

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

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.

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.***

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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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.