

## **Our Accomplishments**

The Colorado Camps Network was founded in the fall of 2019 to give summer camps a voice at the state level. We immediately hired lobbyists from the Michael Best Strategies Firm who were incredibly helpful in assisting in the launch of CCN.

### **Wage Law Changes (2019)**

We were able to meet with the Colorado Department of Labor and get language in the Division of Labor Standards and Statistics, COMPS Order # 36 (2020) which provided for explicit exemption for seasonal resident camp and outdoor education staff members. This language, for the first time in Colorado, specifies the number of hours they need to be paid for each week and provides discounts for non-profit entities, as well as providing a specific deduction for providing room and board. This is the first time we have had clear guidelines in Colorado for paying seasonal staff and its inclusion in the COMPS Order provides stability as we plan for future years. This language continues to be incorporated into each year's COMPS Order. We are proud of the relationship we are building with the Department of Labor.

### **Covid Issues (2020-2021)**

During late 2020 and early 2021, CCN worked consistently with the Governor's Office and the State Department of Health to make it possible for camps to open at full capacity with reasonable guidelines in 2021. Without CCN's seat at the table during these challenging times, it is very likely that camps would have been limited to half-capacity, if we were allowed to open at all. This experience has allowed CCN to build strong relationships with different regulators in Colorado.

### **Clean Water in Schools and Child Care Centers (2022)**

During the 2022 Legislative season HB22-1358 Clean Water in Schools and Child Care Centers was introduced. This bill would have required camps, as childcare centers, to install lead filters on every water tap and to maintain them annually. This would be a nightmare for most camps because of the number of taps present on residential camp properties. It was also not relevant as many summer camps filter their own water. Through the work of our lobbyists, we were able to testify before the committee hearing on the bill and to get an exemption for summer camps written into the law. The bill eventually passed and became law with our exemption for summer camps intact saving camps tens of thousands of dollars spent on water filters and ongoing maintenance.

### **Property Insurance availability and cost – FAIR Plan (2023)**

Many camps are experiencing double digit increases in premiums and reductions in coverage during insurance renewals. Other camps are struggling to maintain coverage through current providers. In 2022 we made our concerns known to the Colorado Director of Insurance and to the Wildfire Matters Committee. This is an extremely

complex issue which impacts both residential and commercial owners in Colorado. In 2023, CCN lobbied to have small businesses (including camps) added to the FAIR Plan. The FAIR plan is an instrument to provide property coverage for those individuals or businesses who cannot otherwise obtain property coverage. We were successful in adding small businesses to the plan which passed in 2023. We continue to communicate with the FAIR Plan board to navigate this new option.

### **CCN passes their first bill – SB24-071 – Seasonal Outdoor Adventure Day Camp Program (2024)**

CCN is “growing up” as an association as we celebrated the passage of our first legislative bill. Through the work of many CCN members, we were able to get Senate President Fenberg to sponsor a bill defining Seasonal Outdoor Adventure Day Camps as part of resident camps for licensing purposes. This will relieve some of the administrative burdens that were identified and experienced by those day camp as their licensing will move from following rules for school-age child care to following rules for resident camp rules.

*As the licensing rules for all types of camps is currently under review, the Seasonal Outdoor Adventure Day Camps rules will be included in the revised set of Rules for Resident Camps.*

### **Child Care Licensing and Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) (2024-2025)**

CCN has strengthened our relationship with Colorado Department of Early Childhood and has been consistently involved in the 2024/2025 standards revision. Many of the CCN Board Members have volunteered for the working sessions to update the regulations during the early months of 2024. We have become the “go-to” organization when camps need to work with governmental agencies. The conversations with CDEC have allowed us to have influence on many rules that add administrative burden while keeping camps safe for children.

### **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) (2024-2025)**

CCN has also strengthened our relationship with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. CCN Board members were involved in the 2024/2025 standards revision. One of the most important revisions was the removal of Radon testing at camps. Most campers do not attend camp long enough to be impacted if there is radon in cabins. In addition, cabins are usually well-ventilated reducing or eliminating the impact of radon. CCN also assisted in clarifying language to help camps understand the new standards. We are proud of the strong working relationship we have built over the years with CDPHE.

### **HB25-1027 – Update Disease Control Statutes (2025)**

CCN worked diligently with our lobbyist to amend the language in the bill to eliminate the need for camps to collect immunization records on the Colorado form. Camps were reporting \$1000s of dollars in staff expense to transcribe out of state immunization records to the Colorado form. After multiple meetings and info sharing, the bill sponsors amended the bill to read “in lieu of an official certificate of immunization, a licensed children’s residential camp may maintain on file an out-of-state immunization record for an out-of-state camper attending the residential camp.” At this time, the House has passed with bill with our amendment, and we are optimistic that the Senate will pass the bill, and the Governor will sign it.

### **SB25-004 Regulating Child Care Center Fees (2025)**

A bill was introduced to limit the amount that could be charged for application fees and wait-list fees. CCN, along with many other organizations, met with Senator Marchman to express our concern on the limited application fee and a few other aspects of the bill. The bill was modified to so it didn’t include an actual dollar amount limit but rather any application fees must be set to cover actual costs. There were only a few camps we heard from that implemented an application fee, but they were all happy to justify the small amount that was charged as an application fee.

### **Additional Information**

In addition to these specific accomplishments, our lobbyists work to keep our members informed with updates on wage law, health department and other agency requirements, and legislative bills that impact us. Colorado Camps Network is continuing to develop relationships with state leaders in a way that individual camp owners/directors are not able to do. With each connection, we are becoming seen as a leader in camping and a reasonable organization that works with agencies and regulators.