



ELEVATE YOUR Why

YMCA MID AMERICA CAMPING CONFERENCE

Sherman Lake YMCA
Outdoor Center
Augusta, MI
January 9-12, 2024
WWW.YMCAMACC.ORG



WELCOME TO MACC!

Thank you so much for joining us for the 2024 Mid America Camping Conference! We are thrilled to be at Sherman Lake YMCA all together for the week. MACC features an incredible collection of camp leaders from across the United States and also the world. I am truly excited to welcome our international participants into the MACC Community! I cannot wait for our week together and to get to know you.

This year's theme for our conference is Elevate your Why. I hope that you'll join me in utilizing this week as an opportunity to have conversations with each other about your struggles, your successes, and the change that is to come for the camp industry. Ultimately, I hope this week you find a way to put those learnings into action. It is time for us to continue to elevate our why into our programming to meet the needs of all of our camp's participants.

Throughout this week, you'll have a number of opportunities to network with other camp professionals. I encourage you to make the most of this time. Our MACC community features a unique blend of people in all stages of their camping careers - from those who are just starting, to pros who have been in the industry for decades. There is an abundance of experience, knowledge, and passion at this conference.

Please also enjoy the collections of Keynote and Interest Session speakers who will be joining us. Our Conference Planning Committee volunteers worked diligently to find presenters who will be able to speak to the variety of challenges camp professionals are facing, and assist us to Elevate our programs through all we face this year.

Lastly, a HUGE thank you to the Conference Planning Committee volunteers who made this conference possible. These amazing individuals volunteer to take on a ton of work, in addition to their roles at their own camps, to help plan our conference. Without their hard work and dedication, we wouldn't be here.

MEG PIECHOCKI **2024 CONFERENCE CHAIR**



2024 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

10:30-11:45 AM	PARTICIPANT ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN
11:45AM-12:15 PM	WELCOME MIXER
12:15-1:00 PM	LUNCH
1:15-1:30 PM	MACC KICK-OFF
1:30-2:30 PM	KEYNOTE 1: GENEIN LETFORD
2:45-3:45 PM	BUILDING COMMUNITIES
4:00-5:15 PM	INTEREST SESSION #1
5:30-6:15 PM	DINNER
6:30-7:45 PM	ROUND TABLES
8:00-8:45 PM	OPENING CAMPFIRE
8:45-9:00 PM	REFLECTION
9:00 PM	RECREATION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

7:15-7:45 AM	COFFEE & CONVERSATION
7:45-8:30 AM	BREAKFAST
8:45-9:15 AM	MORNING INSPIRATION
9:30-10:45 AM	KEYNOTE 2: MICHAEL BRANDWEIN
11:00 AM-12:15 PM	INTEREST SESSION #2
12:15-2:15 PM	LUNCH & SPONSOR FAIR
2:30-3:15 PM	INTEREST SESSION #3
3:30-4:45 PM	INTEREST SESSION #4
5:00-6:00 PM	CONSULTATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
6:00-6:45 PM	DINNER
6:30 PM	SILENT AUCTION ENDS
7:00-8:00 PM	YMCA SERVICE AUCTION
8:00-8:15 PM	REFLECTION
8:15 PM	RECREATION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH

7:15-7:45 AM	COFFEE & CONVERSATION
7:45-8:30 AM	BREAKFAST
8:45-9:15 AM	MORNING INSPIRATION
9:30-10:30 AM	KEYNOTE 3: DR. AMANDA CASE
10:30-10:45 AM	ALL GROUP PHOTO
11:15 AM-12:30 PM	INTEREST SESSION #5
12:30-1:30 PM	LUNCH
1:30-3:15 PM	RECREATION ACTIVITIES
3:30-4:45 PM	INTEREST SESSION #6
5:00-5:30 PM	RECEPTION
5:30-7:00 PM	BANQUET
7:15-7:45 PM	CLOSING & REFLECTION
8:15 PM	RECREATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH

7:15-8:00 AM	COFFEE & CONVERSATION / GRAB & GO BREAKFAST
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WELCOME TO SHERMAN LAKE YMCA OUTDOOR CENTER!

In 1994, on 90 acres on a rural lake in Southwest Michigan between Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, the Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center was born. Constituted as an independent YMCA, the Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center was the first new YMCA Camp and Conference Center built from the ground up in over 50 years! Today the Sherman Lake YMCA sits on 365 acres replete with a state of the arts facilities.

Facilities include a Center for Integrated (Character) Education, a large conference dining hall, three villages, a farm and horse riding facilities, a mile of shoreline on Sherman Lake, and a one of a kind indoor recreation center serving the surrounding local communities as a YMCA wellness membership facility.

Sherman Lake YMCA serves over 20,000 people each year, we feel that MACCs held at Sherman Lake YMCA will be a rewarding and unparalleled experience for all involved.



Kellogg Hall encompasses the dining hall and interest sessions spaces. Moving south, you will find two gymnasiums, a game room, a fitness center, a weight room, child watch, pool with diving boards/climbing wall, indoor rock wall and a high ropes course in the beautiful newly expanded Austenfeld Recreation Center.

What makes the Recreation Center unique? Since 2018, the building has been partially powered by a 400kWh solar array. The array is located on the roof and has produced 694,372,000 kilowatt hours. This is equivalent to 694 long haul flights, 3.1 million miles driven in a car, or 83,000 trees planted.

The facilities inspire creativity and imagination, promote friendship and skill-building, and immerse guests in environments where they can play, love, learn, relax, and connect.





SHERMAN LAKE YMCA CAMP



* Sherman Lake YMCA Staff must be present to participate in this activity.

ABOUT OUR KEYNOTES

GENEIN LETFORD

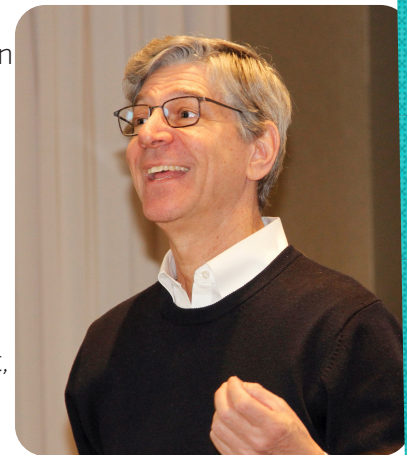
Genein Letford is an award-winning educator, best-selling author and international speaker on the Intercultural Creativity®. As a TEDx speaker and top creativity trainer, she has inspired many educators to be aware of their cultural lenses and creative abilities in order to produce innovative ideas for the classroom and workspace. She is the founder and Chief Creative Officer of CAFFE Strategies, LLC which trains administrators, educators and employees to unleash their Intercultural Creativity® for themselves and in their classrooms.

Pulling from her fifteen years of working with creative geniuses, her unique curriculum utilizes metaphorical strategies, heightened observation techniques and the creative arts to reawaken intuitive thinking in her attendees. She recently published her first children's book I AM CREATIVE! with her 3-year-old son, Shawn Letford to show how creative thinking develops. Her latest book, 7 Gems Of Intercultural Creativity has been labeled groundbreaking for education in the 21st century. Genein believes creative thinking paired with cultural competency are critical 21st Century skills and she is often called 'America's Creativity Coach' for her work in reigniting Intercultural Creativity® and in our youth and in our workforce.



MICHAEL BRANDWEIN

Michael (michaelbrandwein.com) is an internationally acclaimed expert on camp, youth development, and education. A frequent national and state keynoter, he has presented in all 50 states and on six of the seven continents. Michael has trained Y camp and youth program leadership teams and staffs from coast to coast. He is the number one best-selling author in the camp training and leadership field, with six books: Training Terrific Staff (Volumes 1 & 2), Super Staff SuperVision, Learning Leadership: How to Develop Outstanding Teen Leadership Training Programs at Camp, Skill of the Day: What Great Leaders of Young People Do and Say, and the latest, Growing Great Qualities in Kids: The L.A.S.E.R.B.E.A.M. Technique for Bringing Out the Best in Young People. He wrote and presented three Emmy® award-winning TV programs on youth communication that have been broadcast on PBS stations throughout the United States. Michael knows Y camps—he is a former assistant Y camp director and has keynoted national Y conferences. Michael has won two American Camp Association national awards and many regional awards. He is a former ACA national board member. Michael lives in the Chicago area with his wife Donna, a sign language interpreter for the Deaf, and they have two adult sons: Dave, a musician, and Benjamin, a special education teacher in the Chicago Public Schools.



AMANDA CASE

Amanda S. Case, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Counseling Psychology doctoral program at Purdue University. Her research promotes youth well-being by examining how cultural and sociopolitical factors shape the environments in which youth exist (e.g., schools, communities) and how informal learning spaces (e.g., afterschool programs, summer camps), in particular, can be leveraged to support the health and success of all youth, especially those impacted by systemic racism and classism. As an engaged scholar, Amanda intentionally partners with a variety of practitioners and community-based organizations to co-create mutually beneficial and socially impactful scholarship that is responsive to community needs. Over the years she has consulted with a range of community-based programs on data management, strengths-based inclusive practices, and program design.



INTEREST SESSION 1

TUESDAY 4:00 – 5:15 PM

1A – Perspective Shifting for Success – Gymnasium (Rec Center) **Genein Letford – CAFFE Strategies**

Leaders who engage in perspective-taking exercises not only provide new perspectives in complex work situations, but it can also activate networks in our brains that are associated with creative thinking, intercultural competence and exploration. Perspective taking is a skill that improves business outcomes and gives us access to more information than we would have without it. In order to lead well, leaders need to shift perspectives well for a comprehensive view of the teams and the future

1B – More than a Camp Director: Making a career in Camp Sustainable – Multipurpose Studio (Rec Center) **BJ Murray – Camp Wood YMCA, Alex Kretzinger – Des Moines YMCA Camp, Amiee Woodrow – McGaw YMCA Camp Echo, Sarah Hooper – YMCA Camp Carson**

A career in camping and serving kids and families is a massive commitment. It can be exhausting and, if not taken care of, unsustainable. Whether just getting started, looking to reinvigorate or preparing for life-changes while being a camp professional, this session discusses work/life engagement, how to structure your work, how to manage your time off and how to advocate for yourself more in order to help you build a career to last! A CEO, an Executive Director and Senior Program Directors share insight on how they've managed to maintain their careers, overcome challenges and share lessons learned through presentation and group discussion to help you be more than your job.

1C – International Staff Liaison: How Your Camp Can Benefit from It – Markam Room (Rec Center) **Jesus Castano – YMCA Camp Kern**

Cultural barriers can make or break the experiences of international staff. A Liaison Program can help your camp break down cultural barriers that can seriously hinder the success of your international counselors. Join us as we share common challenges we've had around international staff, how to tackle those and how to start creating your own International Staff Liaison Program.

1D – “What If?” A Creative Space – Conference Room (Kellogg) **John Rice – YMCA of Greater Flint**

Looking to share ideas, gain ideas, or be inspired? This lightly facilitated time is aimed at creating a space for fostering conversations and connections in a way that uplifts the voices of participants. Participants will have the opportunity to utilize different creative spaces as they connect, imagine, and inspire. Exercise the power of collaboration with like-minded individuals and asking the question 'what if'.

1E- Ragers and the Importance of Fellowship – Art Studio (Kellogg) **Jack Green & Catherine Schaerer – YMCA of Northern Utah**

Investing in your Ragers program. Learn from YMCA Camp Roger's implementation of growing their program through the last 5 years. Small changes can make a large impact in creating a better place for everyone who visits camp.

1F – Transitioning from Child Care to Day Camp – Nature Center (Kellogg) **Dan Weir – Day Camp Community**

Going from running a child care to a day camp can be a challenging task. In this session, we will dive into tips and tricks for having a smoother transition from the end of a child care season to running the first day of camp. We will delve into developing good routines using a yearly schedule. We will also talk about how to utilize your Y's full resources.

1G – Screen Addiction and Outdoor Education – Pilates Studio (Kellogg) **John Coombs – Frost Valley YMCA**

Outdoor programs have an opportunity to give a temporary reprieve from screen addiction. Many people want to limit the amount of time they spend on social media, work email or their phone in general. Spending a weekend away from screens is much easier when you can paint, zipline and search for a Sasquatch. However, suddenly being without your phone can be jarring for some people causing them to react differently to ordinary situations. In this session we will take a look at the effects of screen addiction and how it affects the outdoor industry. We'll spend some time talking about the positives and negatives of technology in our programs along with the positives and negatives of technology free programs.

INTEREST SESSION 2

WEDNESDAY 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

2A – How to Work with Your Association Office – Multipurpose Studio (Rec Center)

Laura Mahan – Y-USA

The relationship between camp leadership and the Association leadership (C-suite) is critical to the life of camp. No matter how great of an operation you run at your camp, the Association still determines whether you stay or go. We have seen several camps sold or their operations changed significantly in recent years. We have several more camps that are on the verge. Now, more than ever, we must build and maintain strong, transparent relationships with our Association Leadership. It is critical to the survival of camp.

2B – LISTEN UP! How to Teach Staff (& Ourselves) the #1 Most Important Skill for Camp Success – Conference Room (Kellogg)

Michael Brandwein

Take home a deep toolbox of fun, creative, full-participation methods to get people to boost and practice their listening skills to lead groups, develop strong relationships, provide outstanding customer service, resolve conflict, solve problems, coach others, and much more. Learn from, and how to train with, Michael's essential, original, must-do activities such as his "Perfect Conversation" and "Turbo Talk Show," plus his newest 2023 activities to make you an expert at the learning of listening. Dealing with campers, colleagues, parents, and in other relationships—this session will help you make sure that people feel they've been really heard.

2C – Switching Your Shoulder Season from Off to On – Art Studio (Kellogg)

Genevieve Sullivan – Trainertainment

Join us for an enlightening session on Trainertainment Sales Pro, where you'll uncover the secrets to elevating your camp's off-season offerings. Learn how to tap into new revenue streams by attracting groups, conferences, and field trips with innovative strategies, powerful tools, and real success stories.

2D – Games 101 – Nature Center (Kellogg)

Aaron Hack – Glacial Community YMCA

Leading games is always fun, but may seem daunting of where to start or trying to stay creative. Here we will work through how to get back to basics, learn some new tactics, and make it digestible for your staff!

2E – Y Day Camps Matter – Pilates Studio (Rec Center)

Diego Flores – YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee

In this session, we will have a conversation about Day camps in the inner city. The successes, challenges, and anything in between. In this session, we will also get a chance to talk as a community, resource share and problem solve.

2F – What to DO when Your World Is On Fire – Dining Hall (Kellogg)

Keesiya Robertson and Karen Friedman – YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

The world as we know it can change from day to day, minute to minute and even hour to hour. This change can be negative or positive. During times where it seems like everything around you is in a tizzy, it can seem like the world as you knew it is being engulfed in flames and no matter how hard you try, there is nothing you can do about it.

This session will discuss how to find calm in the midst of the flames as well as various coping strategies to cope with building positive mental wellness while being accountable to life obligations (e.g. household, career, leisure, etc.). We may have to go through the flames, but we do not have to be burned up. Join me, as we learn how to become FIRE WALKERS!

2G – Outdoor Cooking 101 – Dining Hall Back Porch (Kellogg)

Paul Denowski – YMCA Camp Wapsie

Come join us and practice cooking several different menu items over the campfire. We will prep and cook some tasty treats beyond your standard hotdogs and burgers. Come hungry, ready to help prep, cook and try.

INTEREST SESSION 3 WEDNESDAY 2:30 – 3:15 PM

3A – Becoming a CEO – Multipurpose Studio (Rec Center) Zach Klipsch – Sherman Lake YMCA

Before becoming a CEO, I always wondered what the career track was that could earn someone a CEO position. I was also curious about what the CEO job really is from day to day. In order to help shed some light on the position of CEO, I developed this presentation for those that hope to one day be a CEO, or for those that just want to understand the responsibilities of the position.

Join us for an informal presentation and discussion about the role of a CEO.

3B – Best Beginnings: How to Welcome Campers, & Original Greeting Games to Build Relationships from the Start – Conference Room (Kellogg)

Michael Braindwein

Take home a deep toolbox of fun, creative, full-participation methods to get people to boost and practice their listening skills to lead groups, develop strong relationships, provide outstanding customer service, resolve conflict, solve problems, coach others, and much more. Learn from, and how to train with, Michael's essential, original, must-do activities such as his "Perfect Conversation" and "Turbo Talk Show," plus his newest 2023 activities to make you an expert at the learning of listening. Dealing with campers, colleagues, parents, and in other relationships—this session will help you make sure that people feel they've been really heard.

3C – Session 0: When Campers Train Staff – Art Studio (Kellogg)

Bernard Rocca and Lindy Tracey – YMCA Camp Echo

Camp Echo hosted "Session 0" during staff training for Summer 2023. A small group of campers came to camp for a weekend of staff training to help our staff prepare for summer. Campers got to experience a snapshot of camp with an AMAZING camper-staff ratio and staff had opportunities to practice for summer in every operational area: programs, health and wellness, transportation, food services, and facilities. Staff were able to lead and observe activities, with ample time and resources for facilitation debriefing and reflection – something that can be hard to find when camp is operating at full capacity later in the summer. AND Session 0 was a fee-based program that generated additional revenue for camp. Truly a win-win.

INTEREST SESSION 3 (Continued)

WEDNESDAY 2:30 – 3:15 PM

3D – Native Land – Blanket Experience – Nature Center (Kellogg)

Andy Corley – YMCA of the Seven Council Fires

The Blanket Exercise is a powerful and interactive educational activity that takes participants on a journey through history, shedding light on the injustices and challenges faced by Native Americans. A guide for participants to undergo a series of impactful scenarios, using blankets as a symbolic representation of the land. The exercise is designed by KAIROS, a Canadian ministry dedicated to justice and peace.

The historical context is presented through maps and narratives, illustrating the gradual loss of Indigenous land and the impact on their communities. Treaties, sovereignty, and cultural rights are explained, providing essential background information. The exercise delves into significant historical events, such as the Indian Removal Act and the impact of diseases brought by European settlers.

The inclusion of Indigenous voices through quotes adds a personal and emotional dimension to the exercise. Individual stories, like the Trail of Tears and the impact of boarding schools, further humanize the historical narrative. The incorporation of modern realities, such as the Dakota Access Pipeline and current socio-economic challenges faced by Indigenous communities, brings the exercise into the present. In its entirety, the Blanket Exercise Script serves as a thought-provoking and empathetic tool for fostering awareness, understanding, and dialogue around the historical and contemporary experiences of Native Americans.

3E – The Loneliness Epidemic: Impact on the Generations in Summer Camps – Pilates Studio (Rec Center)

Drew Kelley – Benjamin Harrison YMCA Camp

In this interest session, we will explore the growing concern of the loneliness epidemic and its profound effects on Generations Alpha (Campers), Z (Counselors), and Millennial (Parents and Professional Staff) stakeholders within the context of summer camps. We will delve into the causes, manifestations, and implications of loneliness among campers, counselors, directors, and parents. By identifying these challenges, we will discuss our ideas on how to foster a supportive and inclusive camp environment to enhance the well-being and experiences of all participants.

3F – Plan Your Event! – Dining Hall (Kellogg)

Carrie Hybels – Sherman Lake YMCA

Planning an event can be overwhelming – from venue selection to catering and everything in between, this presentation will provide tips and practices to ensure that your event runs smoothly and your guests have an unforgettable experience!

INTEREST SESSION 4

WEDNESDAY 3:30 – 4:45 PM

4A – “WHY DON’T YOU BEHAVE?!”—The Brandwein Key System Solution to Handling Negative Behavior in Young People – Gymatorium (Rec Center) **Michael Brandwein**

It’s the #1 hardest skill set we must learn ourselves and need to train others: How to handle undesired behavior with confidence. You can make it much easier, have less stress, and be more expert! This skill-packed, nationally acclaimed session teaches Michael’s original and creative Key System: Three consistent steps to replace negative behavior with positive choices, plus the four ways to get campers to listen and believe us the first time, and the one essential secret to improving behavior.

4B – Implementing Restorative Justice at Camp– What We Learned – Multipurpose Studio (Rec Center) **Megan Kneifl, Olivia Hultman , Shayla “Mickie” McNear – YMCA Camp Kitaki**

In 2021 we committed to applying Restorative Justice practices at YMCA Camp Kitaki– learn what set us up for success in implementation of these practices and how we’ve grown along the way. We’ll demonstrate how we introduce this to our staff, and take turns leading circles in small and large groups utilizing nonviolent communication. This presentation will be part information-sharing, part hands-on practice!

4C – Conference to Executive: What Makes Conference and Retreat Staff AWESOME Executives – Markam (Rec Center) **Danielia Barron – YMCA Camp Coleman**

In the Conference and Retreat world of camping a lot happens that goes unnoticed and unnoted. In this presentation you will learn what attributes and skills conference and retreat staff have that transfer beautifully to executive level work.

4D – Elevating Program Popularity: Youth Voices & Internal Marketing – Conference Room (Kellogg) **Genevieve Sullivan – Trainertainment, Drew Kelley – Benjamin Harrison YMCA Camp**

Join us for an engaging presentation that explores the dynamic synergy between youth voices and internal marketing strategies. Discover how harnessing the power of youth involvement can skyrocket the popularity of your programs. Gain valuable insights and actionable strategies to create an environment where young voices thrive, ultimately leading to increased program success. Don’t miss this opportunity to unlock the potential of youth engagement and internal marketing in your organization!

4E – Take Your Leadership Development Into Your Own Hands – Art Studio (Kellogg) **Bobby Thomas – YMCA Camp Duncan**

Some supervisors, associations, camps, etc. value staff leadership development more than others. It stinks, but it’s true. As a Y employee you have access to a lot of resources that may not be obvious. Learn to lean on your network (and grow your network) to curate a development plan specific to your role for both personal and professional growth.

4F – Camp HarmonY 2.0 – Nature Center (Kellogg) **Peggy Aylmer – YMCA Camp Duncan, Ruben Galis – YMCA of Romania**

This session will dive into Camp HarmonY, the improvements & changes made between Camp HarmonY 1.0–2.0 as a result of MACC and Campacity, the importance of overnight camping in Romania and the surrounding countries, and the people and campers that Camp Harmony reaches and has an impact on, as well as the challenges faced, especially bringing people together from very different backgrounds and cultures.

4G – School Leaders as Field Trip Leaders – Pilates Studio (Rec Center) **Sydney Maney and Keith Kalish – YMCA Camp Tecumseh**

Join us in learning ways to incorporate the whole school community to outdoor education experiences at camps. Teachers, parents, chaperones, and high school students can all be part of implementing in incredible educational outdoor experience for campers.

INTEREST SESSION 5

THURSDAY 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

5A – Continuing the Conversation—Developing Plans to Support the Well-being of Camp Staff – Gymnasium (Rec Center)

Dr. Amanda Case – Purdue University, Kristin Dellaire, MA, LLP

In this breakout session we'll continue the conversation from the keynote on camp staff mental health to share experiences and strategies for supporting staff well-being during and beyond the summer. Through collaborative conversation, participants will leave the session with a game plan for steps they can take back to their camp to support seasonal and full-time staff.

5B – Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast – Multipurpose Studio (Rec Center)

Zach Klipsch – Sherman Lake YMCA

Intentional or not, culture is a part of your work environment. This session will focus on what is culture, what control you have over it and how to nurture the culture you want to make the work you do even more impactful.

5C – Smells Like Teen Spirit: Engaging Teens Year-Round – Markam (Rec Center)

Abby Sullivan and Katie Trchka – YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

Are teens too cool for your program? Do you struggle to retain their interest as they age? Join us as we delve into teen programs that have succeeded in engaging these participants at our Y year-round. We will discuss initiatives such as teen advisory council, outdoor adventure trips, and leadership development opportunities that have helped us to keep teens involved at the Y throughout the year.

5D – Death By 1000 Cuts: How Microaggressions are Killing Your Culture – Conference Room (Kellogg)

Danielia Barron – YMCA Camp Coleman

Microaggressions or subtle prejudices are hard to see and notice, and even harder to face head on. Microaggressions are happening in your program, even if you can't see them. This presentation will focus on what microaggressions are, how they feel, and how to notice them and how to create a culture that does not allow them.

5E – Data Matters – Art Studio (Kellogg)

BJ Murray – Camp Wood YMCA

Making a decision for camp? Data helps you get there. This session gives a look at what points of data you can use to make better decisions for your camp, program, and staff. Knowing the data of why we do what we do will also help create a better case statement for our camps. In this session, we will look at experiments other camps have done to get new points of data for change and expand your understanding of resource management, data analysis and more.

5F – The New Day Camp Director – Nature Center (Kellogg)

Ben Breuer – Kettle Moraine YMCA

New Director Training...We will take a journey through what a Camp Director needs to know to plan a successful summer. The presentation will focus on camps that are state licensed at a YMCA center and school locations. We will go over a program timeline, brochure development, budgeting, staff hiring, staff structure, parent communication and so much more.

5G – YMCA Ukraine Camps Amid War – Pilates Studio (Rec Center)

Marta Huretska – YMCA of Ukraine

We'll be sharing the everyday joy & struggle of volunteers in Ukraine to ensure children at YMCA camps are not only having fun, but staying safe and healing.

INTEREST SESSION 6 THURSDAY 3:30 – 4:45 PM

6A – Games Galore – Gymnasium (Rec Center)

E. Hennies – Lake County YMCA, Dustin Slaughter – Mankato YMCA

Whether it's transition time, or the bus is late, or your planned activity flopped; every camp professional needs a back pocket book of games to be able to put into play at the drop of a hat. Dustin Slaughter (Mankato Family Y) and Elisa "E" Hennies (Lake County Y) will share several activities that their campers love and require little to zero supplies, for you to take home to your team. (If you attended this session last year, we will be playing different games this year) Come ready to play, as well as share any of your low prop/no prop games that your campers love!

6B – Big Feelings, Little Bodies: A Neurodivergent Approach to Speaking Kindness into Children – Multipurpose studio (Rec Center)

Em Willow – YMCA Camp Algonquin

Creating a safe space to learn and play is a BIG job. In this session, you will obtain resources and skills that will help navigate the big, hard feelings that come along with caring for children in an environment that isn't home or school.

6C – Our First Summer Kosovo – Markam (Rec Center)

Adrian Davies and Edona Sadriu – YMCA Camp Pjetershan-Kosovo

After being on a four-year journey of building a camp facility, the team share their experience and learnings from the first Summer of day camps. Hear about how a country with no camps and no camping culture ran camps for 150 young people. The learning, the risks, the laughter and the journey will all be shared.

6D – How to Work with Your Boss – Conference Room (Kellogg)

Dan Weir – Day Camp Community

Featured in Camping Magazine, Dan Weir will lead an engaging session about working with bosses. We will dive deep into communication, problem solving, and navigating challenging moments. Staff not feeling appreciated goes back to a poor relationship with their supervisor. Bosses need to be managed just like other relationships in life. While a boss may not fill the same role as a friend, it remains vital for employees to cultivate sincere, trust-based relationships with them.

6E – Family Camp is Coming! Now What! – Art Studio (Kellogg)

Todd Brinkman – YMCA Camp Kern

How to transition your resident camp into a family camp. Train your staff, build a schedule, and plan for the families.

6F – Moving Schools from Clients to Partner – Nature Center (Kellogg)

Karen Christopherson

6G – Camp Culture: Efficiency and Work Life Balance – Pilates Studio (Rec Center)

Danielia Barron – YMCA Camp Coleman

Camp is the best place in the world. We all know that. That's why we stay in this industry. Camp includes long days, busy seasons, really slow seasons, and lots of moving parts. Amid the hustle and bustle of "camp life" how do we create efficiency that can lead to better work life balance? This presentation will focus on what you can do to add efficiency to your work, create a sustainable processes, and free up time in your day, week, or month.

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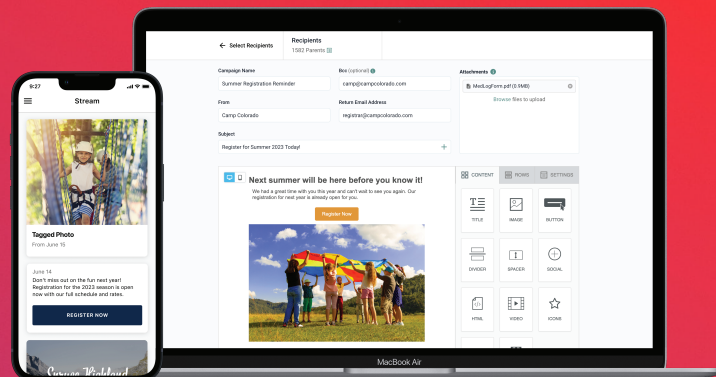


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- IENA, a US Department of State Designated J-1 Visa Sponsor, offers camp counselor and support staff programs.
- IENA links camps with excellent global staff, spanning Mexico, Ireland, UK, Spain, Brazil, Colombia, and beyond!
- Summer 2024 Update: IENA's new Australian office is recruiting in both AUS and NZ
- IENA provides superb service, top-notch staff, and competitive pricing.



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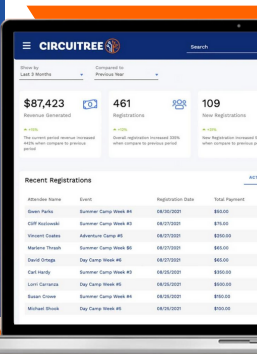
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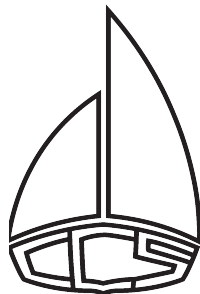
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