

# THE STATE OF dAC



DISABILITIES AWARENESS CHALLENGE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Volume 2 No. 2

## dAC Chair's Message

As I write this note to you, it occurs to me that the Jamboree officially starts in 168 days! All of us will be at the Summit in 165 days!



Tony Mei

That seems like a long time, BUT, it will be here before we know it. In the next few months we'll be sharing more info about the dAC with you and moving forward on a number of "small", but important, administrative issues. Probably the most important for all of us is submitting our medical forms no later than April 15, 2013 --- not just tax day this year!

Russell Smart, the head of the Summit Program Leadership Action Team (SPLAT, for short) has just shared information with us about walking times from Staff Camp Echo (dining hall) to the dAC --- 40 minutes (at a reasonable pace) and from Base Camp Bravo (for those with mobility challenges) --- 5 minutes (at a reasonable pace).

Most of our 19 activities at the dAC are refined versions from previous Jamborees. However, three are new (or significantly changed) at this Jamboree --- a refreshed Tent of Possibilities, a Special Exhibits tent, and the ADHD/ASD (the Invisible disAbilities) activity. Steve Skinner is working on taking the Tent of Possibilities to the next level with examples of current assistive technologies and an interactive piece for the participants to share their ideas and reactions. The Special Exhibits tent is a work in progress. We envision having vendors or special groups demonstrate and discuss what

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## Countdown to Jambo involves scheduling

One of the busiest times for the upcoming Jamboree will be the three initial days of staff arrivals. Because the dAC group is one of the largest program staffing teams, we are being broken down to three arrival dates. Our administrative and layout teams are due in on Wednesday July 10th with the remainder of our staff split between Thursday and Friday arrivals. Because of this time frame some of the staff will be working the site on Friday while the rest are arriving and setting up their living quarters. The schedule will allow all staff to be on site by Saturday morning to finish set up and decoration. Beginning Saturday afternoon the entire dAC staff (60+)

will begin training and learning the 18+ station event. Each venue will be reviewed including the program daily set up, the action that takes place at the event, and the follow up discussion of the impact of that experience with groups and individuals. The team will also be trained with safety procedures for some of the events to be certain that all scouts and scouters will be afforded proper instruction at the various action events. Sunday morning will be free time for dAC staff with all required back on site by 1:00 pm to continue training. All staff will be at the event when it opens at 12:00 pm Monday. Individual scheduling begins on Tuesday.

## Individual staff member scheduling to begin

To begin staff scheduling it is important to know the process behind the planning. The schedule adheres to the following:

1. Each staff member gets one full program day off with rest of schedule divided between morning and evening

periods.

3. Two staff per schedule periods to be assigned dAS (disAbility Awareness Service).

4. Two staff per schedule periods to be assigned MB (Merit Badge-select staff)

Continued on page 3



Above: Individual program entrance gateways are being created equal with just the names changing. dAC has always had one of two entrance signs as its gateway and plans to incorporate the above sign as the first stop for a photo opportunity as well as the location of "The Voice" - scouts meeting with a disAbled staff member.

# Printed dAC task card determined for use at Jamboree

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## DISABILITIES AWARENESS CHALLENGE

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**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

- ADHD/ASD
- Archery
- Laser BB Gun
- Bowling
- Beep BaseBall
- The Voice
- Wheelchair BB
- Signing
- Tent of Possibilities



- Trust Run
- Obstacle Course
- Mind Bender
- Cane Maze
- Volleyball
- Home Challenge
- Compass
- Special Exhibit
- Merit Badge

**Participant:** Attempt the challenge of all tasks. You need a minimum of 15 events completed to brag that **“to finish is to win”**<sup>DD</sup>

**the National Jamboree 2013**  
*Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia*

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First introduced as the Handicapped Awareness Trail at the 1977 Boy Scout Jamboree held at Moraine State Park, Pa. the basis for dAC was a program developed by Dr. Jack C. Dinger, a professor of Special Education at Slippery Rock State College in Slippery Rock, Pa. From his initial 6 trek event, dAC has grown to a 16+ station event at the Jamboree level. Credit for most of this program belongs to two gentlemen who, in 1989, introduced the redesigned *disAbilities Awareness Challenge* to the National Jamboree. Their staff of 12 attracted just over 4000 participants. Through the persistent efforts of David Davies (d. 2009) Professional Scouter of Virginia Beach, Va. and volunteer Fred “Chief” Hampton of Albuquerque, NM, the Challenge has grown to be one of the premier events of the National Jamboree. In 2005, the staff of 47 introduced the 16 station disAbilities Awareness Challenge to just over 14,000 participants. Jamboree 2010 had a signed staff of 50 but continued to deliver dAC to Scouters from all over with an on-site staff of 39. More than 15,300 visits averaging 6-7 events yielded 99,450 scout events. An impressive number! Since 2010 the National BSA has made a firm commitment to dAC for the future. Chaired by Tony Mei, California, dAC has secured a prime piece of real estate in the heart of Action Alley surrounded by merit badge booths and other program venues. Staff allotment has increased to a maximum of 100. Shooting sports has been integrated with dAC to provide BSA approved supervision with Blind BB and Wheelchair Archery. A disAbilities Awareness Service is being introduced to address the needs of disAbled scouts and scouters. The event will be open to those visitors, scouts, scouters, and staff who dare to take the *Challenge*. BSA and the dAC team are preparing a permanent home for the many events so that everything needed to run the *Challenge* will always be on site for future national programs and Jamborees.

*Above: Technology vs. Traditional - Use a phone app. or the task card at the 2013 Jamboree? It was determined that a hand’s on card would give participants the incentive to complete the course. Each entrant to the dAC will be handed one of these cards and, as he completes each challenge, the host presenter will punch out that event. The dAC team will be offering a very limited number of pins to those challengers who complete 15 events. A maximum of 18,000 cards will be printed, with the guesstimate of 17,000+ going through at least part of the Challenge.*

## dAC tee shirt to align with Summit branding guidelines



The dAC Team has had an original staff shirt since 1993. Above are ‘93, ‘97, ‘01, ‘05, ‘10. The dAC 2013 shirt will be consistent with the Summit plan and Administration recommends that each staff member plan to purchase at least three since it is worn most Jambo working days on site. Previous Jambo shirts can be worn off duty hours.



The class B shirt design has been announced. All staff members, when on duty, will wear either a class A uniform or the Summit designed STAFF class B shirt depicting a large printed map of the area and a patch over the front left side. Still to be determined if a pocket (+\$1.) is to be added or if golf shirts become a choice. The dAC team has been assured that it is a large enough group order so that the image on back will be highlighted to depict our area on the map and the writing will say dAC STAFF. The chair will be sending out order forms by early March. Payment will be in advance. Each shirt will be \$13. and it is advised to plan on purchasing several. Class A’s will be worn opening and closing days as well as on the main show date.

## Scheduling...from page 1

5. Up to 5 Staff rotating for administration duties and emergency substitutions.
6. All staff will be on site on Saturday, Sunday, opening day Monday, 2nd Sunday, and closing day Tuesday.
7. Other days staff will work events on 7 hour periods

**BREAKFAST:** 6:00-7:15

**LUNCH:** DAILY FROM 1:30-2:30

**FULL DAY:** 8:00 AM-8:00 PM

**HALF DAY:** 8:00-2:30 - 1:30-8:00

Notice the lunch time overlap where all staff are on site. This gives admin and staff a chance to meet and greet, review program offerings, closings, etc.

1. ADHD	1	11. Obstacle Course	2
2. Archery	3	12. Mind Bender	1
3. Laser BB Gun	3	13. Cane Maze	1
4. Bowling	1	14. Volleyball	1
5. Beep Baseball	2	15. Home Challenge	2
6. "The Voice"	1	16. Compass	1
7. Wheelchair BB	2	17. dAService	2
8. Signing	1	18. Entry Gate	2
9. Tent of Possibilities	2	19. Merit Badge	2
10. Trust Run	3	20. dAService	2
Administration: Anthony Mei*,			35
Timothy Birt*, Jim Africano*		Note numbers after venue are	staff needed to run event.
Charlie Mann*, Steve Skinner*			

BASED ON 56 STAFF: In order to guarantee each staff member one full day off, it is necessary to furlough 8 team members each of the 7 available days yielding a shortage of 6-7 per program period which will cause closing of several areas each day\*. To this end we will divide the staff into Group A and Group B. Equal numbers of staff from both Groups A and B will feed the daily furlough. This will be sent out in advance to notify participating staff as to their schedule in order for them to be able to plan their days with their participating son or troop.

The individual schedule will also depict day when member staffs dAS. That schedule will be incorporated into the master schedule as we near the Jamboree with input from Tim Birt.

*\*It is possible to bring in participating Scouts to assist at some stations as has happened in the past. We have met plenty of Scouts who wanted to do "staff in training" after they went through dAC as a participant. Also, if staff volunteers longer hours, some venues can remain open.*

## The mathematics

Registered staff	61
Administration	-5
On site staff	55
Less daily furlough	-8
Two teams - avg.	24
Program as planned	35
Shortfall each period	-11

*dAC plans on a rotating closure of several venues each period. A schedule will be developed to ensure that all areas are given equal exposure.\**

## disAbilities Awareness Challenge staff schedule sample

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
14 All staff on site for training, safety instruction, Q/A, Schedule distribution/explanation	15 All staff on opening day; 12:00 - 5:00	16 <b>B</b> <b>A</b> 11:00 - 8:00	17 <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 8:00 - 8:00	18 <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 8:00 - 8:00	19 <b>B</b> <b>A</b> 8:00 - 8:00	20 <b>B</b> <b>A</b> 8:00 - 9:00
21 All staff 12:00 - 5:00	22 <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 8:00 - 8:00	23 <b>A</b> <b>B</b> 8:00 - 8:00	24 All staff on closing day; 8:00 - 5:00 Knockdown	25 Leave for home	NOTE: dAC Venue needs 35 staff plus administration at any shift to deliver full program including Merit Badge and dAS. Staff on site each morning will follow schedule of venue closures.*	

## Schedule

1. All staff have one full day off;
2. Each group works 2 evening shift followed by 2 am shift ; 2 evening, etc.
3. Unseen Group C names change daily as staff takes day to visit Jambo;
4. With 50+ group an average of 7-8 staff per day will not be on site

**SAMPLE**  
schedule

## The Chair's message...from page 1

they do. I am looking for ideas and help in fleshing out a meaningful ADHD/ASD activity. I have some basic approaches under consideration and will have 4 tables, two monitors and laptops in place. The key here is to have up to 4 meaningful hands-on examples for participants to experience. As a hidden agenda, having 4 activities in a 20' by 20' tent will lead to a closing question for participants about how many conversations they were following simultaneously while in the activity --- the lesson here is that those who have ADHD can often listen to 3 or more conversations simultaneously (talk about sensory stimulus!). We also will once again have the disAbility Awareness Merit Badge being presented within the dAC. To earn that merit badge Scouts will need to experience virtually all of the dAC and complete specific explanatory requirements.

I've already shared the shuttle schedules for flights in/out of Charlotte, NC and Charleston, WV. So far, those are the only airports that have such shuttles scheduled. You

will be notified in the next month about when you will be expected to arrive at the Summit (either July 11th or 12th) and you already know your departure date (July 18th or 25th). It's not too early to begin making your flight reservations (as soon as the arrival dates are pinned down). Once you have made your reservations you must access this site: <https://summit.scouting.org/en/Jamboree2013/Pages/Transportation-Management-Services.aspx> and enter your travel itinerary. You will then be given the option of purchasing an airport shuttle pass if you need one.

The dAC is now up to 61 staff. As you can see from the scheduling discussion later in the newsletter, we can certainly use the additional 39 staff that we've been allocated! PLEASE invite a (or another) friend to join you on the dAC staff :)

I'll keep you informed of any substantive changes as soon as possible. Meanwhile take in the great info contained in the rest of newsletter and "See you at the Summit in July!"

## Questions, questions, questions...

The dAC chair would like to get your input on several areas of our program offering. Our next contact, due out by early March, will address the following issues and

how they relate to you, your skills, experiences, professional know-how and the connections necessary to make Jambo dAC a great success. Areas to be covered include:

1. Merit Badge Counselors for dAC?
2. Member of an Eagle board of review committee to expand Tent of Possibilities area?
3. Presentation skills or lack, thereof?
4. Mental block or uncomfortable with certain areas? Basketball, Beep Ball, Trust Run, etc?
5. Do you have additional responsibilities at Jamboree?
6. Willingness to volunteer extra hours to continue open program venues (see "Mathematics" page 3 for explanation)
7. Artist (freehand signs, etc.), carpenter (Assembly and maintenance of several venues), Graphic Artist to continue the dAC tradition, etc.?
8. Facility with signing (American Sign Language)

### SUMMIT BECHTEL RESERVE JAMBOREE 2013 dAC ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

**Anthony Mei - CHAIRPERSON**

**DEPUTIES:**

**Jim Africano - SITE LAYOUT, SCHEDULING**

**Charlie Mann - FIELD EVENTS COORDINATOR**

**Tim Birt - ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

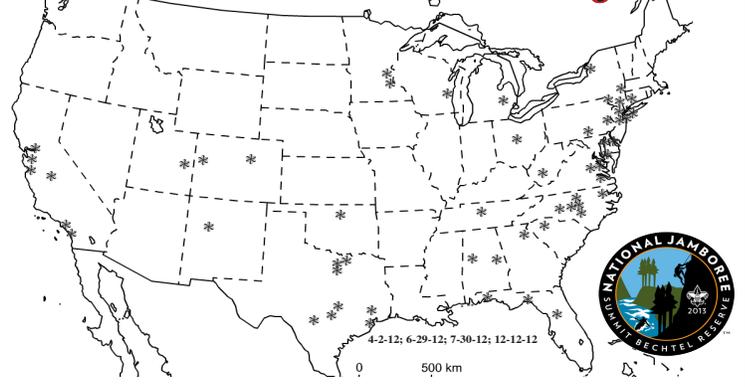
**Steve Skinner - POSSIBILITIES / INNOVATIONS**

**Fred "Chief" Hampton, Sonya Whitehead - ADVISORS**

**Oscar Santoyo - PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR**

**David Davies, d. - FOUNDING DIRECTOR**

### 2013 disAbilities Awareness Challenge Staff



Sixty plus staff members, representing more than 23 states are gathering this summer at the Summit to provide scouts with an experience in integrity, honesty, empathy, character, reliance, and resiliency.

**Jim Africano, Editor; Tony Mei, Contributor**

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