

International Camping Fellowship



Annual Report 2019



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The International Camping Fellowship is a worldwide community of camp and youth development professionals interested in sharing their enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment for camp education.

It is rooted in the belief that we can make a difference by "bringing together the world of outdoor experience." To this end, ICF connects...

- ICF Connects Camps
- ICF Connects Camp Professionals
- Camps Connect Children to Nature
- Camps Connect Children to the World
- Camps Connect Children to other Children
- Camps Connect Children to their own Feelings

The International Camping Fellowship welcomes everyone wishing to foster international understanding through the organized camp experience.

President's Remarks

The turning of any year represents an opportunity for reflection and for renewal. The purpose of an Annual Report, regardless of where it falls on the calendar, is to permit and provide both of those opportunities for all its members. It is an opportunity for the Board to speak to the membership about what has been accomplished and an opportunity to chart a course forward for the coming year with input from that membership.

Since its 2018 meeting in Ghent, Belgium, ICF's main thrust in 2019 has been to **'Connect'** more strongly than ever before. There have been many highlights to touch upon and you may read about these actions throughout this report. The primary need for 'connections' have been in the categories of membership services and communications.

At the heart of every decision this year has been an underlying principle drawn from our very first years as an organization: **'To bring together the world of outdoor experience'** - - - in other words to **CONNECT** us all as a camping family and as a camp community.

And so, throughout this report, you can read about the work of ICF's tireless volunteers to connect us together. The website updates, the steady improvements of ICF Connect, the ICDC course connections, the Congress connections, Ambassador connections, the Association connections and more are all ways that we can remind ourselves that our separate and important camping initiatives are part of a wider and even more important camping movement.

Driving this effort is an ICF Board that believes in the importance of giving beyond themselves. As President of ICF, I know and see – perhaps better than any other – how the strength of this organization lies in the hands and hearts of dedicated members willing to give so much to others. It should not surprise any of us as camping people who do this every day for children but it touches my heart and my appreciation for that effort is boundless. Over the course of my time in ICF, never has there been the depth of volunteerism that is part of ICF today.

We are all part of what is primarily an industry-based association. Our primary members are camp professionals and the camps in which they work. The ultimate beneficiaries, however, are the children who attend our camps and work with those camp professionals.

So it is that while **ICF Connects Camps**, we must never lose sight of our deeper objectives supporting **why** we connect camps. It is because **Camps Connect Children**

ICF Connects Camps...

...and Camp Connects Children

Camp connects children... to Who They Are

Camp connects children... to Who They Can Be

Camp connects children... to their Community

Camp connects children... to their Environment

Camp connects children... to their World

It is this deeper objective and purpose that motivates us all to give beyond ourselves. It is a basic characteristic of camp professionals to give beyond ourselves. ICF as an community is no different.



John Jorgenson

The Objectives of the ICF

- ❖ **To Connect with Information**
- ❖ **To Connect with Exchange**
- ❖ **To Connect with Education**
- ❖ **To Connect with Association**

CoVID-19 and Camps

While this annual report is a review of 2019, we would be remiss to ignore the enormous challenges imposed upon our industry and our world by CoVID-19. While this is not the place to focus on the many efforts collaborations and connections ICF has undertaken in 2020, suffice to say that we are working to chart a course for us all with survival and renewal in the camping community. We are ready to do more and will.

Membership

CATEGORY	2018	2019	CHANGE
Affiliates (free):	4148	5070	33%
Camping Associations:	19	20	15%
Camps/Organizations:	381	225	-45%***
Individuals:	94	197	0%
Membership & Affiliates:	4642	5512	20%

*** **Australian Camps Association** - The Membership Agreement with the **Australian Camps Association** (since 2011) has been suspended in the current membership review. Prior to this time, current camp members of the ACA were provided an ICF camp membership as a value added benefit for a fixed fee from the Association. The change of status for 186 camps in Australia accounts for the dramatic drop in Camp memberships. We hope to attract many members back to ICF with a new **Association Network Membership Agreement** (see below).

Membership Review

ICF membership program has been under review during 2019. A number of decisions have been made in order to re-frame, enhance and better serve our ICF members and affiliates. These changes are partially reflected in the table above and the impact of these changes may not be evident for another year.

Online Registration:

The ICF website has made the on-line process for joining, renewing memberships, and requesting Affiliate status more user-friendly. Prospective members may also opt to use the donations button, to make a donation to the Bill Bowker Scholarship Fund and the ICF Butterfly Fund.

Association Network:

Beginning with the Australian Camps Association, ICF has begun building a new relationship with members of the **ICF Association Network**. Current members of a regional or national association now qualify for a special code that offers a 50% reduction in camp membership fees. In this way, ICF hopes to encourage its membership and strengthen a commitment to local camp associations. In addition, ICF coordinates ongoing communication and resource sharing at the camping association level in order to strengthen the community overall. Over time, every Association member will be able to enter into similar agreement.

The **Association Network** contributes to and communicates with the ICF Advisory Council through the ICF President and Elected Board. It is also an ongoing dialogue amongst and between association executives/presidents. A meeting of the Association Network representatives convenes in person at each International Camping Congress.

Membership Agreements :

At the meeting in Ghent, Belgium (Now 2018), the ICF Board committed to working more closely with the national and regional association members of ICF. As a result, ICF has improved communication with national and regional organizations to build better networks.

American Camp Association

ICF had also established an Educational Alliance Agreement with **American Camp Association** (February, 2013). ICF is now an ACA Business Affiliate and the International Camping Congress is recognized as a significant educational event. ICF and ACA are now in discussion over a new, more fulsome agreement.

Membership Rates

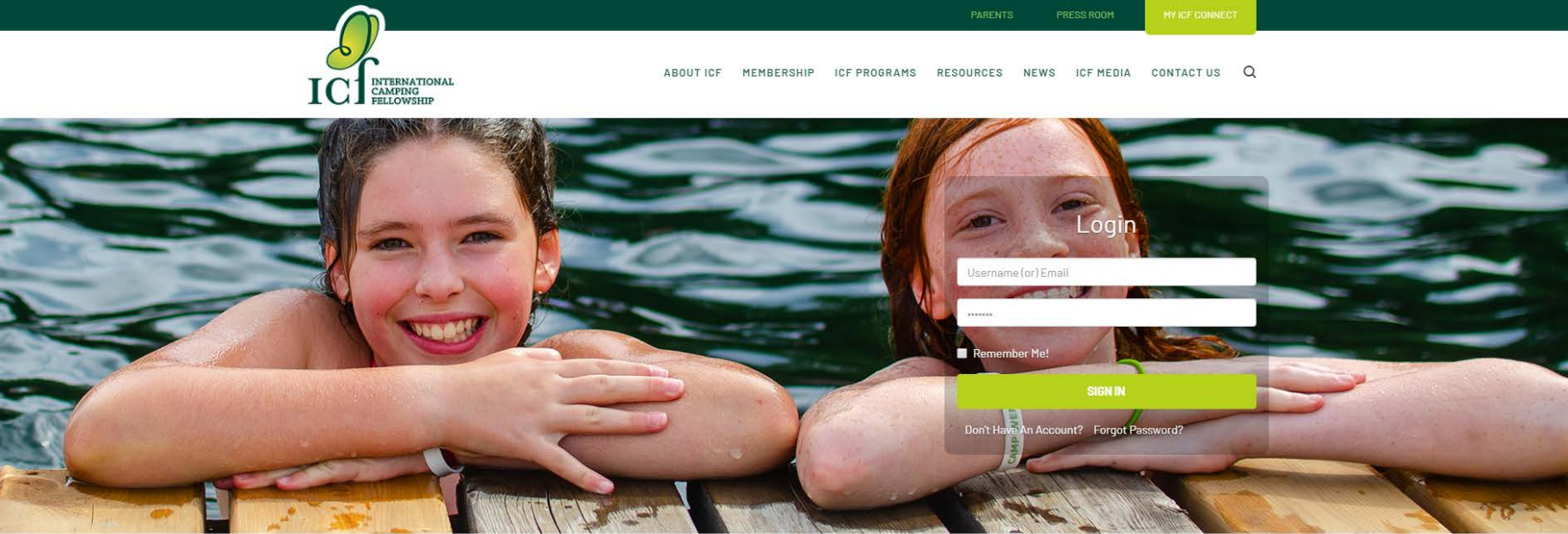
Membership rates remain fixed for this year with no increase at this time. As we consolidate our membership services and benefits, we will examine these rates at each meeting annually. Membership rates have remained unchanged for over twenty years and some adjustment is inevitable.

One change that has been made in conjunction with **ICF Connect** is the ability to purchase and renew membership in a more flexible way. Fees may be paid on a one, two or three year basis.

Logo Use

Over the past year, in response to some inappropriate use of the ICF Logo by some members and because of the development other categories of membership, ICF has developed logo use agreements for these various categories of membership. This agreement is now part of membership renewal.

ICF Connect



ICF Connect is the online meeting point for ICF members. The platform allows member to keep their contact information and member profile up to date. In addition, they can share knowledge, join discussions in specific areas of interest and register for select ICF events.

The member platform has been steadily improving its delivery and functionality since 2014 and this year the latest additions include:

- Members may add their own organization or change the contact person. This is a marked increase in the automation of membership management.
- Members may now apply assigned discount codes at time of event registration and membership registration/renewal.

- A membership administration section allows ICF to create different pricing structures as required.
- Additional participant options in the event area allow for better tracking of registration.
- Membership steps are more fluid and no longer requires profile updates upon log in.

In all, ICF has adjusted and applied over 90 items and fixes to provide a better ICF Connect experience. Others are being made. Suggestions are always welcome.

ICF Connect Resource Area is being populated with research, news, and program content. Check in to your Connect account regularly for opportunities to contribute as well as access the rich ICF camp community.

ICF Paid Services

In 2018, ICF recognized the need for a significant change. For 30 years, ICF has grown, informed and inspired various camp communities solely through the selfless efforts of volunteers who stepped forward to bring the dream of a global camping community to a reality.

From an inspirational gathering in in 1987 at a conference in Washington to the present day of 4000 members and affiliates in over 100 countries, the workload for a small group of volunteers has grown to an unmanageable level for volunteers who are so busy with their own camping business and obligations.

The call for paid services to support ICF was put to tender and the contract (annually renewable) was awarded to SRCC-Stéphane Richard Camp Consulting in Canada.

The principals in SRCC are well known to ICF members. **Stéphane Richard** is the current President of the Canadian Camping Association, a regular attendees of ICF Congresses and an ICDC Trainer.

Nazli Ozelik is an experienced camp director in Turkey, member of the Congress 2014 Organizing Committee and an ICDC Trainer.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

- **Board/Advisory Council Support (report the President)**
- **Financial Management (report the Treasurer)**
- **ICF Connect Maintenance /Management**
- **ICF Connect Membership (report Membership Chair)**
- **ICDC Logistics and Support as (report to ICDC Coordinator)**
- **ICC Congress Support Logistics (report to Congress Liaison)**
- **Website (report to Communications)**



ICF Asia-Oceania Congress Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



In 2003, camping professionals in the Asia-Oceania region met in Australia and first embraced the importance of working together in common purpose. The Asia-Oceania Camping Fellowship was the result. Fumio Morooka (Moro) from Japan was a driving force behind the creation of AOCF and was later replaced as the first Chair of AOCF by Bill Oakley from Australia. Both of these camp leaders have also served on the ICF Board while giving leadership in their own countries – true of examples of getting things done by giving the task to busy people.

Over the years, AOCF developed both a sense of community and a very professional record of regional conferences.

The theme song for that 2003 Congress in Melbourne, Australia included the lines: *“Let’s celebrate how we differ; Let’s celebrate what we share”*.

In 2016, at the 6th (and final) Congress organized by the Asia Oceania Camping Fellowship, the AOCF recognized that there was a closer way to work with and within ICF. AOCF chose to disband while inviting all of its members to remain in community as ICF Asia Oceania. ICF also agreed to continue to support the planned next regional congress in 2019.

Camping Sustainability – Nurturing Culture for Future Leaders has become another landmark event for camp professionals in the region.

There is no better place to embrace and address the question of sustainability than in this garden nation of Malaysia. Together with the camping professionals there and around the region, delegates addressed the intrinsic importance of ‘nature as teacher’ in our camp education purposes. Sustaining camp and sustaining nature go hand in hand.

Malaysia epitomizes the very idea of camp education – learning to live together so that everyone can be the best they can be. Knowing your culture is knowing your history... and knowing yourself. Each of us is stronger when we know our own story and we all benefit in knowing each other’s story as well.

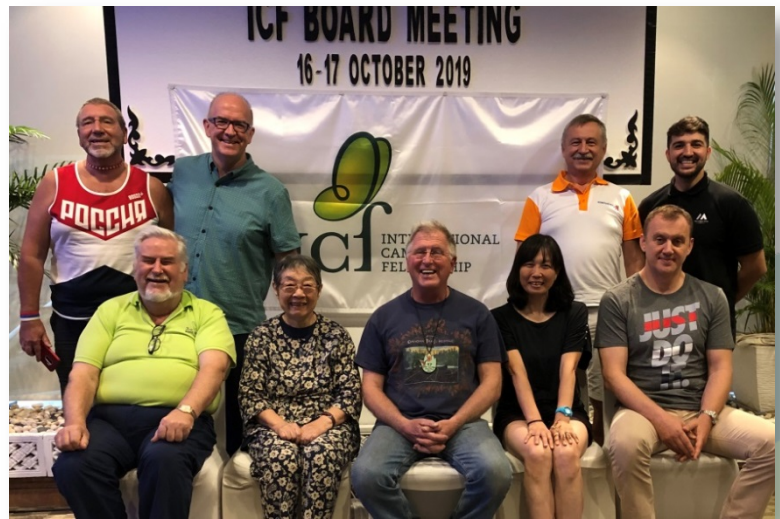
His **Royal Highness Crown Prince of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra** provided his patronage and support. The host committee prepared for our arrival. Speakers and delegates from 16 different countries experienced the hospitality and professional of our Malaysian hosts. Major keynote presentations from Russia, China and the United States alongside those from Malaysia highlighted three days of educational sessions on a wide variety of topics.

Cultural presentations; informal times at meals and after hours; young student journalists from China and a beautiful setting in downtown Kuala Lumpur all combined to provide the essence of an international Congress: **Connections – Exchange – Knowledge – Fellowship**





B. Abel Learwellie (Camps for Peace – Liberia) and Tom Rosenberg (CEO – American Camp Association)



The ICF Board meets prior to ICF-AO 2019. Bill Oakley and Sako Tanaka join the Board meeting as they have for so many years.



Matvey Shparo, Arctic explorer and youth leader from Russia, contributes to ICF-AO 2019 as a popular keynote speaker & presenter.



Jeff Bradshaw (Canada) presents a session on a novel strategy for staff recruiting and screening.



Talented children from Malaysia bring joy and culture to each day's general session.



Institute for Camp Education & Voice of Camp from China join together to participate in ICF-AO 2019 and to promote ICC 2020.



Russian Computeria Camp is presented with the ICF Butterfly Award recognizing their work to create International Festivals.



As part of the post-Congress tour, some members of the Russian delegation are received at the Crown Prince's palace in Perlis.

Website *www.icfconnect.net*

In the past year, the ICF website has undergone complete update. The effort has begun with a change of the ICF URL to icfconnect.net.

The change has been part of the rebranding effort to ICF Connect. The term International Camping Fellowship does not translate accurately and well into various languages and ICF letters and logo have become more recognized in all countries. ICF has invited each country to interpret the meaning of the words in the most appropriate manner. In this way ICF hopes to maintain as broad and inclusive membership interest as possible. Camps and camping take many forms across many countries.

Out-of-school education, youth travel experiences, adventure leadership, and many more aspects of youth development find common cause and benefit within the ICF community. The more we can include in this community the louder the voice of camping and the voice for youth can become.

The website is a partner to ICF Connect. Increasingly, the website serves as a public platform for the public and member recruitment, ICF Connect as our member platform and database; and our various social media for both news and ongoing communication.

The website is in constant need of attention and updates and we are grateful to the Communication Committee for its ongoing work. The committee welcomes high resolution photographs, news and suggestions anytime.

Communication

Communication and sharing across our ICF Family is the primary service and benefit of membership. As indicated here, the restructuring of website and ICF Connect is a prerequisite to our building an even broader membership base and providing a better sense of connection across borders and cultures. In an ever growing community, ICF's primary contribution must be information and that information that must be communicated in a frequent, consistent, accessible and dependable way.

This requires a complete overhaul of our communication plan. This plan must identify programs, calendar, reporting mechanisms, social media expansion, logging material into ICF Connect in a searchable format. We have committed time and resources to these tasks and members should see significant uptick in these services during 2020.

ICF Connect

The ICF Connect platform is a second element of improved membership benefits and services. As ICF has scaled and grown across over 100 countries, the

strength of our distance and diversity has generated challenges to our core goals and objectives. Our community, founded in fellowship and personal contact, has become spread out across the world speaking many languages and using many different means of communication. The Challenge is now to make members feel part of a greater camp community - more connected and more included.

Ambassadors

The ICF Ambassador are a critical part of connecting the camp community of any given country to the ICF as a whole. Ambassadors typically serve a three year period. Ambassadors commit to the following obligations and responsibilities during the period between Congress.

- **Represent the ICF movement within their country on behalf of the ICF Board**
- **Encourage connections to build communities of ICF members within their country**
- **Recruit additional ICF members (full and affiliate) within their country**
- **Develop links amongst members, nationally and internationally, including the exchange of campers and camp staff**
- **Supply camping news and information from their country to ICF on a regular basis**
- **Share information about international camping and ICF programs and services**
- **Serve as a member of the ICF General Assembly of Ambassadors for information sharing, advice to the Board and election of members to the ICF Board**
- **Secure regional coordinators within their country when appropriate**
- **Participate in regular virtual meetings of Ambassadors with the Ambassador Attaché**



Anamari Eskildsen served as ICF Ambassador in Panama. In late 2018 she went on to initiate an inaugural meeting of camp professionals resulting in the formation of PanaCamps. The power of Connection.

Research

In its mandate and commitment to connect, ICF has recognized the role and importance of research in camping. For the past number of years, Stephen Fine (Canada) & Deb Bialeschki (USA) have supported ICF efforts with an informal committee relationship to the ICF Board. In addition to providing reports on various projects, they have helped us bring together other academics across the world on relevant topics and directed the process to create Research Forum for several Congress events. More recently Laurie Brown (USA) at the American Camp Association has also been very supportive.

ICF looks forward to strengthening connections with research currently under way in China and mounting a significant academic presence at ICC 2020 in the form of keynote presentations, a robust Research Forum and additional poster exhibits.

Dr Fine submitted this summary of relevant research (published and ongoing) at the 2019 Board meeting. Completed material is available on ICF Connect (Research).

Research Canada:

- Dr. Cait Wilson & Dr. Jim Sibthorp (University of Utah) and Dr. Laurie Browne (American Camp Association)

Youth Impact Study: Canadian Camping Association Over-Sample

- Dr. Stephen Fine (Canadian Camping Association) and Dr. Tad McIlwraith (University of Guelph)

Camp Director Survey of Indigenous-inspired Camp Programs: A benchmark for further discussion and exploration

- Dr. Morten Asfeldt (University of Alberta)

Systematic examination of Outdoor Education (OE) in Canada.

Research USA:

Victoria Povilaitis and Robert Warner (PhD students, University of Utah)

- Investigating the international summer camp staff experience

Dr. Laurie Browne (American Camp Association)

- Youth & Staff Impact Studies, Leadership Development Study

Research Australia:

Dr. Mandy Baker (Lamped Research)

- Baker, M., Fullagar, S., & O'Brien, W. (2019). All in good fun: governing camp experiences through discourses of 'good' and 'fun'. *Leisure Studies*, 38(2), 260-273.
- Baker, M. (2020). *Becoming and Being a Camp Counsellor: Discourses, power relations and emotions*. Palgrave-McMillan: London, UK.

Research Turkey:

Dr. Muberra Celebi (Bolu bant Izzet Baysal University)

- Research Team: Dr. Meliha Atalay Noordegraaf, Dr. Burak Gurer, Dr. Zuhail Kilinc, Dr. Melike Esentas, Dr. Selhan Ozbey, Dr. Pinar Guzel, Dr. Yaser Eskicioglu, Dr. Hulya Unlu, Ertan Tabuk.

Examining and Comparing The Managerial Structure of Outdoor Youth Camps (Turkey-USA-RUS-CAN-EUR-AUST)

Research Greece:

Dr. Joannidou Evangelia (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

- (2016) *Exploring the relationship of Organizational Commitment, Organizational Citizenship Behavior, Psychological Empowerment and Job Satisfaction with Leader-Member Exchange of section leaders and team leaders in summer children's camps in Greece*, Ioannidou E., Karagiorgos T. & Alexandris K., *International Journal of Sport Management, Recreation & Tourism*, 22 (d)
- (2016) *Investigation of the relationship between the transformation – trading leadership and the work satisfaction of middle management and first line executives in children's camps in Greece*, E. Ioannidou, *Greek magazine Sports Management and Recreation*, 13 (2), 1 – 15



In January, Fahrettin Gözet was the first recipient of a special award created in Russia: "Camps Without Borders"



Guests from Bulgaria, Greece, Canada, Turkey, Australia, Finland and China attended the Tyumen Region Annual Conference in January

Business Affiliate



In 2019, ICF identified a distinct category of businesses that are engaged with ICF in the form of offering products and services that support the camping community as opposed to those offering camp programs directly to the public.

In some cases, where businesses do both, there appears to be a need to distinguish between the activities, events, trainings and services engaging with other camps and those services serving camp members. In this way, the public and other ICF members can better understand the relationship with ICF.

This separation has led to the creation of a new category whereby these businesses can access a unique Business Affiliate ICF Logo and represent their products and services in a more appropriate way than the member logo. The Board has agreed to create a new category of affiliation with ICF - "Business Affiliate"

A Business Affiliate designation is available to any program, product or service agency that offers some measure of support of the camping community as opposed to a camp operation itself. The ICF Business Affiliate logo is available to and used exclusively by affiliates in this category.

Benefits of ICF Business Affiliate include an option to market through ICF to conference attendees and ICF members, reduced exhibit rates at ICCs and related conferences, use of a special logo, listing on our ICF website for all Business Affiliates with logo/link.

This Business Affiliate category is now available and the information has been shared with the ICC 2020 committee for inclusion in the Congress planning.

Camp Friends

The Camp Friends project is an initiative proposed by Valeiry Dolgikh as ICF Ambassador in Russia. At the same time, Tom Rosenberg (ACA), Pablo Casas Alatrisme (AMC), and Stéphane Richard (CCA) had been meeting over a very similar proposal to camps and campers cross their North America Associations. The project was tested using a third party platform in 2019 and, while successful to a degree, the complexity of the platform proved a little cumbersome and ill-suited to ICF purposes.

Valeiry and Pablo have led the way to bringing ICF Camp Friends into ICF Connect and we can expect

that it will be operational very soon. IT will be another member service available within ICF Connect.

Camps will be able to reach out to camps in other countries and co-ordinate connections between directors, staff and camper groups ICF predicts a real strengthening of the great work that many camps are already doing to cultivate global education and international understanding.

Olympic Youth Camp



Fumio Morooka (Moro) has reported that the Japanese Olympic Committee and LABO have reached an agreement to the creation of a Youth Camp in connection with the upcoming Olympics in Japan.

The joint committee organizing this event has approached ICF to participate through the distribution of the word to participate in this program and to support it as a sponsor.

The Board has agreed to participate and ICF members will be invited to organize delegations from their countries to join this ten-day event.

The global health crisis (CoVID-19) has forced a postponement of this event to a date aligned with the re-scheduled Olympics. More information will be available as it emerges.

Premium Supporter

In less than four decades ICF has grown as an organization from a dozen or so members in 10 countries to more than 400 members/affiliates in 100 countries. Maintaining momentum and membership services is increasingly difficult and costly for ICF as a volunteer organization.

Contributions through the **ICF Premium Supporter** Program enable the ICF to work more effectively in more countries. ICF can develop camping awareness in more countries and encourage the development of national camping associations in countries where none exist. The category of **ICF Premium Supporter** is not related to "membership" as such but recognizes an extra level of commitment to supporting ICF activity and work.

An **ICF Premium Supporter** designation is available to any member who makes a specific, additional donation on top of their membership or membership renewal. This donation to ICF at the time of membership (or any time during a current membership period) represents an extra contribution to the ongoing work of the ICF.

Congress 2020 “One World – One Camp”



With planning for the International Camping Congress (ICC) 2020 well underway, the steering committee is gearing up for one of the largest ICC's ever with an expected 10,000 conference attendees.

The event is scheduled to be held in Beijing, China, at one of the most historic conference centers in the country: The Beijing International Convention Center. The steering committee remains busy showcasing and speaking at events around the world promoting ICC 2020. Aijun Nie, in particular has been tireless in his travel schedule and enthusiasm for this historic gathering. The scope and strength of the program plan makes it difficult to refute that claim.

The Congress expects 30 keynotes (delivering continuously throughout the three education days, back to back) There will be 15 international and 15 local keynote events. The hope is to attract major leaders, influencers and personalities as keynotes or guests

The registration strategy with “Premium Ticket Holder” able to register an additional 4 persons (staff) at no additional charge. Those 4 guests can attend all outside workshops, displays, programs and/or listen to the keynotes via live feed. Premium Ticket Holders gain access to the keynote and may choose to share or loan their ticket to some keynote events.

A special international program as well as pre- and post-

Congress tours are being designed to provide a fulsome experience for guest. Day tickets for local Chinese professionals are also available.

All international registration is being handled through ICF Connect.

The global health crisis (CoVID-19) has forced a suspension of plans for this event to a future date aligned with availability of venue, participants and global health conditions. More information will be available as it emerges.



Regional Congress

As indicated elsewhere here in this report, ICF assumed an additional active role in the organization of ICF-AO 2019 in conjunction with the local organizing committee in Malaysia.

Going forward to the future, the Board has agreed that ICF's role in Regional Congress support is best limited to aspects of endorsement, promotion and participation as opposed to the more regional-specific aspects of facility services and educational program.

As more regional events emerge and as ICF's involvement in the tri-annual ICC organization increases, this the best use

of available resources. ICF is eager to support regional development in all parts of the world..

Consequently opportunities for future ICF-AO Congresses still exist and persons/associations within the region are certainly encouraged to continue to serve the region in their development. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for this regional event continuing in Asia Oceania. Although no specific date or venue was announced, camp professionals can expect to hear news about future opportunities for the ICF camp community to gather and learn together again.

ICF will continue to promote, encourage and participate in these programs as opportunities arise. The ICF Sponsorship Program provides several ways for National and Regional events to garner that ICF participation.

Awards

The ICF Awards Program has been created to recognize excellence in camping contributions in both the ICF and in various camp communities around the world. In 2019, the ICF board has voted to recognize a special individual in our field. As a reminder.

The Abbott Fenn Druzhba Award is a special recognition of an individual, Camp, or Organization, which has made a significant and sustained contribution to International camping. The endowed contribution for the award was made by Abbott Fenn, a long-standing, active member of the American Camp Association and former owner/director of the Keewaydin Camps in New England, U.S.A. The award is given to those who spread the benefit of the camp experience to improve world understanding.

ICF Abbott Fenn Druzhba Award 2019 Orlyonok Children's Centre



Children's Center "**Orlyonok**" is one of the largest children's centers in Russia that host annually up to 20 thousand teenagers from 85 regions of Russia and other countries of the world. The Center offers about 100 international educational programs.

Seacamp Association, Inc. (the nominee) started its cooperation with "**Orlyonok**" in 1992 when Seacamp Directors visited. Since then Seacamp hosted several "**Orlyonok**" campers and has trained 5 "**Orlyonok**" staff on business and environmental education topics. For many years "**Orlyonok**" and Seacamp organized an international conference on marine environment over the internet comparing marine related issues and their possible solutions.

"**Orlyonok**" is a participant of UNESCO Associated Schools Project. The Center has been offering international programs

for education, sustainable development, peace and human rights through intercultural learning and dialogues between youth from many countries. The examples are international sessions "Open World", "Dialogue of Cultures through the Dialogue of Personalities", "Bridges of Friendship", and international sports festivals. In 2017, the Director of "**Orlyonok**", President of The National Camp Association, Mr. Alexander Dzheus, was honored by the ICF to host the IX International Camping Congress in Sochi, Russia. The Congress gathered 1,200 participants from 32 countries.

"**Orlyonok**" supports and takes care of those who need help internationally. Children affected by disasters and war (Chinese province of Sichuan, Syria, South Ossetia, and Ukraine) had a chance to recuperate in "**Orlyonok**".

"**Orlyonok**" offers opportunities for world youth to meet each other, become friends and keep in touch. Campers learn about the world, different practices, belief systems and learn to understand each other better. "**Orlyonok**" also offers a volunteer program. Volunteering strengthens ties to the community and broadens support networks uniting people with common interests. Multiculturalism is a part of "**Orlyonok's**" philosophy in today's world of globalization. In "**Orlyonok**" young people have a chance to learn how to work together in ethnically and culturally diverse groups in a truly international atmosphere in an inclusive, safe and well-supervised social environment.



Aijun Nie, ICC 2020 Committee Chair, Alexander Dzheus, ICC 2017 Committee Chair, John Jorgenson, ICF President



Alexander Dzheus hosts a gathering of Orlyonok students presenting contributions for Orlyonok's 60th anniversary in 2020.

ICF Abbott Fenn Druzhba Award 2020

Valery Kostin



Valery Kostin has deserved and met the criteria for the Abbott Fenn Druzhba Award several times over. Had it not been for his continued and extended volunteer service on the ICF Board, the award would have been securely in his award cabinet years ago.

Valery stepped onto the international camping scene in 1990 with his typically dramatic fashion having arrived in America from Soviet-era Russia as an experienced camp director to keynote at an ACA National Conference. He stunned the audience there with descriptions of an entire camping world that North America barely knew existed. Within hours he was recruited to serve on the fledgling ICF Board as regional representative for Russia and the CIS.

But Valery has been much more than a Board member of ICF.

A frequent presenter at ACA National, Valery countered the political/media images of Russia with information, charm and opportunities to see for themselves by travelling to Russia

Fluent in both English and Russian (as well as conversant in a dozen more languages), Valery has bridged the gap for countless delegations to visit Russia and kept himself available as a coordinator, airport greeter, cultural host and problem-solver – all the while entertaining his guests to his beloved Russia.

Further, he has led equally countless delegations of Russian camp directors abroad to camp tours, conferences and trainings.

At every single International Camping Congress since 1994 (except the two Congresses held in Russia) the largest foreign delegation has been from Russia – promoted, organized and coordinated by Valery.

Valery was instrumental in organizing the first camping associations in Russia (based in St Petersburg and Moscow) and building strength to host not one but two Congresses (1997 St

Petersburg, 2017 Sochi). Valery was everywhere, determined to ensure the best possible experience for all and to set up everyone for success. At that, he succeeded.

Valery values friendship and he is rich in those friendships. For him, it is important to honour those friendships – travel to America or Venezuela for weddings, to Mexico or eastern Russia for a reunion or just paying a visit to reminisce wherever and whenever he can.

On the occasion of his 50th birthday, he invited many of those friends to his US home near Portland, Maine. His birthday gift was having friends from all over the world join him there. His gift to the ICF was a substantial donation to the Bill Bowker Scholarship Fund.

Valery has opened up the doors of understanding and sharing by introducing international presenters to Russian camping events. There is so much to share in both directions and Valery has both encouraged that and facilitated it.

Valery served as ICF President from 2008 to 2014, logging thousands of miles and being present at any and every international event that he could. He brought greetings and energy and joy to every one of those events.

Following his terms as President when the by-laws required only one year as past President, Valery allowed himself to be persuaded to remain on the Board to the present day.

Certainly a significant portion of Valery's exceptional contributions have been made possible because his partner, Liliana, is a remarkable care-giver, translator, supporter and problem-solver in her own right.

Valery is unique – literally. He is one of a kind. With one foot in Russia and one in America and his heart in ICF, Valery is able to serve as ambassador and bridge across cultural divides that seem unsurmountable to many of us. He is a teacher and a guide and a camp counsellor in the best sense of the words. He helps us all see that we have much more in common than apart. He has taken to heart the ICF motto of 'bringing together the world. We all benefit.

It is time – it is past time - that we recognize the selfless contributions to the global camping community that Valery Kostin has made. We must allow him to retire from the Board but we do so reluctantly. Had this award not already been named in honour of Abbott Fenn, we could rightly name it the Valery Kostin Druzhba Award and it would carry equal significance.

Bill Bowker Fund

The objectives of the Bill Bowker Scholarship Fund are to provide funds to assist camp professionals to attend and participate in ICCs, ICF regional conferences and events, ICDCs and other ICF organized training, and any external events in which the ICF Board considers that participation will further ICF aims and objectives. The committee for approval of allocation of funds is made up of the current Treasurer, President, and Jenny Bowker.

ICF Butterfly Fund

The ICF Board may award scholarship assistance for a national or regional camping association for one or more individuals and delegate responsibility to that association to select the appropriate individuals. Recipients of scholarships for ICC2017 were from Peru, Canada, and South Korea. In addition, assistance was provided to attendees from Peru and Nigeria to attend the AOCC in Tokyo. The Butterfly Fund is maintained as a separate account for contributions made by ICF members and others to be awarded for special projects of the International Camping Fellowship which do not qualify for the Bill Bowker Scholarship Fund.

ICF Vision 2020

In 2010 Jeff Bradshaw guided ICF through a Visioning Exercise that led to a number of changes and significant growth for the organization. It is time to renew that vision and Jeff has agreed to assist us once more in moving our goal posts to a new location and charting a course to get there.

Jeff first introduced the background of the initial ICF visioning proposal emerging from the 2008 Congress in Quebec. Working through the next two years the vision was adopted in 2011 at the Hong Kong congress. Key results included (1) Revised membership model (2) Restructured Governance (3) Re-branding and Business Development

We will seek input from all interested stakeholders. This includes original ICF members and new members, associations, ICDC participants, ICF ambassadors and more. We must be as inclusive as the process permits and resist the desire to jump to a premature conclusion. As we work to hear all of the voices who wish to be heard, the new Board will be heavily involved to ask the questions, gather the input into a central place and weigh the results.

Why Now?

Our current Board after the 2020 election will undergo a significant change in personnel. Some key Board members are stepping away. Other Board members

are moving to different positions and a number of new members will join the Board with fresh ideas.

Jeff has invited us start our thinking with a question: **“What would be missing, if there were no ICF?”**

A question for us all to ponder as we measure what we do and how we do it...

Various members of ICF may contribute or participate in the vision process as it proceeds in the coming months.

West Africa Camps

Since 2007 Camp for Peace in Liberia and the Lanlate Youth Camp Initiative in Nigeria have worked closely with the International Camping Fellowship for the establishment of a regional effort in promoting camping in Africa. Both organizations have remained connected and attended conferences and training of the International Camping Fellowship and other affiliate camping programs. At the Annual Conference of the American Camping Association in 2019, B. Abel Learwellie (Camp for Peace Liberia) and Fathers Mark and Bernard from Nigeria (Lanlate Youth Camp Initiative) met with ICF to reawaken their long-awaited dream of a camping community in Africa.

The group agreed to attempt a seminar that would bring participants together from various countries across West Africa to Abuja in Nigeria. This seminar could create the space for participants to interact with each other and discuss the need, goal, objective and purpose as well as the scope of a continued sharing. This seminar also anticipates inviting other camping groups from beyond the region to share lessons and best practices.

OBJECTIVES

- To create a vision, a framework for developing a viable and progressive camping activity in the West Africa Sub-region;
- To exchange and discuss the possibilities of establishing a regional or continental camping group in West Africa or Africa;
- To identify common values, opportunities and challenges involving camping in West Africa and exchange information on best practices with the help of the ICF experts
- To develop an action plan that will serve as a road map for the proposed West African Regional Camping Association;

PARTICIPATION

Contacts and interest has been established in Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, Togo, Sierra Leone, Ghana and South Africa

The global health crisis (CoVID-19) has forced a postponement of this event to a date aligned with availability of participants and regional health conditions.. More information will be available as it emerges.

ICDC – International Camp Director Course

The International Camp Directors Course (ICDC) is a professional development course for camp managers, directors and operators. Typically in an intensive four day course format it will cover all aspects of Camp Management in an interactive exchange environment with other members of the camping and outdoor community. The curriculum, originally developed by a team of camp professionals in North America, has since been expanded to encompass the broadest range of camping and outdoor experiences in all countries. All courses are approved and administered by the International Camping Fellowship (ICF) using both local and international ICDC Trainers.

ICDC 2019 News

ICF Connect event platform is now capable of supporting ICDC events. This allows ICF to track participants, ease the work of local ICDC coordinators and build an ICDC community across events as well as over time.

ICDC Courses register their interest in running a course directly with ICF Connect and the application is then sent to Connie Coutellier for approval and advice.

In April of 2019 a Forum was conducted in Guangzhou, China. IT was hosted by Ruth Feng of Jingle Camp and Voice of China (VOC). It was attended by John Jorgenson, Andrew McGuckian, Valery Kostin, and Marco Reyes as well as a number of current ICDC faculty and trainers. In addition to the fellowship and exchange of the event, we held fruitful discussions concerning the future development and direction of ICDC in China.

ICDC Alumni efforts in China continue to be locally organized. However, an ICDC Alumni Group event and another ICDC Course may be announced for ICC 2020.

ICDCs have also taken place in Canada & Mexico.

Total number of ICDC participants has reached 1000 persons.

The ICDC Course in conjunction with ICF-AO 2019 was cancelled and the next Train the Trainer event will take place at ICC 2020.

The ICDC Trainer Pool has grown, lead trainers grown to 25 (mainly coming from Australia & Singapore) but discussions are continuing on strategy to maintain an adequate number of active trainers.

China has 150 participant alumni. There is a need to identify key leaders to form an engaged alumni network or professional development team. There is a head ICDC Course Coordinator within most countries offering courses.

Going forward, ICF is working to connect the ICDC alumni across all countries into one place (virtually) to encourage ongoing support, additional resources and training updates so that we can access and encourage these camp professionals as well as stay in touch for their support. All ICDC graduates should have a path to membership or achieve automatic membership and so there is a need to optimize this process. ICF Connect can help.



Ruth Feng is the founder of Jingle Camp and Voice of Camp in Guangzhou, China. She also serves on the ICC 2020 Organizing Committee, is an ICDC Trainer and a future ICF Board Member.



Andrew McGuckian is President of ACA (AUS) and serves as ICDC Liaison on the ICF Board. He has conducted many ICDC Courses in Australia, China and across the world.



ICF Board members in attendance at the ICDC Forum in April, 2019: Andrew McGuckia, Valery Kostin, Masako Harigaya, John Jorgenson and Marco Reyes

International Camping Fellowship

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2019

	31 Dec 19	31 Dec 18
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Chequing/Savings		
BMO- CDN Account	45,833.54	75,506.38
BMO- US Account	134.65	11,534.95
BMO-US Exchange	44.01	3,410.80
Cash on hand	5,909.00	0.00
Paypal Account-Cdn\$	4,342.37	9,012.84
Paypal US\$	37,154.89	0.00
Paypla US\$ exchange	12,145.93	0.00
Total Chequing/Savings	105,564.39	99,464.97
Other Current Assets		
Accounts receivable	1,865.22 ¹	6,611.65
Total Other Current Assets	1,865.22	6,611.65
Total Current Assets	107,429.61	106,076.62
TOTAL ASSETS	107,429.61	106,076.62
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Account payable	0.00	1,837.00
Deferred Membership Revenue		
2019	0.00	10,405.03
2020	9,811.96	4,797.03
2021	3,342.93	77.74
Total Deferred Membership Reven...	13,154.89	15,279.80
Total Other Current Liabilities	13,154.89	17,116.80
Total Current Liabilities	13,154.89	17,116.80
Long Term Liabilities		
Bill Bowker Scholarship	9,649.45	12,006.02
Butterfly Fund	3,607.19	3,607.19
Druzhba Fund	1,344.60	1,344.60
Total Long Term Liabilities	14,601.24	16,957.81
Total Liabilities	27,756.13	34,074.61
Equity		
Unrestricted Net Assets	72,002.01	73,062.16
Net Income	7,671.47	-1,060.15
Total Equity	79,673.48	72,002.01
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	107,429.61	106,076.62

1. Amounts owing from Malaysia totaling \$US16,927 have not been recorded in the accounts. These funds will be recorded as revenue when received.

International Camping Fellowship

Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2019

	Jan - Dec 19	Jan - Dec 18
Income		
ACA Tour	1,103.72	2,813.25
ICDC Revenue		
ICDC - Austrailia	0.00	896.00
ICDC - Canada	0.00	1,295.00
ICDC - China	0.00	5,953.61
ICDC - Congress	50,241.27	0.00
Total ICDC Revenue	50,241.27	8,144.61
Membership Fees	15,241.70	14,475.57
Merchandise Revenue	0.00	57.87
Premium Supporter	637.18	0.00
Total Income	67,223.87	25,491.30
Expense		
Accounts receivable written off	4,558.54	0.00
Administration		
Bank Charges	3,648.01	1,581.24
Foreign exchange loss (gain)	-249.46	-46.41
Insurance	3,053.16	2,947.32
Legal	0.00	949.20
Other admin	0.00	620.10
Total Administration	6,451.71	6,051.45
Board Operating		
Administration	7,054.12	0.00
Board meetings	5,708.90	4,083.45
Travel	619.16	0.00
Board Operating - Other	6,422.76	0.00
Total Board Operating	19,804.94	4,083.45
Communications		
Constant contact	285.00	1,028.49
ICF Connect	27,036.81	1,295.70
Website	0.00	6,413.72
Communications - Other	416.48	0.00
Total Communications	27,738.29	8,737.91
ICC - Speaker Fees	0.00	5,841.64
ICDC - books	0.00	1,837.00
Program	998.92	0.00
Total Expense	59,552.40	26,551.45
Net Income	7,671.47	-1,060.15



Anamari Eskildsen initiated the inaugural gathering of PanaCamps to build an association.



Alexander Dzheus from Russian Camping Association discovers a gift from 1997 Nevsky Forum at ICF Headquarters.



Friends from Russia and Colombia celebrate the International Camp Counsellor Course with a selfie.

----- ICF CONNECTS -----



Stéphane Richard presents Valery Kostin with an honorary membership in Canadian Camping



Natalia Seminyuda, Deputy Director of Ocean Camp in Russia addresses a Chinese audience



Camps and camp association celebrate membership in ICF as a global camping community



Camps and camp professionals in Panama now join together as an association for the growth of the community.



Liliana Kostina presents flowers to Jean MacMullan, past President of ACA and long time friend of ICF.



Edmond Liu from Camping Association of Hong Kong presents at ICDC Forum in Guangzhou.



In April 2019, international presenters from Canada, Colombia and Venezuela contributed to the annual International Camp Counsellors Course (ICCC) in Camp Robin Hood south of Moscow, Russia

----- ICF CONNECTS -----



Liliana and Valery Kostin stop by to visit Armand Ball at his home in Florida. Armand is a member emeritus of the ICF Board



Simon Sambrano (Venezuela), Juan Mario Gutierrez (Colombia), Kseniya Zubareva (Russia) and Sara Arias (Colombia) at ICCC 2019



In November, Mosgortur in Russia hosted its annual conference called KIDPRO and made a special effort to include international leadership.



In January, the Tyumen Region Camp Association – ‘We Are Together’ hosted an international and interregional conference.



A delegation of camp professionals from Russia and Japan visits ICF Headquarters in Canada



In November, thousands of young people gathered in Orlyonok Camp in Russia to hear Aijun Nie from China & John Jorgenson from Canada.

ICF Board - 2017-2020



John Jorgenson
President



Valery Kostin
Past President



Fahrettin Gözet
Vice President



Marco Reyes
General Secretary



Jill Dundas
Treasurer



Panwasa Kate Smith
Communications



Pablo Casas Alatrisme
Ambassador Attaché



Gonzalo Veloz
Business Development



Alexia Sideri
Membership



Jeff Bradshaw
Program Development



Andrew McGuckian
ICDC Liaison



Linda Pulliam
Board Member



Anna Margrét Tómasdóttir
Board Member



Masako Harigaya
Board Member



Alexey Andreev
Board Member

For more information about ICF activities, visit:

www.icfconnect.net

To become a more active volunteer in the work of ICF, contact us:

info@icfconnect.net

