

Simple Summer Science

Aimee Oteri, Director, Girl Scouts of Eastern MA and High School Teacher

Are you looking to add some science to your camp program, but don't want your campers to feel like they're in school? This hands-on workshop will give you tips and tools to add some simple science activities to your summer program. Learn activities that can fit into your established programs of arts and crafts, nature, and outdoor cooking. Designed for first time scientists

We've Gotta Talk About This! LGBT 101

Alicia Skovera, Director, Camp ABC and Off Season Programs

Did you know that LGBT means Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender? Why is this important for you to know? Come with your questions to further your journey toward greater LGBT understanding. Included will be definitions, statistics, a self-evaluation, camp recommendations, and action plans.

Make Your Camp More LGBT-Inclusive

Alicia Skovera, Director, Camp ABC and Off Season Programs

Have you ever wondered how you could be an agent of change in helping your camp become more lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender-friendly? Join me to find out just how affirming your camp is today and could be tomorrow. This workshop will include an in-depth evaluation and recommendations for your camp.

Out at Camp

Alicia Skovera, Director, Camp ABC and Off Season Programs

This open and confidential forum allows LGBT staff and administrators to share stories, discuss concerns, and seek advice from others about being or not being "out" at camp.

At-Risk Youth Roundtable

Amy Willey, Executive Director, Brantwood Camp

At this roundtable, you will have the opportunity to engage in a lively discussion about the special challenges and rewards experienced by camps that serve children who are considered at-risk. Whether your camp is considering the idea of involving at-risk youth in its program or your camp has been serving this population for many years, you are welcome to join the discussion. Come to this roundtable ready to share experiences, ask questions, and explore topics relevant to the needs of at-risk campers and their families.

Youth with HIV/AIDS: Considerations for Camps

Ann Gillard PhD, Assistant Professor of Youth Development, Springfield College

What issues are faced by youth with HIV/AIDS? How can camp support their positive development? In this session, you will learn about a case study of a camp for youth with HIV/AIDS, and discuss ways to create successful camp experiences.

Sugar, Spice, Snips, and Snails: Girls and Boys in the Outdoors

Ann Gillard PhD, Assistant Professor of Youth Development, Springfield College

Get concrete suggestions on developing nature-based programs for boys and girls based on their social, biological, and cognitive needs. This interactive session focuses on examining gender issues in the outdoors, promising practices in providing outdoor programs for girls and boys, and why it's important to do so.

Camp Program Evaluation: A Pathway to Program Improvement and Accountability

Ann Gillard PhD, Assistant Professor of Youth Development, Springfield College

How do you know if you actually do what you say you do? In this session, you will learn various evaluation strategies, understand how evaluation relates to your goals, and develop a large model and evaluation plan for your camp.

Camp 2 Grow: A Cutting Edge Leadership Program for Camps

Barry Garst PhD, Director of Program Development & Research Application, American Camp Association

Camp 2 Grow is a leadership and environmental stewardship program developed by the American Camp Association through funding from the Lilly Endowment. Camp 2 Grow teaches fundamental leadership

knowledge/skills to youth, and challenges them to apply what they learned to address environmental issues in their camps, homes, and communities. Participants will review sample lessons and activities from the curriculum and learn how to join this exciting program.

What's New in Camp Sites, Facilities, and Programs?

Barry Garst PhD, Director of Program Development & Research Application, American Camp Association

Camp directors want to know, "How do my practices compare with those of other camps?" ACA has collected important information about camp business operations. In 2007, ACA surveyed camps across the US to learn more about their sites, facilities, and programs. This session reviews the survey results, implications, and trends.

Are they Coming or Going? Insights and Trends for the Summer of 2010 from ACA's Camp Enrollment Survey

Barry Garst PhD, Director of Program Development & Research Application, American Camp Association

A perennial question at almost any gathering of camp professionals is the discussion about the number of campers coming to camp and staff recruitment. This session will present the information gathered on summer 2008 and will present highlights based on general viewpoints, as well as differences based on camp type, affiliation, and geographic region. Implications will also be discussed for the trends in enrollment and staffing when compared to larger societal trends, such as shifting population demographics. Participants will be asked for ideas about the underlying reasons for the trends in enrollment and the effects on their camp.

Ten Strategies for Reducing Illnesses and Injuries in Camp: Keeping Campers and Staff Out of the Health Center

Barry Garst PhD, Director of Program Development & Research Application, American Camp Association

ACA is involved in a 5-year monitoring study of camp injuries and illnesses that affect camp program participation by staff and campers. Hear the national results of years 1-3 and learn strategies to keep staff and campers healthy. This session is a must for directors, health staff, and risk managers.

Campfire Cooking

Becky Gilles, Camp Director/Youth Birding Coordinator, Mass Audubon Drumlin Farms and Sara Leshay, High School Science Teacher and Director, Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass

Bring your appetite because we are going to cook! Combining various cooking techniques, we will teach you how to make your outdoor cooking more fun and creative while working with children. Familiarize yourself with those old Coleman stoves, pie irons, reflector ovens, Dutch ovens, steaming, solar cooking, and more. It's time to bring your campfire cooking to a whole new level.

Communicable Disease Outbreaks

Brent L. Reagor RS, Public Health Director, Concord, MA and Joanne Martel, RN

Communicable disease outbreaks in residential and day camp settings are events, that without proper planning and preparation can cripple even the most well-run operation. During this session, attendees will first be briefed on the basics of communicable disease outbreak planning for camp programs, and will then take part in a two-part "tabletop" exercise of an actual outbreak of Norovirus at a hybrid camp facility offering both day and residential programs. Workshop participants will be expected to actively participate in the discussion-based exercise which is designed to highlight the need for effective communicable disease outbreak planning through interaction between the facilitators and the audience. Participants will leave with session with materials to bolster existing communicable disease plans.

Preventing and Treating Homesickness: Putting Theory into Practice

Chris Thurber PhD, Child Psychologist, Philips Exeter Academy

Unless you're using ACA's homesickness prevention DVD, roughly 20% of your campers feel moderate-to-severe homesickness. These boys and girls are not having the camp experience you designed, they're less likely to return, and most of them are never identified by your counselors. It's time to end the pick-up deals, needless tears, and crazy phone calls from parents and start preparing children

to get the most out of your camp! Learn to implement a systematic homesickness prevention program that works. A fast-paced session with lots of handouts and practical tips

Medication Holidays, Side Effects, and Other Psychopharmacological Nightmares

Chris Thurber PhD, Child Psychologist, Philips Exeter Academy

Psychiatric medication management presents unique challenges at camp. Participants in this intriguing workshop—co-led by mental health and medical professionals—will get facts about how common psych meds work, what their side effects are, how to effectively communicate with parents and prescribers, and which policies work for medication administration. A must-see session for anyone with campers on psychotropic medications, such as stimulants, anti-depressants, and mood stabilizers. Case studies and questions from last summer are welcome!

Collaborative Problem Solving—Advanced Skills for Defusing Emotional Bombs

Chris Thurber PhD, Child Psychologist, Philips Exeter Academy

Extend your conflict resolution skills beyond old-fashioned problem-solving. In volatile situations, the traditional approaches of punishing (“appropriate consequences”) and brainstorming (“classic problem solving”) can actually backfire and escalate conflict. Instead, this workshop uses powerful new tools to identify needs, communicate effectively, and resolve conflicts durably. Also helpful for staff-staff conflicts and staff-parent conflicts. Imagine never having to yell in anger; imagine changing someone’s behavior for good.

Master Wellness Series: Director Stress Management

Chris Thurber PhD, Child Psychologist, Philips Exeter Academy

Two entrepreneurial shoemakers took a trip to a remote land in search of new market. But none of the people they discovered in this new land even wore shoes! Come find out why one of these shoemakers got an ulcer and the other became elated. This hands-on workshop promises to reshape the way to conceptualize and cope with stress in all facets of your life, both personal and professional. Participants will learn a variety of stress-management techniques and share camp-specific wellness strategies with each other. Make this coming season your healthiest and most relaxed ever!

Master Coaching Series: Appreciative Inquiry

Chris Thurber PhD, Child Psychologist, Philips Exeter Academy

Organizations such as camps are full of different problems, right? Effective leaders identify these problems, brainstorm solutions, and motivate participants to adopt a fix, right? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then you haven’t adopted a success mindset. The coaching technique of Appreciative Inquiry is a radically different “change management” approach that will reset your attitudes and behaviors by teaching you to capitalize on strengths and possibilities. An essential skill for any leader, supervisor, director, or manager.

Crisis Management Plan Roundtable

Dave Platt, Director of Finance and Operations, The Fenn School

Have you been putting off developing your camp’s crisis management plan? Do you need a sample of a plan and some time to ask questions? Don’t reinvent the wheel! Come hear how others have documented their emergency response plans. Come prepared to discuss your options and hear about some best practices. You will leave with access to sample plans that you can easily adapt to fit your program.

Connecting Young Kids with Nature

Deb Stein, Environmental Educator, Mass Audubon, Drumlin Farm

Connect your campers to the wider, wilder world around them by the use of stories, games, and other activities that incorporate and integrate nature into any activity. This workshop will help you to create a sense of place for children at your camp. It will give you the tools to use your outdoor camp environment on a daily basis. Most children can identify over 100 advertised ‘brands’ shown on the media and yet do not know the trees and animals that surround them in their neighborhoods. We’ll learn how to Bee Here, dance the Bird Bop, along with discovering how many games can be played with 10 small sticks and the stories behind the games.

GPS Challenge

Doug Sutherland, Director, Sargent Outdoor Center

Are you looking for teambuilding activities that will help your group bond and work together? Would you like to get campers and staff familiar with the history or layout of your camp property or nearby town/city? Join me in exploring the possible applications of GPS (Global Positioning System) technology for your program. The Sargent Center has developed GPS-based programs for corporations and colleges, in urban and backcountry environments, and now right here in Manchester, NH. ***Much of this program will be conducted outside, so make sure to dress appropriately.***

Coping with Challenging Parents of Campers & Staff:

Ethan Schafer PhD, Child Psychologist, Spectrum Psychological Associates

We'll go over how to develop and set very specific rules and boundaries with different kinds of problematic parents, many of whom fall into two categories: the detached, 'the-maid-packed-my-suitcase' parent, and the Blackhawk helicopter parent, who wants special privileges and rules. This workshop will focus on prevention and primary intervention. It will *not* be a My Most Crazy Story contest.

Panel on "Girl Issues":

Ethan Schafer PhD, Child Psychologist, Spectrum Psychological Associates

This will deal with the specific, gender-based problems that can arise in all-girl environments. Think about relational aggression, sabotage – understanding various gender patterns and problem behavior and problem solving strategies. Using a Q&A format, we'll go through specific issues that crop up in that area and find gender-sensitive solutions. Come with questions, and the members of the panel will use their various backgrounds and perspectives to offer suggestions.

Strategies for Interfacing Effectively between Campers, Staff, and Other Professionals:

Ethan Schafer PhD, Child Psychologist, Spectrum Psychological Associates

How do you solve a problem like Maria, especially if 'you' is a camp professional and 'Maria' is a camper? This workshop will cover everything from documentation to how to gather and communicate information that other professionals would need about managing the behavior, treatment, and diagnoses of campers and/or staff. This information could be educational in nature, or it could be in regard to emotions and behavior, or medication compliance. What's the best way to store and present that information so that it's most useful? How do you leave the diagnoses to the trained medical professionals, and how do you help your staff make helpful observations?

Dangers of Self-Esteem:

Ethan Schafer PhD, Child Psychologist, Spectrum Psychological Associates

Everyone tells Self-Esteem that it's so important and makes everyone feel so good, but it's not so great. There's far too much emphasis on Self-Esteem for Self-Esteem's sake. Basically, Self-Esteem could stand to be knocked down a peg or two, because if Self-Esteem is allowed to be overinflated, it can actually become quite dangerous, doing more harm than good. Why can't Self-Esteem be more like its older sibling, Actual Self-Esteem, which rewards people based on a result. How do we reintroduce our campers to Actual Self-Esteem to promote positive development?

Training Your Staff in Behavior Management:

Ethan Schafer PhD, Child Psychologist, Spectrum Psychological Associates

Give your counselors the tools to deal with a range of kids effectively: positive re-enforcement, an appropriate use of consequences, etc. This transportable training module will allow you to leave the workshop ready to train your staff to help your campers.

Family Camp

Roundtable

Learn about setting up and operating a family camp program from current family camp directors that operate camp programs specifically for family camping. Discuss how family camping is different from youth camping and what the benefits for your camp could be.

Staying in Camp and Out of the Courtroom- Five Sure Ways to Get Sued When Working with Children and How to Prevent Them

Ian Garner, National Director of Camp and Youth Relations, Markel Insurance Company

What's going on in our camps to cause lawsuits? What types of accidents and incidents are really happening in camps? We will discuss some actual current camp lawsuits as well as some national statistical accident and loss trends in camp. This highly interactive workshop will provide training and recommendations for increasing camp safety. Participants will be provided with information and training activities for teaching their staff safety prevention and awareness.

Get Muddy, Make Art!

Jayne DiCandio, Education Coordinator at Mass Audubon Visual Arts

Get your campers outside for art. Learn methods of making art more like play and use natural materials like mud, clay, sticks, and stones to make permanent and temporary art. We will also discuss ways of encouraging campers to see art in nature. Objectives include combining art and nature, making art fun for all ages and abilities, being green use less manufactured materials, and helping kids see art in nature.

Coiled Basketry

Jen Hargrave, Director of School Programs, Hulbert Outdoor Education Center

Come make a basket using a centuries old basket making technique borrowed from cultures where relatively flexible materials - reeds, willow, etc - were readily available. We'll use clothesline and yarn to make our colorful baskets of any shape and size. Included in our baskets may be the figure eight stitch, the lazy squaw stitch, and the Mariposa stitch. Get yours started on Friday and work to perfect and finish it during the rest of the conference.

Essential Staff Training Activities

Jim Cain, Speaker/Author, Teamwork & Teamply

Tips, activities, ideas, and suggestions for making your next staff training active, engaging, memorable, effective, and fun!

Social Networking without the Internet

Jim Cain, Speaker/Author, Teamwork & Teamply

Learn how to begin the process of social interaction without the internet. Icebreakers, opening activities, group interactive games, and active learning all rolled into one.

Back to Basics

Jim Cain, Speaker/Author, Teamwork & Teamply

This workshop, designed especially for newbies to the teambuilding world, focuses on some of the basic, time-proven activities that you can use to create your own teambuilding program.

Dancing in Lines, Squares and Circles

Jim Cain, Speaker/Author, Teamwork & Teamply

Learn how to use music and dance to create a powerful community-building evening program for your camp.

Teambuilding Puzzles

Jim Cain, Speaker/Author, Teamwork & Teamply

Learn how to adapt puzzles and other challenges for your camp's teambuilding program. Great for rainy days, cabin time, table games, and other small group activities

Leader as Shaman

Jim Wolfson, Life Coach, Mentor and Guide

Leadership mastery is so much more than strategy and management. In our increasingly chaotic and out of control world, the Leader as Shaman is being called forth now. He stays present and clear, and teaches others how to do the same. He taps into the deep wisdom of the organization's very essence, brings it forth, and shares it through story and ritual. He dreams the world into being and helps others do the same, using 'vision' in powerful way. Come learn a new map and a new way of being as a leader.

Creative Listening

Jim Wolfson, Life Coach, Mentor and Guide

When we listen deeply and fully to a person, they feel more whole in themselves, and more connected with us. The skill of effective listening is complex and subtle, yet it can be learned readily. And by asking effective questions, we can help our staff make their own connections so they can think more clearly and feel more empowered. Learn how to quickly shift your energy so you can put aside your agenda and to-do lists, and be present with another person. This session is hands-on. Come prepared to practice!

I've Got the Job...Now What?

John Erdman, Executive Director, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center

So you're the new camp director. What do you do now? Where do you start? Explore the challenges facing new directors and the common traps they must avoid. Learn about the key tasks to be done and strategies for making your first year on the job a success.

Not Just Letters Home: Developing a Writing Program at Camp

Josh Fischel, Public Relations Associate, American Camp Association, New England

Getting kids and staff to provide a record of the camp season while having fun besides can be a tricky process. We'll try various writing prompts, talk about ways to share it, and how to use writing (and reading it) to set the tone for your camp season. A fun and interactive session. Bring something to write on and something to write with; we'll give you something to write about.

Successful Inclusion of Youth with Disabilities

Kaela Vronsky, Mentoring and National Center Director, Partners for Youth with Disabilities

Melanie Marzolf, Mentoring and National Center Associate, Partners for Youth with Disabilities

This workshop will provide participants' with an overview of the ways in which consciously including youth with disabilities positively impacts programs. Preparing for the participation of youth with a wide range of abilities allows organizations to better serve identified and unidentified youth with disabilities already enrolled in their programs, as well as attract new youth. Furthermore, the spirit of empowerment that drives inclusive programs will help build the confidence, character, and interpersonal skills of participants with and without disabilities. Workshop participants will be offered practical tips for inclusion and guided through a self-assessment and action plan process. At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to: Better serve identified and unidentified youth with disabilities already in their programs., Gain a greater understanding of the overall concept and positive implications of inclusion., Assess the current level of inclusion in their programs with the help of an "inclusion checklist.", Develop an action plan to incorporate inclusion principles into their current programs., Apply practical tips for inclusion

Outcomes, Evaluations and Surveys - Oh My!

Karyn L Martin, Director of Council Initiatives and Research, Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass

How to get the information you want and need without overwhelming your campers and their adults... how to develop a long-term evaluation plan that works for your camp ... and how to use the information you collect in understandable ways.

Style from Salvage - Wearable Crafts from Recycled Items

Marla Cohen, Education Coordinator, Mass Audubon, Stoney Brook Natural Summer Day Camp

These days, everyone's looking for creative ways to stretch their budget. This class will show you how to take discarded "trash" like cardboard, paper, newspaper, buttons, puzzle pieces, and plastic bags, and reconstruct and refashion them into stylish wardrobe accessories. Whether you use up what you've got or make something out of a found treasure, these ideas will cost you next to nothing.

Participants will gain new ideas regarding recycling throw-away items, use their creativity to make recyclables into clothes and accessories, and learn how to make yarn out of plastic bags.

YES, IT'S FUN—BUT IT'S A REAL JOB: Solid Solutions to Increase Staff Professionalism and Responsibility

Michael Brandwein / speaker, educator, author

These are practical and powerful techniques to get staff to take this fun job seriously and act professionally at the same time. It discloses the one surprising secret that often unconsciously undermines our own efforts to create a professional camp culture. It includes identifying and communicating what

professional behavior actually is and has a special focus on how to use staff training to build and enforce the best expectations even before campers arrive. Take home specific strategies and training tools that really work.

SUPERB SUPERVISION: Doing It & Teaching It to Others

Michael Brandwein / speaker, educator, author

This session is for both the staff supervisor who wants to develop outstanding skills and for the person who wants to train supervisors. One of the most important things we do is train our leadership team, but tools on how to do this are rare. This session fills that gap by providing new tools and training activities that you can use immediately. You'll be able to explain clearly what staff leaders are supposed to do when "walking around" and provide them opportunities to actually develop and practice these skills so that they are ready to support staff and lead them in positive, confident ways.

CDOS: How to Boost Staff Performance through One-On-One Coaching

Michael Brandwein / speaker, educator, author

Staffs need coaching and expert guidance to reach their highest levels of performance. Training during orientation is not enough. This session demonstrates and provides immediate practice in how camp supervisors, administrators, and team leaders can work one-on-one with staff, even after campers arrive, to raise staff performance levels, set and achieve specific goals, communicate expectations firmly but positively, solve problems with confidence, and lead staff to be their best. Plus: How to get staff to accept coaching with a positive and constructive attitude to get the most out of it.

TEACHING STUFF THAT STICKS: Making Sure that Staff Really LEARN During Orientation

Michael Brandwein / speaker, educator, author

Each year we pack more and more into our training—but how much does staff really "get"? This session provides lots of specific training activities and superbly effective teaching methods you can use right away to increase learning, participation, teamwork, and retention during orientation so that staff are really ready to meet challenges and accomplish great goals.

Keynote

Camp is an InCampable Experience: Maximizing and Communicating the Unique Power of Camp

Michael Brandwein / speaker, educator, author

We know that what we do is important, but how do we communicate this importance to current and prospective staff, parents, campers, supporters of camp, and others? How do we explain how camp "works" to get people to understand what makes it such a unique experience that delivers such a strong and lasting difference in campers and their communities? This exciting session demonstrates some immediate ways we can maximize the power of camp and more effectively communicate this power to others.

Embracing and Developing CITs / Youth Development Professionals

Michael Votto, CIT Coordinator, Brooks School Day Camp

CITs can be the FUTURE for your camp, so how do we foster a positive, meaningful relationship with them? We will identify the pivotal role a CIT plays throughout the course of our 3-year program at Brooks School Day Camp. Participants will learn the training model that we use to provide a nurturing environment for these teens, ages 13 - 15. We will discuss both the rewards and challenges of this leadership program.

Extended Day Roundtable

Nat Saltonstall, Director, Beaver Summer Programs

Is your camp struggling for activity ideas during extended day programs? Join this roundtable to discuss the challenges and triumphs your program faces in offering extended day programs. If staffing a challenge, how does your camp handle staffing the extended times? Come share what age-group activities, snacks, games, and crafts work well at your camp, and get ready to learn new ideas from others.

Keeping Campers Emotionally & Physically Safe Trainer

Nat Shed, Director, Friends Camp

This workshop will cover effective methods to prevent a variety of abusive behaviors at summer camps. It will include an overview of types of abuse and will cover particular situations that counselors, unit leaders, nurses, and directors could face during any summer camp session. Participants will learn about expectations, supervision, boundaries, and emotional safety. This workshop will explore the early warning signs of abuse situations. We will also delve into the gray areas between the actions and words that can lead to unacceptable conduct, on the one hand, and clearly inappropriate behavior, on the other.

Water Games

Nancy Hartmann, Director, Brooks School Day Camp

Come enjoy a splash of fun! Join us while we enjoy aquatic games for all ages, Toddlers to Seniors! We promise we won't make you eat crackers and try to whistle after sprinting 25 yards, but we *will* have a session stuffed with ideas and activities. We encourage you to jump into your bathing suit for this session. All are welcome and no swimming experience is necessary to enjoy this fun.

Sticky Situations for Visitors

Nancy Hartmann, Director, Brooks School Day Camp

Accreditation Visitors will have a chance to discuss and support each other on techniques for handling those "awkward moments" during a site visit, such as misinterpretations, surprises, and working with disgruntled staff. Come share your experiences and questions. Together, we will discuss how we can still uphold the education and value of the Accreditation Program when faced with the unexpected.

Behavior Management Through the Application Process

Rebecca Lopez, Director, Kamp Kiwanis

Have you ever been into the first or second day into a session and realized that your campers have special needs you never knew about? Learn to alleviate this surprise by incorporating "telling" questions into your application, thus setting yourself and your campers up for a positive, fulfilling summer.

Not All Needs Are Visible

Rebecca Lopez, Director, Kamp Kiwanis

Learn to be an educator of kindness by differentiating a child from their disorder and behaviors. Teach staff and parents that not all special needs are something that you can see.

Fundraising in Times of Stress: Tips to Calm You Down

Rick Swartz, Presenter/Consultant, StraightTalk

Fundraising is fundraising, in times of stress and not. We'll discuss the essential types of donors and what motivates them, in good times and bad. We'll discuss prioritizing the "basics" when money is tight. And we'll ask which, if any, messages change for camps when the economy does.

50 Ways to Love your Donor

Rick Swartz, Presenter/Consultant, StraightTalk

Conduct a self-audit of how you appear to donors. We'll go over a simple yet surprising checklist of things you do that have an effect on donor attitudes. Based on the workshop leader's national audit tool.

How to Interact with the People that Matter

Rick Swartz, Presenter/Consultant, StraightTalk

A fun and interactive workshop that can lead into strategic planning. Do you know all the important people in your "neighborhood"? Exactly what you want them to do? How to get them to do it? Introducing a new way to organize your work.

The Five Absolutely Essential Communication Tools

Rick Swartz, Presenter/Consultant, StraightTalk

Every nonprofit -- including every camp group -- has to stay in meaningful contact with its key constituencies. Yes, every age group responds to different communications, but the 21st century (so far) has made five tools essential. We'll discuss them.

How to Infuse New Songs into Your Camp

Sarah Leshay, High School Teacher and Director, Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass

Learn how to use songs to create structure and bring routine into a camp day. Repeat songs, action songs, travel songs, and formal ceremonial songs all create a camp atmosphere that you and your campers will love.

You're Fired! & Other Difficult Management Conversations

Scott Arizala, CEO, The Camp Counselor

As a summer camp director or supervisor, most of your time is spent managing young people. This session is about the best practices and principles for having the most difficult management conversations. Letting someone go, discussing bad choices, and working through personality differences are just a few examples of conversations that happen all time. Be prepared and know what to say, how to say it, and how to teach other supervisors this essential skill.

I'm The Boss of You!

Scott Arizala, CEO, The Camp Counselor

One of the hardest transitions at camp is from staff member to supervisor, manager, or director. Often with very little training, camp superstars are supervising their peers, friends, and others (who think *they* should be in charge). This session is based on the best ways to train them, supervise them, and monitor their experience and growth. This is the group that drives camp... are they on track?

Family, Favorites, & Friction: Camp Group Dynamics

Scott Arizala, CEO, The Camp Counselor

Camp is an experience of group work and group dynamics. Family, favorites, and friction represent the three categories of camp group dynamics that staff members struggle with the most. Family is the group we are or aspire to be, favoritism is the process that corrupts this group, and friction is often what's created as a result. Learn how to teach staff members how to work towards the idea of family, control expressions of favoritism, and deal with the friction, whether it is bullying, cliques, outcasts, or campers acting out.

Deciding What to Choose When Choosing is a Choice: Campers' Choices & Control

Scott Arizala, CEO, The Camp Counselor

At camp, we have an opportunity to give campers control and to develop their skills in decision making and good judgment. There is a delicate balance between too many choices and too few. Learn how to create that balance in your camp program and through all the important interactions between staff and campers. Through developing campers' opportunities for control, you will fulfill your mission and the promise to parents, by actually *doing* the values and characters that we put on our brochures and websites. From behavior management to program development, this session is about taking your camp experience from great to phenomenal.

You Can't Be That Mad! Validating the Emotional Lives of Campers

Scott Arizala, CEO, The Camp Counselor

My experiences and feelings for me are just as real as yours are for you. Why would that be different if I was a camper? What we say and how we say it says a lot to a camper. Learn how to teach and embrace a new way of thinking about and speaking to campers that respects their experiences and enhances their ability to express themselves. Connect the ability to control their own behavior directly to the way staff respect their feelings through interactions. This session will change the way you train your staff and how you talk to everyone.

Media - Get Your Camp into the News

Stacy Wilbur, Manager of Public Relations and Media Relations, Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass

Have great camp programs and don't know how to get them the proper attention they deserve? Join Stacy Wilbur, Public Relations and Media Relations Manager for Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, to learn how to publicize your camp. Stacy will give you a brief overview on how the media works, what is considered newsworthy, and 10 helpful hints on how to get your camp publicized.

Where the Wild Things Are...

Steve Lockney, Director, YMCA Camp Harrington

Day camp counselors are in the trenches every day with our campers. It is imperative that, as administrative staff, we give them the knowledge (behavior management and essential job functions), skills (games, songs, & transition activities), and tools (resources for playing with kids) to help create a magical world for the kids they work with. Come for an interactive and fun session where, like Max, you can learn how to make your kingdom fun for everyone!

Got Cups?

Steve Lockney, Director, YMCA Camp Harrington

Speed Stacking is one of the fastest growing sports (yes, sports) in America today. In over 22 thousand elementary schools, kids are speed stacking in PE, working on their hand-eye coordination, quickness, and ambidexterity. Camps are now catching on to this simple, inexpensive, and addicting sport. Come to this interactive and fun session where you can experience the sport for yourself!

Don't Change Seats on the Titanic: 7 Traits that Destroy Every Administrative Team

Steve Maguire, Presenter, Maguire Presentations

Every administrative team has flaws. However, there are some choices that administrative teams make that actually make them worse, not better. It's like changing seats on the Titanic, the view may change, but you are still going down! Come join Steve as we explore how to avoid these pitfalls and be sure your admin team isn't sinking.

Blah, Blah, Blah! Are you Seriously Still Talking?: 29 Do Nows to Improve Your Staff Training.

Steve Maguire, Presenter, Maguire Presentations

I always get asked a version of this question: "What are your ideas for staff training?" What's my first bit of advice? PLEASE STOP TALKING! Your staff isn't listening! Harsh? Maybe. True? Definitely. Come join Steve as we learn some pragmatic "DO NOWS" that you can incorporate into your staff training for 2010. This session will teach you how to stop talking and start doing to make your staff training educational and dynamic.

Standing in an Elevator: How to Avoid 14 of Camps Most Awkward Moments with Kids and Staff

Steve Maguire, Presenter, Maguire Presentations

Remember when you sat in most classrooms on the first couple days of school and NO ONE was talking to each other? Remember the awkward silence as kids shuffled to find their seats? Well, camp has plenty of awkward moments for kids and staff. Come join Steve for this funny and creative session that will help avoid some of those awkward moments and make them easier for everyone.

The Definition of Insanity: 12 New, Unique, and Fun Program Ideas to Improve Your Camp

Steve Maguire, Presenter, Maguire Presentations

Before he was a professional speaker, Steve was quite a creative program director. Come join him for this first time session where he will share his secrets to great programs (both day and evening). You will leave with 12 of the most interesting and fun program ideas that you can use immediately in the summer of 2010. Remember, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result! Time to mix it up!

Let's fight! 9 Techniques for Better Conflict Management for Staff and Kids

Steve Maguire, Presenter, Maguire Presentations

In most cases, the honeymoon period ends and conflicts begin at camp. Come join Steve as we explore some ways to diffuse, pre-emptive strike and break down conflicts that happen between all of your major players at camp. (kids, staff and administrators).

Leaf Art: Combining Nature and Art

Susan Caplan, Teacher/Naturalist, Mass Audubon Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

Whether or not you are teaching tree or leaf identification, leaves are a great starting point for dozens of craft projects. In this hands-on class, you'll try a variety of art and craft techniques that incorporate leaves and inexpensive art supplies. Learn how to create nature-inspired mobiles, masks, wall art, photo frames, clothing decorations, and more.

It's OK to Get Dirty! Keeping the Outdoors in Camp!

Terri Mulks, Director, Massachusetts Audubon Society-Blue Hills Trailside Museum

Do you feel that the outdoor component of your camp is becoming less and less? Discuss the reasons why campers and their parents are hesitant to get dirty and spend time in the great outdoors. Walk away with information on how to convince all members of the family that it's okay to get dirty. Environmental education activities will be shared.

Inclusiveness in Camp

Terrie Campbell, Executive Director, 4-H Camp Howe

Creating an inclusive community for all youth with a focus on accommodating youth with disabilities successfully. With the rise in mainstreaming in schools, parents are seeking inclusive summer options and there are too few camps opening their gates. The intent of this workshop is to discuss the implications for camps, costs, and considerations, and to open up to discussion for camps that are already doing it (most camps are with differing levels of success). I would like to get a panel together of different camps that are doing it – Howe, Ag. Village and a few of the "Let's all play Programs (day camps) so we have differing levels of history (old and more recent) variety of disabilities supported. I think focusing in on low cost easy accommodations as most think it is too hard, too expensive or they can't do it..... So looking at ways to overcome the obstacles that stand between the camp and the child!