
🌍 Our Campers' World Special Focus

Widening the Circle

Presenter: Marina Lukanina, Angel Sanchez and Kevin Gordon, Room: Jade

Camping has not been an integral part of the culture of many groups of color. Learn about various barriers that prevent parents of color from sending their children to camps and hear about specific strategies that should be used to integrate youth of color in your programs.

Angel Sanchez has been involved in the camping profession for over eight years with both overnight residential camps and inner city day camp programs. Currently the Director of the Union League Boys & Girls Clubs Camp.

Marina Lukanina, from Russia, earned a M.A. in arts management with a concentration in arts in youth and community development while a Fulbright scholar in the US. She has been an international counselor in a US camp, language counselor in a language immersion program, and currently is developing a camp program for latino/a youth. Kevin Gordon is the Director/Owner of Camp Kupugani Multicultural Summer Camp.

❖ Day Camp Series

CAN DIVERSITY BE ACHIEVED IN A HOMOGENEOUS COMMUNITY? Room: Broadway A

Presenter: Catherine Curry, Marcy Brower

Considering that the campers and staff come from the same community, can there be opportunities for campers to experience and learn from the richness of children or adults different than they? Do children have the opportunity to try out new behaviors when school and community expectations are already set?

Catherine Curry is the Director Latin School Day Camp and a volunteer on the MSCC Program Committee. Marcy Brower is a Retired Director of Circle M Day Camp and serves on the MSCC Steering Committee.

Camp Ego: "Super Sizing" You Product? (Admin)

Presenter: Sonny Adkins, Room: Sapphire

Are we bragging about our program too much? Do you do the most talking when selling your camp? Visit some real ideas and thoughts to smart marketing versus "super sizing" your selling strategy.

Sonny Adkins is the Vice President of the Indiana Section of the ACA Board and the Ropes Challenge Course Director for Culver Summer Schools and Camps/Challenge Course.

Tech Without Turmoil: Create a Practical Technology Policy for Your Camp (Admin)

Presenter: Bob Braun, Room: Marsalis 2

Electronic technology developments have been both amazing and overwhelming. Having a mission driven technology policy in place is essential to navigating the opportunities and challenges. Explore ways to create a policy for your organization that can be positive, proactive and practical!

Bob Braun, MSE currently directs Camp WeHaKee for Girls (Winter, WI) with his spouse, Maggie. He has been

involved in camping professionally for over 10 years. Prior to that he was a high school educator and elementary school counselor. He is actively involved with ACA as a current board member in the WI Section and a lead Standards Visitor. He also has been on the Mid States Steering Committee for the past 5 years, currently as conference chair.

Trashy Art (Program)

Presenter: Rachel Crosetto, Room: Gauguin

Trashy Art attendees will get hands on experience using trash and recyclables to make fabulously EARTH FRIENDLY pieces of art. Each participant will leave with a booklet of plans and resources for inexpensive or free art materials!

Rachel Crosetto is the Associate Director of the ACA Illinois office with a background in camp administration. And, yes, she is known to dig through the garbage for recyclables.

Creative Twists for Quality Programs

Presenter: Jenaleigh Dague, Camp Dean Staff

Learn to play and game an infinite number of ways while developing imaginative problem-solving skills for you and your campers. Get ready to play & share your creativity! Jenaleigh Dague is the Camp Operations Director at Camp Dean and has worked at camps throughout the Mid West.

Dutch Oven Cooking with 3 Old Guys (Desserts)

Presenter: Bob Daniels, Denny Elliott and Jerry Duffie, Room: Awning between Hotel and MegaCenter

Join us and learn how to prepare wonderful desserts in those old dutch ovens that are piled in the back of your store room. We will prepare several different sweet desserts and demonstrate how easy clean up really is. Recipes will be available so you will not have to remember everything we share & do. Some of the dishes will be simple & others will be more involved so hopefully there will be something for everyone. These guys learned outdoor cooking in our Boy Scout days (over 30 yrs ago) and have been enjoying it ever since!

Growing Pains (Staff Training)

Presenter: Jolly Foster Corley, Room: Chagall

How to deal with staff that don't seem to be learning or growing in the world of camping.

Jolly Foster Corley is the staff coordinator at Camp Robindel in New Hampshire. With over 15 years of work in camping Jolly has been a cabin counselor, activity counselor, department head and unit leader. Since 2001 she has been a year-round staff member at Robindel.

Soft Competencies for Christian Challenge Course Facilities

Presenter: Sean Gartland, Room: New Orleans Ballroom

What is the role of a Christian ropes/challenge course facilitator? What soft skills are necessary to be effective? How can staff learn these skills and continue to grow in them over time? These questions will be discussed in light of the presenter's recently completed masters' thesis on the topic.

Sean H. Gartland, C.T.R.S. has been involved in camp, challenge course, and wilderness adventure programming in various roles for over 20 years.

Innovation in Camping: Why It's Important and how your camp can find it. (Concepts)

Presenter: Matthew Leche, Chris Broadbant, Room: Ruby

We first will define innovation and discuss it's vital importance in our camping world. Then we will discuss trends in innovation using examples from across the country. This session will include time for attendees to share innovative programs and/or trends they have identified at their own camps!

Training Camp Staff to Understand Their Importance and Purpose (Staff Training)

Presenter: Colette Marquardt, Room: Augusta 1

This session will focus on staff training sessions/programs that help staff understand the importance of their work with youth. Learn the top ten rules to live by when creating a training program that will be effective and produce powerful outcomes!

Colette Marquardt is a camp director who has worked at camps in WI, MN, MI and IL. Colette strives to create programs that are focused around girl empowerment, social change and community building.

Special Needs Round Table (Special Needs)

Presenter: DJ Newport, Room: Augusta 2

Special Needs professionals will come together to discuss current issues in the field as well as fringe trends that we will see in the future. Bring issues and ideas for the group to discuss. The facilitator will be freshly returned from a mission trip to Haiti working with children with disabilities and will share pictures and commentary.

DJ Newport, Coordinator of Enriched Lifestyle for Adults Program. North Suburban Special Recreation Association.

Things You Need to Know NOW About Your Gay Campers

Presenter: Alissa Norby, Room: Salon 5

If you haven't really thought about how you're meeting the needs of GLBTQ youth, you may be unknowingly putting these kids in harm's way at your camp. Take home a step-by-step action plan and staff training activities to create a safe space for every camper.

Alissa Norby is the author of *Girls in the Lead*, a book that teaches social/emotional learning skills. For over 8 years she has worked as a bullying consultant for the Chicago Public Schools and several organizations and camps, including: YWCA, Girl Scouts, JCC's, and Childserv.

What Goes Into Your Special Event? (Program)

Presenter: Amanda Penning, Kathy Stauble, Room: Broadway B

A new outlook on special event planning. Worksheets to assist in planning and organizing special events. At least one detailed special event - ready to be used!

Amanda Penning, Kathy Stauble have spent their summers as the Assistant Director and Program Director of Camp WeHaKee. They are known to dress in costumes of all sorts

to provide the best special events for miles around.

Soothe the Cat, Save the Canary (Concepts)

Presenter: Donna Ramaecker Zahn, Room: Marsalis 1

In camps that are constantly on the move (literally), conflict is inevitable. Understand different conflict styles and learn how to take effective steps to soothe the cat and keep the canary alive!

Donna Ramaecker Zahn has 20 years experience in strategic planning, conflict resolution and effective management. She has been with Wildwood Hills Ranch for three years.

The Unconditional Camp Counselor (Staff Training)

Presenter: David Weigand, Room: Utrillo

Paralleling the principles of Alfie Kohn's "Unconditional Parenting", this session will focus on how camp staff can do a better job of communicating with campers. To what end? To create campers who are confident, self-reliant, happy and compassionate. Handouts provided.

David Weigand owns and operates Octopus, Ink, a children's entertainment business focusing on engaging children at birthday parties, corporate functions, school fairs, community events, and summer camps. Along with this business, he administers a youth soccer club and continues to lead activity workshops for adults, an interest developed over the years through his work with children. Previously, David ran summer camp programs for the City of Bloomington for 8 years.

Phun for the Little Ones (Program)

Presenter: Gregg Catalano, Room: Salon 2

Every wonder what to do with those little ones? Join Gregg the "Physician of Phun" as he shares with you a variety of creative games and activities that are kid tested and geared specifically for the 3-5 year olds in your program.

Gregg A. Catalano, recognized as one of the nation's top educational, recreational, and motivational speakers, is a unique presenter whose workshops are always "high energy," entertaining, and informative. As the "Physician of Phun," he is truly what the doctor ordered and a presenter you won't easily forget!

Mid States

Mission Statement:

The Mid States Camping Conference, empowered by the American Camp Association, Mid America, is an inclusive, community educational opportunity, allowing camps to bring multiple staff at a reasonable cost, offering quality programs geared to all registrants in an easily accessible and environmentally appropriate location.