

Definition: A group of people who serve the Association for a specific function as mandated by the Board of Directors.

Terms of Reference: Determined by Board of Directors

Membership: Outlined in Terms of Reference. Individual members are appointed by the committee. Committee roster to be recorded and made public.

Leadership: Chair – appointed by Board of Directors, Vice-chair and Secretary, voted on by

committee members.

Committee Duration: Ongoing.

Term limits for members: As outlined in Terms of Reference. Annual election of leadership.

Reporting: Provide quarterly reports to the Board of Directors

“The Board recently voted and accepted a revised committee framework that clarifies volunteer roles within the Association.”

Work Group

Definition: A group of people who assist staff in carrying out the business of the association for a specific function.

Terms of Reference: Determined by staff person.

Membership: Appointed by staff. Leadership: ACCT Staff.

Work Group Duration: As needed.

Term Limits: None.

Reporting: Quarterly through the staff's reports.

Panel

Definition: Ensure compliance

with policies, procedures, and other requirements for accreditation and certification programs. Panels recommend candidates for accreditation and certification to the Accreditation and Certification Committee. Panels recommend changes to policies and procedures to the Accreditation and Certification Committee.

Terms of Reference: Determined by Accreditation & Certification Committee. Approved by the Board of Directors.

Membership: Elected by the Accreditation & Certification Committee. Panel roster to be recorded and made public.

Leadership: Chair approved by Accreditation & Certification Committee, Vice-Chair and Secretary, voted on by panel members.

Panel Duration: Ongoing.

Term Limits: None.

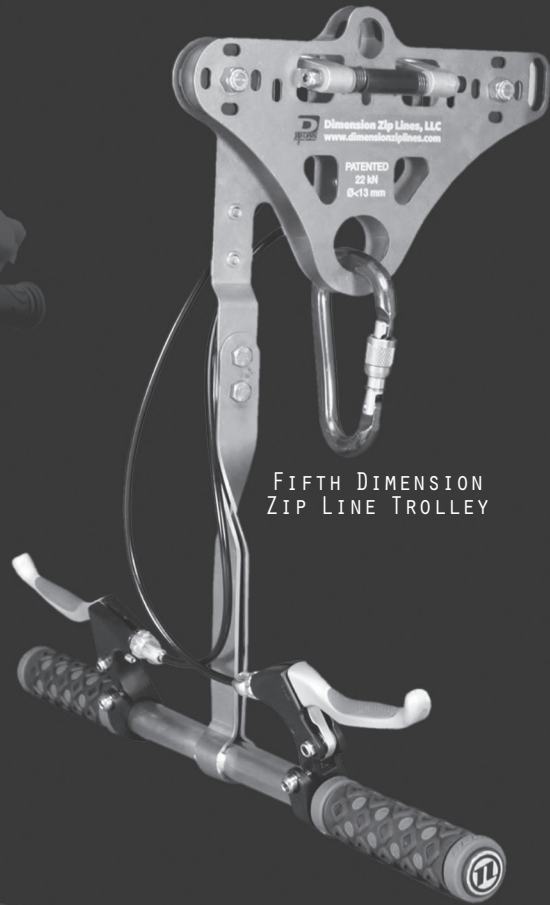
Reporting: Through the Accreditation & Certification Committee.

Task Force

Definition: A group of people organized to achieve a specific work product as determined

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Zip Line Braking... Solved.



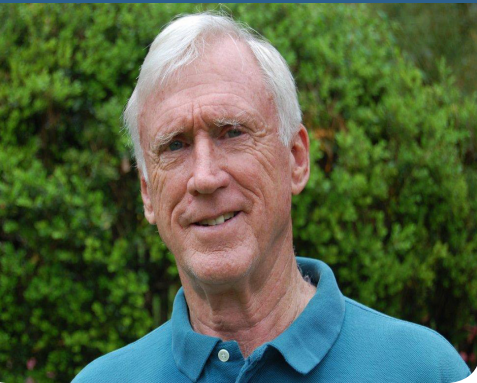
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INTO THE
NEXT DIMENSION
OF ADVENTURE



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Featured Article

Legal Corner

Bad Words!

by Reb Gregg

In my current review of members' forms (contracts for training, inspections, construction and facilitations, and visitors' (or participants') agreements) I have been reminded of some common mistakes we make in describing our programs and services and our expectations of others.

This article will describe some, but by no means all, phrases and words that can get us in big trouble -- words which should cause us to ask: "Did I really say that?" These are Bad Words.

Clarity in expressing the parties' intentions is the key to effective contracting. In the following examples you will find ambiguities, and, more dangerous, outright wrong expressions of what was intended. Such language is an invitation to a law suit if things go wrong, for you can be sure they will be given an interpretation which serves the interests of your adversary -- not you.

The word "safe" continues to pop up. Two examples: "Accessible elements are safe". "We guarantee you a (structure, trained staff, etc.) which ensures a safe experience for all".

Find another way to say what

you mean -- whether you are describing a condition of an element inspected, operating practices, or the integrity of a structure. "Safe" means, literally, "without risk of harm or loss". The word has no or very little place in our professional vocabularies. Consider, instead, referring to "the reasonable management of the

"Do not "guarantee, assure, ensure" ANYTHING. Certainly not "safety." And don't confuse "assure and ensure," and, unless you are in the business, don't purport to "insure" anything."

risks of....(whatever)". Read the examples again. Do not "guarantee, assure, ensure" ANYTHING. Certainly not "safety". And don't confuse "assure and ensure", and, unless you are in the business, don't purport to "insure" anything.

"Every reasonable measure will be taken to..." "We will do everything possible to...". "We will do our best to..." Ouch. Avoid superlatives. Carefully consider any word that ends

in "...est". Can you deliver on what you are promising? Will you ever have done "everything", or "all"? Will you always have done your "best"? And with regard to "best": Who, please, has the arrogance to announce that they are engaged in "best practices"? Might it be more accurate to refer to "preferred", or "accepted" or even "common" practices? If you are promising to comply with ACCT Standards, consider a reference to "as appropriate" or "as applicable".

Can you represent with confidence that a person or piece of equipment or element "will" do...anything? A more honest expression of the assurance you are extending may be that the piece "is designed to..." or "is built to.....", or staff "has been trained to....." (if such statements are true).

In allocating responsibilities to a client describe accurately the intended intensity of your requirement. If you are telling the party that she MUST do something (annual inspections or trainings for example), do not say "you should", "you might", "give careful consideration to", or "you need to think about...".

Continued on page 11 . . .

Bad Words

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Understand the differences between hazards, risks and outcomes. Hazards are conditions that can cause harm - intentionally inserted into an experience or not. (For example, falling backwards into the arms of four folks who want your job.) Risks are the range of possibilities of harm (usually) that might be produced by confronting the hazard. (You might not be caught by your co-workers.) Outcomes are the actual result of engaging in the risky venture. (A concussion, hurt feelings, a new coolness around the coffee machine.) A careful description of an environment or activity should include hazards, risks and possible outcomes, but don't confuse them. A Giant Swing, as a structure, is not a risk. (Well, maybe it could fall on someone.)

And finally, as I have noted several times, don't call your waiver agreement "Participant Agreement" unless you intend to restrict its application to actual

"participants" in something. Mere observers or visitors to the site may reasonably believe that they are not obligated by an agreement that appears to be intended for persons actively participating in the challenge course, aerial tour or other adventure.

Say what you mean, be honest with the person on the other side of your agreement, cut yourself some slack and don't exaggerate your ability to perform.

In a future edition of Parallel Lines I will (or, more properly, it is my intent to) discuss words we do not use, but should. (Consider, for example: "You do understand that you may die doing this, right?". Or: "You don't have to do this if you don't want to".

Good luck and good words.

ACCT has a NEW Conference website!
Go to <http://acctconference.com/> and check it out!

Strategic Action

... Continued from Page 4

by the BOD or a sponsoring Committee.

Terms of Reference: Determined by BOD or sponsoring Committee.

Membership: As outlined in Terms of Reference.

Leadership: Chair appointed by BOD or sponsoring Committee.

Task Force Duration: Based on Terms of Reference or completion of task.

Term Limits: None.

Reporting: Final Report provided to BOD or sponsoring committee.

Affinity Group

Definition: A group of members linked by a common interest or purpose.

Terms of Reference: Developed by the group. Approved by the BOD.

Membership: Self-selected.

Leadership: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, elected from within the group.

Affinity Group Duration: Indefinite.

Term Limits: None. Leadership to be elected annually.

Reporting: None required.

The Board of Directors is in the process of working with the existing committees to clarify their Terms of Reference, re-categorize and transition them into the new framework, and actively recruit new volunteers to join the groups based on the clarified roles and skill sets needed. If you have ever wanted to be a part of a volunteer group within the ACCT, start paying attention. We need you!



Message from the Board

by Todd Domeck
ACCT Board Vice-Chair

Dear ACCT Members,

As we approach this important time of year I wanted to remind our members that the 2015 ACCT Board of Directors elections are quickly approaching. This year 4 positions are open for election. Three of those positions are elected by the Professional Vendor Member community, while one position is elected by Individual and Organizational members.

Election Procedures:

According to the current Association for Challenge Course Technology bylaws, any member of the association may nominate another individual, with that person's permission, to serve on the Board of Directors, and any member may place his/her own name up for nomination for a position on the Board of Directors.

Individual and Organizational Nominations:

A candidate must be an Individual or Organizational member of the ACCT and may not work for a Professional Vendor Member. Candidates in this part of the election may not run for a seat elected by PVMs in the same election. Anyone wishing to run for this Board seat must submit in a nomination form to James Borishade by Friday, December 5, 2014. The nomination form must be submitted electronically to elections@acctinfo.org and must include the following information.

Nomination Statements must include:

- Full name and headshot photo

- Brief work history as related to the challenge course industry

- Previous volunteer experience (inside and/or outside of the ACCT)

- Qualifications

- Position Statement, including pressing issues or hot topics that you are passionate about in our industry

Nomination forms can be found on the ACCT Website at www.acctinfo.org.

Voting for a Board Member Elected by the Individual and Organizational Members

Voting for this position will only be conducted online prior to the conference. A member may cast one vote. Online voting will be available from Monday, December 15, 2014 until Friday, January 16, 2015. Individual and Organizational Member voting can be completed electronically. Information about voting will be emailed to all ACCT members in good standing.

Accredited Professional Vendor Member (PVM) Nominations:

Candidates wishing to run for this position must fill out a nomination form, which includes a nomination statement (maximum of 400 words) and must be submitted electronically to Todd Domeck, ACCT Board Vice-Chair, by December 5, 2014. Candidates do not have to be affiliated with a Professional Vendor Member Company, but will be elected by PVMs.

In accordance with the current

ACCT bylaws, write-in nominations or candidate nominations for positions voted on by PVMs shall be submitted to the Vice Chair no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled election, set to be held at approximately 3:00pm on Thursday, February 5, 2014.

Nomination Statements should include:

- Full name and headshot photo
- Brief work history related to the challenge course industry
- Previous volunteer experience (inside and/or outside the ACCT)
- Qualifications
- Position statement, including pressing issues or hot topics that you are passionate about in our industry

Last-minute ballots will not be accepted. Elections will be held in person using a paper ballot during the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2015. Election results will be announced at the conference. For any additional information about submitting a nomination for an open seat on the ACCT Board of Directors, please contact Todd Domeck, ACCT Board Vice-Chair at todd.domeck@acctinfo.org.

Nomination forms can be found on the ACCT website at www.acctinfo.org.

Thank you,

Todd Domeck
ACCT Board Vice-Chair
todd.domeck@acctinfo.org



Silver – Silver – Silver ! Celebrate ACCT's 25th Anniversary Conference!

by Cynthia Paris
Conference Committee Chair

Palm Springs, California is where many classic stars of the silver screen called home. Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Jack Benny, Gene Autry, Dinah Shore, Monty Hall, to name just a few, all have roads named after them in this desert valley they called home.

Their accomplishments include more than their famous acting; Bob Hope founded the Palm Springs Air Museum; Gene Autry assisted in setting up the medical center; and Monty Hall is known for his excellent fundraising in the area. These individuals were instrumental in founding the community that later became the Greater Palm Springs area. It is symbolic that here is where we are hosting our 25th anniversary and the accomplishments of so many who founded ACCT and the greater community.

To kick off the very special milestone event, our keynote speaker is Emily Harrington, accomplished climber and adventurer. Her presentation will be on Thursday afternoon right after the Opening Ceremony. Did we mention that Emily is also our first female keynote? Please join us in giving her a warm welcome and lots of support. She will encourage and astonish you as she speaks from the heart.

Join us on Thursday evening for a Silver Anniversary reception held in the exhibit hall. Meet the vendors as you enjoy light snacks and beverages. Afterwards, get ready to sing your heart out at our Karaoke night in the hotel's nightclub! Try out those ol' blue eyes, Frank Sinatra classics, or kick it up with the modern blue eyes, Justin Timberlake. It's bound to be an entertaining night!

Friday night's reception is "Silver Screen: A Black and White Affair". Bring on the glam and dress to impress or dress like a classic TV or movie star. We will be showing a classic silver screen film later in the evening out under the stars on the Emerald lawn.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary, we will be bringing back a few "classics" from the ACCT Olympics over the years. Teams consist of eight (8) individuals- any mix of skills and backgrounds. Start gathering your team now and register on the ACCT website! Your team will be part of our friendly competition on Saturday afternoon.

We are pleased to have the workshop session descriptions posted online at the ACCT website. Many of you requested to see sessions months ahead, to allow review and planning your participation. This is the earliest we have had them posted - thanks to the conference committee; most notably, the hard work of Alexis and John, the workshop task force, and the hard-working ACCT office staff. Let us know on the feedback surveys if this was helpful for you.

Online registration is open online for the conference – be sure to check out the early bird discount and save money by registering

before November 17th. Extend your participation by signing up for a pre-conference and/or a post-conference workshop. This year we have 18 different presenters for you to select from! A lot of great talent and experience to choose from!

To celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of our members, we are hosting a "Hometown Auction" for this year's Silent Auction. Bring items or gift certificates from things that represent you and/or your community. Unique experiences in your area could make a great item. Is your town or state known for a particular craft or food? Put it together in a basket or bring individual items and we will put them together. Make a difference and DONATE! All proceeds will go to benefit scholarships and special projects at ACCT.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's 25th anniversary conference February 5th-8th, 2015, at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells, California. If you have ideas for the conference committee, please email me at cparisconsulting@gmail.com or Melissa Webb, at melissa@acctinfo.org. We are planning events more than a year ahead so we welcome your suggestions for 2016 too. See you in sunny Palm Springs!



Project Adventure “Journey On” Celebration

by Bill Weaver
ACCT Director of Operations

On October 17th and 18th, Project Adventure (PA) held a special celebration: “Journey On.” The weekend of festivities was held at PA headquarters, located on the picturesque Moraine Farm in Beverly, Massachusetts.

Friday evening provided a “homecoming” atmosphere to PA staff, past and present, as folks gathered to share “past adventures and those still to come.” Some of the highlights of the evening included special recognition given to two very special PA staff members. PA’s Adventure Based Counseling program developer, Paul Radcliffe, received The Ann Smolowe – Training and Consulting Award and Aaron Nicholson was the recipient of The Jim Schoel – Full Value Award.

The focal point of Saturday’s gathering was to recognize and celebrate the legacy of PA’s retiring CEO, Dick Prouty. After 34 years at the helm, Dick will be retiring at the end of 2014.

Joining PA in 1980, Dick facilitated their structure as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. As their Director, beginning in 1982, he has led its strategic planning and organizational development to become today’s globally recognized, premier organization in facilities-based Adventure Learning. He is the co-author of PA’s best selling text on Adventure Based Counseling, *Islands of Healing*, and is a leader in Adventure-based experiential education.

Dick’s expertise in Organizational & Board Development has benefitted numerous organizations over the years. He has served on the ACCT Board of Directors and currently holds a lifetime seat on the ACCT Board Emeritus. Dick has served as a founder and past member of the AEE Accreditation Committee and the Chair of the Board of the Waring School (an independent school located north of Boston). He also sits on the board of PA Japan and PA Asia Pacific (PA’s affiliate organizations in Asia).

Project Adventure has established a special fund in honor of Dick’s legacy, **The Dick Prouty Scholarship Fund**. This fund will be used to provide scholarships for schools seeking a youth program, or teachers taking PA’s Open Enrollment workshops. In appreciation to all of Dick and PA’s commitment and service to ACCT over the years, ACCT will be donating a check for \$1,000 to this fund. Congratulations Dick! Journey on!





When Quality Matters

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ACCT Committees

Canopy/Zip Line Tour Committee

Victor Gallo, Chair
+1-506-257-4180
vgallo@adventureplaygd.com

Conference Committee

Cynthia Paris, Chair
+1-414-303-0193
cparisconsulting@gmail.com

Consensus Group

Bob Ryan, Chair
+1-978-524-4500
bryan@pa.org

Design, Performance & Inspection Committee

Rich Klajnscek, Chair
+1-978-239-7321
rich@seafoxconsulting.com

Educational Use Committee

Jim Grout, Chair
+1-802-254-8718
jgrout@high5adventure.org

Employee Work Place Safety Standards Committee

Jim Wall, Chair
+1-828-737-6850
jwall@cdiinfo.com

Ethics Committee

Adam Bondeson, Chair
bikerb@verizon.net

Finance Committee

Cara Citro
+1-847-772-3884
cara.citro@53.com

Government Relations Committee

Currently Vacant

Inspector Certification Committee

Keith Jacobs, Chair
+1-877-206-8967
keith@experientialsystems.com

International Relations Committee

Paul Hancock, Chair
paul@challengeworks.com

Membership Committee

Robert Brack, Chair
+1-541-852-6244
robert.j.brack@ci.eugene.or.us

Operations & Certification Standards Committee

Scott Andrews, Chair
+1-206-818-1838
scott@andrewsconsultingllc.com

Practitioner Certification Test Committee

Brenda Reed, Chair
+1-310-622-3364
brenda@ropeworksinc.com

PR & Marketing Committee

Currently Vacant

Research Advisory Committee

Liz Speelman, Chair
+1-478-445-7536
liz.speelman@gcsu.edu

Review Committee

Kennerly de Forest, Chair
+1-831-440-1421
ken@challengeworks.com

ACCT Logo Usage Policy

by the ACCT PR & Marketing Committee

The Association's logo is a trademark and is the property of the ACCT. However, the ACCT may grant a license to use the ACCT member logo to specific members who are in good standing.

To use the ACCT Logo, Organizational and Professional Vendor Members must receive written consent from ACCT's Main Office. Permission may be granted for its use on business cards, letterheads, websites, and brochures.

When using the logo on printed material and websites, please consider including the following statements that are appropriate to explain your relationship to ACCT.

Organizational Members

We are an Organizational member of the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) and our products and services are independent from those offered by the ACCT. We are not an agent of ACCT, nor does the ACCT warrant, endorse, or approve any product or service offered by us.

Professional Vendor Members

We are an Accredited Professional Vendor Member (PVM) of the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT). Our company has undergone an extensive peer review process and has been accredited to provide practitioner certification training, course installation, and course inspections. Insert the option(s) that is appropriate for your company.

If permission is granted to use the member logo, the ACCT member logo should be printed using the ACCT member logo received from the ACCT and not a newly rendered logo. The logo can be used in black and white or grayscale. The right to use the ACCT member logo shall terminate and be revoked upon the authorized member's failure to remain in good standing, in the event of misuse by the member as determined by the ACCT, or due to any other breach of this Policy for Use. Upon such termination and/or revocation, the unauthorized member will remove the ACCT member logo from all materials, products, and services, regardless of whether such materials, products, or services are already printed or in existence at that time.

Legal action can be taken against anyone who uses the ACCT member logo in violation of the above policy. For permission to use the ACCT member logo, please contact the ACCT Business office.

ACCT MEMBERSHIP

Student/Senior Membership

Any individual participating in full-time studies at a recognized educational institution. Proof of student status is required. Senior status applies to individuals who provide proof that they are 60+ years old.

Membership period: 1 year
Annual Membership dues: \$65 USD

Individual Membership

Any individual interested in being connected to the ACCT community and gaining access to the professional challenge course industry and its resources. Membership benefits apply to one person.

Membership period: 1 year
Annual Membership dues: \$85 USD

Organizational Membership

Any organization interested in being connected to the ACCT community and gaining access to the professional challenge course industry and its resources. Membership benefits apply to the organization and its employees.

Membership period: 1 year
Annual Membership dues: \$275/USD \$200 Non-Profit USD
(Must provide proof of non-profit status)

Professional Vendor Member

Companies that have successfully completed an ACCT application for Professional Vendor Member status. Membership benefits apply to the company and its employees.

Membership period: 1 year
Annual Membership dues: \$1,800 USD

ACCT Membership Office

The ACCT Membership Office handles membership services, conference coordination, registrations, standards sales, and general office duties for the ACCT.

ACCT
PO Box 47
Deerfield, IL 60015
Phone +1.800.991.0286; fax +1.800.991.0287
E-mail: info@acctinfo.org
Web: www.acctinfo.org



Facilitators' Toolbox: Key Ingredients for Optimal Group Building Experiences

by Jen Stanchfield



In past articles I have compared group facilitation to cooking. As in cooking, group facilitation allows for a great deal of room for adaptation, experimentation, and adjustment of ingredients to fit different groups and different learning situations. Though there is opportunity for creativity and innovation, it is important to remember that there are key ingredients from the science of teaching, including educational neuroscience research, which will help us maximize these learning outcomes with our groups. Here are some of those key ingredients that will help you build a positive and supportive learning environment.

The Experience Starts the Moment Learners Enter the Room (or Even Before)

The first few minutes of a group session are your opportunity to draw participants into a positive learning experience and increase engagement. Educational psychologists have demonstrated that people tend to remember the most about the last first few moments and last few moments of experiences

(Sousa, 2006; Willis, 2010). Plan these first few minutes of engagement thoughtfully. What do you want people to remember about their experience? How are you going to welcome them into the learning space? Are administrative duties like release forms the VERY first thing you want the group to remember?

“There is a fine line between a challenge that helps move learning forward and what the educational philosopher John Dewey... would call a miseducative or potentially damaging experience...”

There are creative ways you can welcome group members into the meeting space and focus their attention on the tasks at hand. Reflective practice to increase meaning, retention and transfer can begin in these very first moments (see my previous article on “Strong Beginnings”).

Take Time Up-Front to Build Your Group and Make Thoughtful Activity Choices

You will find that time spent at the beginning of your program building relationships, ownership, and reflective skills pays off later in many ways. Think carefully about using

appropriate beginning activities that build rapport and trust in incremental ways. It takes time to sequence and build healthy trust within groups. This is the foundation that will allow you to engage learners in more challenging activities, foster more responsibility and control over learning, and increase participants' ability to move learning forward.

When choosing introductory activities, find those that build rapport, camaraderie, connections, shared understanding, and goals in an enjoyable and non-threatening way.

Beware of the Icebreaker

An icebreaker is meant to “break the ice”—to build respect and a willingness to share that are essential to a productive and supportive learning community. When people are put “on the spot” too early in the group process, however, icebreakers can do the opposite of what was intended. Many people have negative connotations with team-building and icebreaker activities because they have been put in situations where choice and control were taken away.

Choice and Control are Essential

People learn best when they perceive a sense of control and have choice and ownership over their learning experiences.

Continued on page 20 . . .



Facilitators' ToolboxContinued from page 12

Think about creating opportunities that build this sense of choice and control from the very beginning of the program. Empowering learners to set reasonable parameters around their participation creates an atmosphere of healthy trust and will increase involvement from reluctant participants.

Learn and Honor Names

Knowing and using each other's names in a respectful way builds trust and positive communication, establishing a supportive group environment. Activities that clarify names can be helpful even to groups that you might think already know each other. A person's name is important to them and should be honored with correct pronunciation and proper use. Weave name activities and practice into introductory activities, starting with simple partner greetings and sharing before engaging participants in a whole group name activity. Avoid contrived name activities that put people on the spot or require them to feel under pressure to memorize.

Establish and Reflect on Healthy Group Norms

Help group members create an environment in which they feel responsible for themselves and each other. A supportive atmosphere will allow them to speak up when there is a breakdown in communication or an issue that affects the safety or potential experience of the group. It is ideal when the group takes that responsibility rather than the facilitator or leader.

One benefit to using challenge courses and team-building initiatives in group development is that the need to make decisions and work out conflict organically arises. Groups have to find ways to figure out how to address these issues in order to go on. When natural conflicts, arguments or negative behaviors arise in the midst of an activity, it can become a teachable moment if facilitated carefully. This is a perfect time to explore meaningful and relevant group norms. Leader-imposed ground rules or expectations should be put forward at the beginning, but participants should be increasingly involved in defining group norms as they move forward and encounter challenging situations together as a group.

Reflect and Check In

Reflection brings learning to life. Intentionally making time for the group to reflect and check in with each

other is integral to the group process. In this way, experiences can be built upon one another and related to real life and future learning. John Dewey (1933) believed that in order to truly learn from experience, there must be time for reflection. Modern-day brain research validates Dewey's belief that reflection helps learners find relevancy and meaning and make connections between their educational experiences and real-life situations (Stanchfield, 2014). Reflective practice plays an important part in the development and strengthening of neuronal pathways to enhance retention and the ability to recall and apply lessons. Regular "check-ins" create a forum or opportunity for participants to share what is working, what they need from each other, and for celebrating successes along the way. Reflective practice is best when it is a dynamic, ongoing part of your programs, not just something facilitated at the end of an experience or as a follow up.

Join me at the annual conference for the latest edition of "Facilitator's Toolbox Live" to explore activities and strategies to create and maintain a positive learning environment. Bring your favorite engagement and reflective activities to share. For questions or comments email jen@experientialtools.com

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Get Involved!

ACCT Committees

Would you like to be a part of an ACCT Committee and take a leadership role in the challenge course industry? We are currently taking applications for several committees. Please see the ACCT website or contact the ACCT office for a Committee Job Description or application.

Task Force Members

Don't have the time to fully commit to being a committee member but still want to be involved? We are also taking applications for individuals who would like to contribute to ACCT and the Challenge Course industry by participating as a Task Force Member. If this is something that interests you, please contact the Membership Manager Trudy Robbins at membership@acctinfo.org.

Did You Know?

No one individual is credited with originating the 4-H program but rather the program was founded through collective efforts of several individuals over the course of few years.

Since 4-H began more than 100 years ago, it has become the nation's largest youth development organization. The 4-H idea is simple: help young people and their families gain the skills needed to be proactive forces in their communities' and develop ideas for a more innovative economy.

4-H opened the door for young people to learn leadership skills and revolutionized how youth connected to practical, hands-on learning experiences outside the classroom.

The passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 created the Cooperative Extension System at USDA and nationalized 4-H. By 1924, 4-H clubs were formed and the clover emblem was adopted.

4-H added the Portable Challenge Program in the early 1990's and has hundreds of challenge programs operating throughout the United States.

Fun Facts

by Trudy Robbins

OCTOBER

- OCTOBER is Pizza Month! Whilst Pizza Month might be a great excuse to have 30 days of back-to-back pizza with all the trimmings, it's probably not the best plan for watching your waistline! Enjoy responsibly, and spend the month sampling different types of pizza (in moderation)!
- Saturday, October 11th is "Universal Music Day."
- Wednesday, October 15th is "Take Your Parents to Lunch Day."
- Monday, October 27th is "Navy Day."

NOVEMBER

- NOVEMBER is World Vegan Month. Ever considered going vegan, but not sure where to start? Vegan Month is dedicated to educating about vegan eating and lifestyles, and encouraging you take give it a go. Take part by eating and living vegan, stopping animal cruelty, and living a healthier life!
- Tuesday, November 4th is "Use Your Common Sense Day."
- Thursday, November 14th is "World Kindness Day."
- Monday, November 24th is "Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day."

DECEMBER

- DECEMBER is Human Rights Month. Human rights are the fundamental rights which every living person is entitled to, and are considered to be universal rights or laws regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, country or time. Human Rights Month encourages greater awareness of human rights, and promotes the continuing struggle to ensure that all people have access to life's basic necessities.
- Wednesday, December 10th is "Human Rights Day."
- Saturday, December 20th is "Games Day."
- Wednesday, December 31st is "Make Up Your Mind Day."

Parallel Lines Ad Space

Advertise Your Products & Services in Parallel Lines

Parallel Lines (ACCT's Quarterly Newsletter) circulates to all ACCT members and customers each quarter. This communication tool keeps recipients up-to-date on educational opportunities and industry happenings.

	1 Issue	2 Issues	3 Issues	4 Issues
Back Cover	\$550	\$1000	\$1400	\$1600
Inside Front Cover	\$450	\$850	\$1225	\$1400
Inside Back Cover	\$450	\$850	\$1225	\$1400
Full Page Ad	\$350	\$600	\$875	\$1150
Half Page Ad	\$175	\$325	\$475	\$600
Quarter Page Ad	\$150	\$300	\$450	\$550

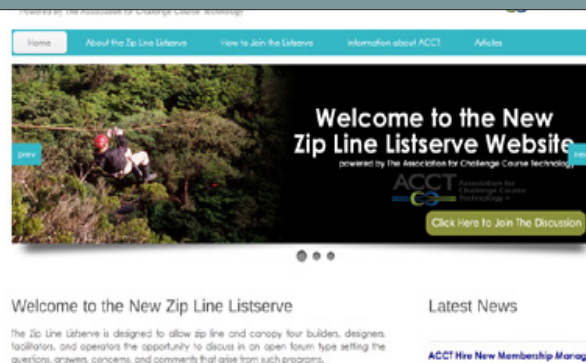
Additional Advertising Opportunities

Showcase Your Products & Services on the Zip Line List Serve

The Zip Line List Serve website is more than a basic information source; it also provides an opportunity for networking and purchasing. Banner ads throughout the site connect buyers to your products with a single click of a button.

www.ziplinelistserve.com

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
Position 1	\$400 per month	\$375 per month	\$350 per month
Position 2	\$350 per month	\$325 per month	\$275 per month
Position 3	\$300 per month	\$275 per month	\$250 per month



Founded in 1993, The Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) is the world's leading and largest American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Developer that is focused specifically and solely on the challenge course industry. It is the mission of the organization to establish and promote the standard of care that defines professional practice and effective challenge course programs.

The Association for Challenge Course Technology is a non-profit trade association with its main office in Illinois and satellite offices in Maryland and Washington. Parallel Lines is the organization's publication that is sent to all of our affiliates and friends. With member organizations across the United States, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, Canada, Japan, Korea, Central America, and across the globe, the ACCT is the leading organization dedicated to supporting professionals in the challenge course industry.

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All parties interested in submitting materials for publication in Parallel Lines are encouraged to send them to the Main Office, Attention: Editor. We reserve the right to refuse or edit any materials submitted. Photos should be submitted with article submissions. For more information contact us at +1-800-991-0286 between 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., CST. Our 24-hour fax number is +1-800-991-0287.

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