

2027 New England Camp Conference Session Topic Area Descriptions

Leadership: Sessions within this category relate to camp leadership theory and practice. These sessions are geared towards those in the room (rather than those they supervise). They may speak to the cultivation of leadership, vision, ethics, and community building, to name a few. Leadership sessions are often designed for intermediate or advanced audiences.

Activities: Sessions relating to the active and hands-on programs that campers and staff take part in over the course of a summer. These may include icebreakers, rainy day plans, crafts and games for campers as well as staff activities to be run at orientation or trainings. These sessions are typically focused on moving/doing and have limited tech needs.

Program design & development: Sessions relating to the creation, execution, and evaluation of programs we run at our camps. These include regular and specialty activity programming, CIT/LIT programs, special events, electives, and practical issues and curricula related to instruction in sports, nature-based learning, arts, adventure, and waterfront operation.

Business: Sessions on finance & budgeting, marketing & promoting your camp, fundraising, board development, strategic planning, the economy and its impact on camps, human resources, technology, and succession planning. This could also include sessions about talking with parents about policies, enrollment, and registration.

Operations: Sessions relating to the management of your site including insurance, facility maintenance, purchasing, emergency planning, transportation, and food service.

Staff: Sessions within this category are those relating to staff recruiting, hiring, training, management/supervision, evaluation, and retention. People attending these sessions can expect to walk away with concrete ideas.

Health and wellness: Sessions relating to physical, mental, and social-emotional health and well-being and self-care of campers and staff. This may include MESH programs and health services.

Youth development: Sessions relating to working with children and youth in the camp setting covering theories and best practices. This may include homesickness, bullying and gossip, trauma-informed practice, behavioral challenges, neurodiversity, and addressing and meeting needs of subgroups of campers. This could also include sessions about talking with parents about camper issues.

Trending topics and emerging issues: Sessions may cover topics such as research, technology at camp, and other "hot" topics not covered in the areas above. Please select this category only if another category does not seem to apply to your proposal.

We encourage all presenters to consider how their session content incorporates diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging lenses.

While we ask presenters to select the best fit for their proposal, the committee carefully considers the session description and may move the proposal to another category if it believes it is a better fit there. Categories are not usually published in conference materials but rather serve as a guideline as the committee selects a varied and balanced overall conference program.