

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.

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.

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

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.

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?

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

Teambuilding Puzzles

Jim Cain, Speaker/Author, Teamwork & Teamplay

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.

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.

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 you major players at camp. (kids, staff and administrators).

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.