



COCAcon 2022 Session List

A Day in the Life of Camp Sparkle: Implementing Year Young Program for Children and Teens

Michelle Massey, MSW, LICSW, OSw-C, Camp Sparkle



Camp Sparkle is the annual day Camp with Cancer Pathways. We offer 4 weeks of in person camp located around the Seattle area and one week of virtual camp. Camp Sparkle is part of our children and families program at Cancer Pathways directed by Michelle Massey, MSW, LICSW, OSW-C. Campers are ages 5-12, Jr. Counselors are ages 13-15, and Counselors are ages 16 and up. Our program is offered to all children and teens affected by cancer. They may have cancer themselves, have a parent or family member with cancer, or have lost a parent or family member with cancer.

This presentation focuses on program development for Camp Sparkle that includes description of processes of camp and family program registration, social work assessment, therapeutic arts curriculum, and the implementation of support from Jr. Counselors and Counselors as part of the camp process. Leadership and emotional process of Jr. Counselors and Counselors will be explored. This extends to our year round children and families programing and Sparkle Saturdays. Ways we successfully extend this program to year round programing will be shown with program evaluation tools and follow up.

Tracks: Programming,Staff Development,Operations/Leadership,Medical CEU Eligible

ABC: Anything But COVID!

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping



In this roundtable discussion, we'll get back to the ABCs of camping: Anything But COVID!

As camps continue to return to in-person programming, we're all reminded that COVID is just another (significant) challenge we face when hosting camp. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Camper Applications, Registration Software, and Document Collection
- Camper Recruitment/Partnering with Other Organizations
- Staff Recruitment (Counselors & Medical)
- General Policies
- Alternate Modes of Program Delivery

Tracks: Programming,Operations/Leadership



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Become A Gold Ribbon Visitor!

Brian Crater, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times and Ryan Campbell & Jennifer Amundsen, COCA Staff



Learn how you can become a Gold Ribbon Visitor! Being a Visitor allows you to travel for free and see what other COCA Members are doing. Don't miss this unique opportunity to network and collaborate with your COCA peers.

Tracks: Operations/Leadership

Benefits of Music Therapy Services for Pediatric Oncology Patients

Brett Northrup, MT-BC, Kids Cancer Alliance Indian Summer Camp



Music therapy is a growing field which has the ability to serve and positively affect a wide range of populations. During this presentation we will define music therapy, explore possible music therapy interventions, see how this service fits and collaborates with the medical and psychosocial treatment teams, and discover how the use of this modality can encourage positive outcomes for pediatric oncology patients and their families.

Tracks: Programming, Child Development

Best Practices for Your Camp: Keys to Meeting Gold Ribbon Standards

Dave Malter, Professor Dave Education | Training | Consulting



This session will focus on the 8 best practices that are the bedrock of the Gold Ribbon Program and the American Camp Association. We will look at the basic minimum requirements camps should strive to meet in order to ensure they are offering quality programs. Whether you are a new camp director or seasoned professional, taking stock of the essentials is always a good idea.

Tracks: Operations/Leadership



Big changes at camp. How did you do it?

Brandon Padgett, Kids Cancer Alliance Indian Summer Camp

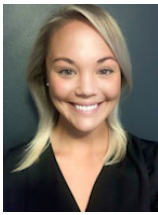


Does your camp/organization have any major changes happening soon? Do you need ideas on the best way to make those happen? Has your camp/organization recently had a major change take place? Did it go great, or do you wish you could have done a few things differently. This is a time to sit and discuss those questions and share experiences.

Tracks: Programming, Operations/Leadership

Breaking Down the Grant-Seeking Process

Dr. Katie Walker, PhD, CCLS, Eastern Washington University



Although grant-seeking is a common endeavor for medical camp staff, many have not had educational opportunities to learn about the grant process. The reality is, that grant-seeking is a complex process that takes time, effort, strategy, and the cooperation and dedication of a team to be successful (Howlett & Bourque, 2016). Without a plan, this process can feel daunting and unattainable. At this time, grant opportunities are available and plentiful. There are grants to fund all aspects of camp programming, from seeking funds to support staff growth to utilizing funds to support cost of activity materials. It is important to note, though, that although the funding opportunities are plentiful, they are becoming increasingly competitive (Karsh & Fox, 2019). Thus, if medical camp staff are going to pursue grant funding, it's critical that they are engaging in processes that will allow them to submit a strong grant proposal.

The purpose of this presentation is to introduce several aspects of the grant-seeking process, from the initial steps of identifying a problem, to tips on how to write a winning grant proposal. The grant-seeking information will be covered through five simple steps that any medical camp professional can complete. The first step, 1) Identifying a Need and Idea, will cover how to identify a problem, the types of problems funders are interested in, and how to connect the identified problem to an idea that will aim to solve the problem. The second step, 2) Building a Mighty Team, will cover roles and responsibilities of individuals who typically compose a grant team. This step emphasizes the benefits of grant-seeking as a team, rather than the sole-pursuit of one individual. The third step, 3) Develop the Basics, focuses on how to develop one's grant idea into a well-defined project. The progression of an idea into a well-defined project will be specifically addressed through what information is included in the project description, evaluation plan, and budget sections of a grant proposal. The fourth step, 4) Find a Funder, will introduce types of funders, types of grant-focuses, and where to look to locate grant funding opportunities. Lastly, the fifth step, 5) Write to Win, will cover tips for writing a competitive grant proposal. All information provided in this presentation is also tailored to the medical camp professional audience, with all content and examples being specifically identified as most useful for the medical camp context.

Tracks: Fundraising



COCAcon 2022 Session List

Building Grit, Resilience, and Coping Skills through Camp

Brandon Briery, Camp CAMP and Dr. Mike Amylon - Camp Okizu, Jennyfer Balkema - Camp Watcha Wanna Do, Dave Smith - Special Love (Camp Fantastic)



The global COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges for the worldwide community, regardless of age, pushing those who had the resources toward virtual social, educational, and professional engagement, and subjecting others without technological resources to far greater isolation. For many children, teens, and young adults, these effects have been exacerbated by lack of opportunities to develop a robust toolbox of in-person skills prior to facing this isolation (as older individuals had opportunities to do). These phenomena have been documented through research across educational, institutional, and social settings, yet targeted plans to foster skills acquisition going forward are still being determined. We invite you to join this conversation as we seek to identify ways in which the opportunity of “camp” can serve as a vehicle to address these critical needs in today’s youth development – for our campers and our staff.

Tracks: Staff Development, Medical CEU Eligible, Child Development

Camp Theme Round Table

Becky Felak, The Goodtimes Project

Stuck on what theme to choose for 2023? Or have a theme in mind, but looking for activity ideas? Take part in this round table discussion to benefit from the wealth of theme ideas and experience our fellow COCA members share.

Tracks: Programming

Celebrating Success!

Jennifer Mercer, Care Camps



The three basic goals would be to:

- 1) Thank all the camps for their ingenuity, persistence, and hard work over the last two years.
- 2) Share some of the successes from the marketing initiative this year and explain how Care Camps will be using these tools to raise more money for their programs.
- 3) Explain how each of the camps can use these tools to raise more money for themselves too!

I think we also sponsored a photo and video contest, and I can show off some of the great content we got in a fun little video and



announce the winners!

Tracks: Fundraising

Creating Connectivity and Meaningful Memories at Camp through the Art Form of Beads

Ashley Clinger, Camp Hobe and Beth Moneck, Beads of Courage



We all know the positive impact that camp can bring to our campers. As camp professionals, we work hard to build programs and give our camp communities experiences they can treasure and memories that can last a lifetime. This past year, our camp (Camp Hobe) partnered with Beads of Courage, Inc. to incorporate Beads of Courage® experiences into camp that would help our campers not only have great opportunities at camp, but have tangible reminders of memories that can stand as pillars of hope and belonging long past the end of each camp session.

Building off of the concepts of our existing program called Bead Nomination, we were able to adapt and expand the goals of the program using Beads of Courage experiences which transformed the program and camp activities into something special and we want to share that with YOU! We will share pictures, stories, examples, experiences and explain all the HOW's and WHY's in hopes that we can inspire you to create meaningful moments of caring that transpire through the use of Beads of Courage at your camp. We'll also show you the benefits that purposeful, intentional activities can provide to your campers and your staff; including opportunities to connect, build self-confidence, strengthen unity, and celebrate kindness.

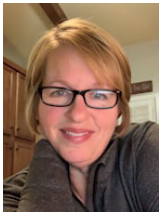
These tangible beads that the campers received throughout the week, remind them of the courage they showed, the new experiences they tried, and the new friendships that they created. Their Beads of Courage experience not only gives them a bead strand to reflect upon their own camp experiences and celebrate their courage for their accomplishments, it also provide them the opportunity to look outward to connect and honor the courage of their fellow campers and leaders.

We can't wait to share with you our amazing partnership in caring and how together we honor courage and promote connectedness at camp. "Just like beads on a strand, we are all connected."

Tracks: Programming, Staff Development, Operations/Leadership, Child Development

Creating Space and Offering Hope

Tracey Gaslin PhD, CPNP, FNP-BC, CRNI, RN-BC, Alliance for Camp Health



Description: We understand the increasing challenges in youth mental, emotional, and social health (MESH). The youth of today have lived during challenging times and have missed many developmental opportunities that shape our lives. This event will provide guidance and tools to consider as we navigate a new approach to supporting youth MESH and addressing holistic needs through the camp experience.

Tracks: Staff Development, Operations/Leadership, Medical CEU Eligible, Child Development



Disney Traditions: Making Lifelong Employees/Volunteers on Day 1

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping



How can I, a former Disney Cast Member (employee), describe Traditions? An introduction to the company and its impact? 8 hours of emotional manipulation? MAGICAL BRAINWASHING?!

Disney's "Traditions" course is the first class most Cast Members attend. I vividly remember sitting in this course with other nervous new hires myself. We were inundated with sappy videos and meaningful stories, toured Magic Kingdom, and even received our nametag from Mickey Mouse himself. I continuously looked around the room through the course and was amazed at what I saw: almost everyone was crying, cheering, clapping, or a doing combination of all 3!

I had one thought: if Disney can make people this emotional about working at a theme park, imagine how we can make our staff feel about working at a pediatric oncology camp! Join me as I discuss how Disney hooks employees from Day 1, and how I use the format of the Disney Traditions class to set the stage for our camp staff and volunteers.

Tracks: Staff Development, Operations/Leadership

From Stressed to Resilient

Deborah Gilboa, Ask Dr. G

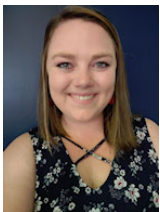


Every day COCA camps and community members are working to serve an important mission, while facing the painful consequences of the last two years of difficulty and all the current uncertainties. Deborah Gilboa, MD (Dr. G), internationally respected Resilience Expert and family physician, will help us uncover the role stress is playing in human reaction, and determine the strategies to overcome that stress and draw out empathy and collaboration in even the toughest of interactions. Dr. G will identify the skills that we each have that make us resilient, and outline ways we can strengthen ourselves and help our campers, volunteers and staff to navigate their own journeys with strength.

Tracks: Staff Development, Operations/Leadership, Medical CEU Eligible

From Summer to Year-round: A case study

Becky Felak, The Goodtimes Project



Learn how The Goodtimes Project went from offering three summer camps and a holiday party to providing at least one program (both single-day and overnight) every calendar month over the course of two years with only three employees.

Tracks: Programming



Fundraising Round Table: Funding Our Passions

Ryan Campbell, Happiness Is Camping



This participant-driven round table will discuss all things fundraising. Let's discuss grant writing, event management, donor retention, engaging alumni, and any other avenues that fund our passion!

Tracks: Fundraising

Gold Ribbon Accreditation 101: Get Visited in 2023!

Brian Crater, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times and Ryan Campbell & Jennifer Amundsen, COCA Staff



Are you interested in becoming a Gold Ribbon Accredited Camp? Look no further! Join Brian Crater, Jennifer Amundsen, and Ryan Campbell as they teach you everything you need to know about becoming Gold Ribbon Accredited.

Tracks: Operations/Leadership

Handling Psychosocial Challenges in a Pediatric Oncology Camp Setting: A Facilitated Peer-to-Peer Discussion

Karen Long-Traynor, PhD., Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



This session will be a facilitated peer-to-peer discussion in which participants share and examine how they react to psychosocial challenges during camp.

A pediatric cancer diagnosis can affect the emotional and social health of patients, siblings, and parents. It is a disease that not only attacks the physical body but has the potential to impact nearly all aspects of life, such as social development, emotional health, financial well-being, and family relationships. This session will be broken into three hour long sections each focusing on a different aspect of how pediatric cancer affects children and their families as well as guidance in ways to help navigate the cancer journey. The first hour will focus on the experience of the child with cancer, the second hour will be devoted to siblings and parents, and the third hour will be a discussion on reacting to and dealing with potential psychosocial issues during camp.

Tracks: Operations/Leadership, Medical CEU Eligible, Child Development



How to Help Others Navigate Change

Deborah Gilboa, Ask Dr G



In every leadership (or educational or even parenting) position, we are tasked with announcing and navigating change with other people. No matter how much we grow our own resilience, we need to learn the strategies that help others approach those changes with resilience as well. Trust and modeling are not enough – the science is clear that there are strategies that will move others through change and strategies that will only increase their resistance to change. Dr. G will outline the steps we can take to strengthen relationships and organizations, while helping colleagues, campers, vendors and stakeholders have an easier time with the change they face.

Tracks: Staff Development, Operations/Leadership, Medical CEU Eligible

Leaning in to Digital Programs

Mark Lowry, One Step Programs



As we continue to move past some of the impacts of COVID-19 and return to in-person camp programs, Camp One Step is continuing to lean into the successes they found through their digital program pivot. When all 11 of their programs had to pivot to a virtual format in 2020, new opportunities for reach, outreach, and growth began to arise, and they are continuing to lean in to them today. With the creation of a new program, CONNECTED, Camp One Step is offering their camp community more ways to stay connected, and reaching campers, families, and volunteers who may not otherwise be able to participate if in-person programming was their only option. Come participate in this conversation about the journey Camp One Step took to get here, and share what you have learned and how your camp is tackling the need to balance in-person opportunities and digital programming.

Tracks: Programming

Live With Intention

Mark Lowry, One Step Programs



Life is not ours to react to - it is ours to determine. Every day is special and unique, offering new opportunities for learning and growth, and we must learn how to gain everything we can from the gifts each day offers. Through personal survivorship stories, an examination of the lives we are leading, and a refocus on the importance of self, you will walk away from this program with the drive & inspiration to create positive change in your life and the lives of those around you. Stop and ask yourself, "Is the life I am living the same life that wants to live in me?"



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I feel that I should start by sharing a little bit about myself, and why my session series focuses in on living a life with intention. In November of 1992, just before Thanksgiving, I was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL), and at that moment my life's journey began on a new course. My original thoughts when I was diagnosed were that my hopes and dreams were shattered, and that my ambitions and talents were gone. At 13 years old I had to face the fact that tomorrow may never come, and that my life as I knew it was forever going to be changed.

Now, almost 30 years later, I truly realize the importance of making a difference each and every day, and how I should be sharing this love of life with everyone I meet. In reality, having cancer gave me the chance to realize new goals, follow new passions, and go after new dreams. My life has been filled with so many people, experiences, and opportunities that have impacted my life in such a positive way - I can't imagine my life without them. I am grateful for what cancer has given me - it is my core, my badge of courage.

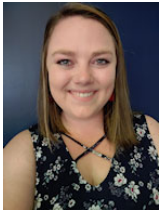
I love every moment I have to not only share my story and how I have learned to live an intentional life, but also to listen and learn from those people I come in to contact with. My time spent working with students about making the most of their futures by looking at what they can do today is what gives me hope for tomorrow. I always come away from these times together enlightened and excited about what our future has in store for all of us.

I believe that we as individuals, and as a society, have a choice in what we do with the moments given to us. We can be intentional with our time, or just let things fall as they may. I choose to live with intention!

Tracks: Programming, Staff Development

Make more money at your next fundraising event

Becky Felak, The Goodtimes Project



How to make more money through all aspects of your fundraising event including sponsorships, bolstering procurement, silent and live auctions, revenue enhancers, creating more informed donors, post-event communications, and more!

Tracks: Fundraising

Managing Staff: It Starts with You!

Dave Malter, Professor Dave Education | Training | Consulting



In a rapidly changing world that continues to shine on a light on generational differences between you and your staff, it is important to be take stock of your own capabilities before you can manage others. As leaders, it's critical that we be at our best selves to encourage others to perform at their best. This session will discuss how to best ensure we are the leaders that our staff need, and deserve, so they can be encouraged to provide positive experiences for your campers.

Tracks: Staff Development, Operations/Leadership



Medications at Camp

Cynthia Barlow, Kay's Kamp and Scott Samples, Kay's Kamp



Having medications at camp is a part of oncology camping, however, how can we safely prepare when check in day arrives. . From a pharmacist perspective at camp, we will discuss what supplies to have on hand and the importance of gaining accurate information from parents. We will also look at how medications should be packaged from a legal standpoint and the importance of parental consent for over the counter medications. Finally we will look at the responsibility the pharmacist takes on and how the team works together to make the parents feel confident in medication administration throughout the camp session. We look forward to hearing ideas of how you handle medications at camp and any questions you might have.

Tracks: Medical CEU Eligible

Merging and Re-emerging: How Two Oncology Camps United to Serve Families Better

Alex Robertson, Campfire Circle



It takes courage and patients for two established organizations to consider a merger, especially when they need to navigate this process through a global pandemic. This presentation will highlight the journey of two longstanding COCA member camps—Camp Oochigeas and Camp Trillium—as they joined forces and then rebranded as Campfire Circle, becoming the largest camp charity for kids with cancer in Canada. Today, thanks to this historic merger, Campfire Circle is active year-round through its hospital, community and overnight camp programs, creating opportunities for thousands of children in Ontario affected by cancer to build friendships and social skills, develop self-confidence and resiliency, and improve their overall well-being.

Tracks: Programming,Operations/Leadership,Fundraising

Mission, Money, & Marketing

Eddie Bobbitt, Camp Quality Kentuckiana



Should nonprofits utilize advertising to further their social impact? Is it appropriate for 501(c)(3) public charities to spend resources on marketing at the expense of programming? The answer is YESSSS! Marketing is the way that we determine what our clients and our supporters need. In this session, we will examine how you can collaborate with various media platforms to communicate your organization's message and further its mission. Just like the for-profit world, nonprofit marketing includes advertising, promotion, public relations, and customer relationship strategies. This session will explore each of these areas and it's impact on the mission of your camp.



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Tracks: Programming, Operations/Leadership, Fundraising

My Special Aflac Duck - A Social Robot and Free Resource for Children with Cancer

Buffy Swinehart, Aflac



My Special Aflac Duck is a social robot and free resource for children with cancer. Features of My Special Aflac Duck include an interactive mobile app that allows children to virtually bathe and feed their duck, art and music studios, customizable soundscapes that provide soothing visuals and sounds, smart sensors that enable touch and awareness of light and sounds, and a calming heartbeat and breathing vibrations. To help children express themselves, the duck also comes with seven feelings emoji discs that, when tapped to a sensor on the duck's chest, prompt My Special Aflac Duck to emulate each emotion. My Special Aflac Duck also comes with medical accessories so children may practice procedures on their duck and feel more in control of what they are going through.

Tracks: Child Development

Navigating Camp Through COVID: Uncharted Territory

Kimberly Allen, MS, CCLS, Camp Rainbow Georgia Health Sciences Foundation Medical College of Georgia and Stephanie Grayson, BS, CCLS, Medical College of Georgia, Avery Allen, Medical College of Georgia Medical Student



Camp certainly looked different in the past 3 years than it has ever looked. Join us in our progression of Camp Rainbow through COVID and lessons learned. Child Life Specialists will share their experiences in planning, coordinating and implementing Camp Rainbow during the COVID pandemic. A medical student will share informal research regarding how COVID effected the camp experience. This interactive session will present how we navigated our camp through this uncharted territory and will give participants the opportunity to share some of their experiences.

We will outline how we altered our camp experiences to create a safe camp environment while still achieving our overarching camp goals.

Tracks: Programming, Child Development

New Directors Forum

Gretchen Loose, Kay's Kamp and Matt Ruttler, Kay's Kamp





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This round-table discussion is ideal for directors who are new (up to 5 years) in their position at camp. We will discuss best practices related to your leadership role and provide some helpful tools that you can use to manage your responsibilities, your staff and campers. You will also have the opportunity to discuss specific issues or concerns with your hosts and develop a network of contacts through shared experiences.

Tracks: Operations/Leadership

Parents and Families making a World of Difference for Camps!

Matthew Ruttler-Moderator, Kay's Kamp



Our Parent Panel consists of mothers and fathers of current and past campers and siblings. They will discuss their views and the impact of cancer and camp on their lives. Come and listen to how cancer has impacted the lives of every member of the family, not just the patient. Learn how camps can impact and connect parents, patients and siblings on many different levels. Our parents will share the special relationships between the parents and the unique support system camp has created.

Does your camp involve parents in more than just feedback? Have you ever utilized the wealth of family knowledge/connections for training, programming or fundraising? Parents and family involvement in camp can have significant and long-lasting effects on staff, campers and donors. Parent participation in staff training offers staff first-hand knowledge of what parents expect and need from their child's counselors. Staff have the opportunity to learn the cancer family experience; the fears, the triumphs and what brings their child to camp. Parents can also offer a great deal of knowledge, experience and opportunity in fundraising. Learn how these parents helped to create a fundraiser in order to "give back" to camp.

Tracks: Programming, Staff Development, Operations/Leadership, Fundraising, Medical CEU Eligible, Child Development

Pediatric Oncology Camp Healthcare Provider Round Table I

Dr. Kaye Wagner, MD, Sanford Health, Sanford Health and Mary Ellen McKnight, MSN, RN, OCN, CHPN, Kay's Kamp



- 1) Identify common concerns and healthcare issues that face oncology camping programs.
- 2) Discuss ideas for providing medical care for campers, staff, and volunteers in a wide variety of oncology camping situations.
- 3) Describe a variety of staffing models used to provide medical care at oncology camping programs.
- 4) Recognize the important role that medical staff have in the overall goal of providing safe and effective oncology camping programs.

Tracks: Medical CEU Eligible



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Pediatric Oncology Camp Healthcare Provider Round Table II

Dr. Kaye Wagner, MD, Sanford Health, Sanford Health and Mary Ellen McKnight, MSN, RN, OCN, CHPN.
Kay's Kamp



- 1) Identify common concerns and healthcare issues that face oncology camping programs.
- 2) Discuss ideas for providing medical care for campers, staff, and volunteers in a wide variety of oncology camping situations.
- 3) Describe a variety of staffing models used to provide medical care at oncology camping programs.
- 4) Recognize the important role that medical staff have in the overall goal of providing safe and effective oncology camping programs.

Tracks: Medical CEU Eligible

Policies - Love 'Em or Hate 'Em

Tammara Jenkins, Special Love, Inc. (Camp Fantastic)



Policies and Procedures are a vital component of every camp. Likewise each department creates their own guidelines which apply to their role at camp. Medical is a part of camp that relies on policies and procedures as a part of daily functioning and while maintaining legal health care requirements. We will discuss why policies are so important and look at some templates to help with brainstorming. This session will be a discussion format providing an opportunity for participants to share ideas and questions regarding this crucial component of medical care at camp.

Tracks: Medical CEU Eligible

Staffing Challenges & Successes in 2022 - Staff Development Discussion (Round Table)

Jennifer Benton, Camp Mak A Dream



This will be a facilitated round table discussion, rather than a presentation. Topics regarding staff and volunteer issues (perhaps unique to 2022, others more universal) faced will be the topic of discussion – including: recruiting, training, managing, retaining and evaluating staff and volunteers - as well as additional challenges faced as a result of the pandemic. Attendees are asked to bring a list of challenges and successes they faced during the 2022 season, as well as tips, tricks and ideas of how to find, develop and maintain qualified staff and volunteers in the years ahead to share with the group.

Tracks: Staff Development



Strike 3 and They're Out - or Are They?

Melissa McNichol, Rapahope and Roz Dorsett, Rapahope



Let's talk about what to do regarding truly bad behavior, rule breaking, disrespect, disregard for safety, and the signed behavioral contract... behavior at camp. You sent them home – now what? Sit out next program, sit out a year, or forever...? When is enough is enough too much?

Tracks: Operations/Leadership

Sunrise VX

Deanna Slade, Sunrise Association and Athena Levesque



Sunrise Virtual eXperience, better known as SunriseVX, opened this summer as the 11th Sunrise Day Camp. Getting its start in the summer 2020, when in-person day camp was not even possible for anyone, virtual camp remained an option for campers in 2021. It quickly became clear that a full summer virtual camp option is always needed to reach as many pediatric cancer patients as possible- pandemic or not. Sunrise VX welcomed 70 children from 16 different states this past summer and is looking forward to hundreds more in the seasons to come. No child should go without the opportunity of being a kid and having fun at camp. Join us as we share our program and experience with you, learn about your experience with Virtual Programming, and share our resources with each other.

Tracks: Programming

Supporting Families After Loss: Incorporating Bereavement Into Camp Programs

Michael "Knuckles" Vasquez, Camp Okizu and Brandon "Spot" Padgett, Kids Cancer Alliance



Are you looking to add or build on to your programming for families who are bereaved? If so, this is the presentation for you! From small activities placed within a general camp session to entire program weekends specific to families who are bereaved, Knuckles and Spot will highlight how their camps incorporate the entire family in camp programs to remember the patient after death, and how you can bring these programs to your camp too. This presentation will highlight the importance of remembering the patient who may have once been a fellow campers, acknowledging the difficulty of loss in your camp community, and continuing support for families throughout and beyond their difficult journeys with cancer.

Tracks: Programming, Operations/Leadership, Child Development



Surviving Cancer CAMPetently: Delivering Evidence-Based Psycho-oncology Care during a Pandemic

Melissa A. Alderfer, Ph.D, Nemours Children's Health, Delaware and Michael Amylon, M.D., Camp Okizu



Pediatric cancers have a significant psychosocial impact on the child and family. Empirically-validated treatments exist to address these psychosocial challenges but less than 12% of Children's Oncology Group institutions provide access to such care. Collaboration between community providers spanning various disciplines and pediatric oncology medical centers is needed to provide essential components of psychosocial care for children with cancer and their families.

Pediatric oncology camps are one of the most popular and successful forms of community support for children with cancer and their families and may be uniquely poised to bring empirically-validated care to these families. With funding from Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, researchers at Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware partnered with Camp Okizu leadership to adapt the Surviving Cancer Competently Intervention Program (SCCIP©) for delivery in their Family Camp weekend programs. SCCIP combines well-established cognitive-behavioral and family systems tenets in a series of group sessions and has demonstrated efficacy for reducing symptoms of cancer-related traumatic stress. We proposed to improve the reach, effectiveness, and efficacy of SCCIP by adapting, integrating, and evaluating the resulting Surviving Cancer CAMPetently Intervention Program (SCCamp) in Family Camp sessions at Camp Okizu.

We interviewed COCA-I Family Camp Leaders and members of families who attended Okizu Family Camp, gathering their perspectives on adaption, integration, and delivery of SCCIP at Family Camp. We were developing plans to launch SCCamp when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, then, within a few months, Camp Okizu was devastated by wildfires sweeping through Northern California.

We then shifted our work to adapt and pilot test delivery of an eHealth version of SCCIP (eSCCIP) in virtual Camp. eSCCIP includes self-directed web-based modules and brief telehealth sessions for caregivers of children with cancer. We focused our research on developing acceptable and feasible procedures to deliver eSCCIP to groups of caregivers of children with cancer and partnered with the Camp Show crew, offering eSCCIP to caregivers of children attending their virtual camp weekends.

The purpose of this presentation will be to review our work to date, sharing our challenges and accomplishments. We are also in search of additional camps who might like to partner with us moving forward to bring SCCamp to families who may benefit.

Tracks: Medical CEU Eligible

Teambuilding across camp

Maria Claxton, Camp Journey Ross Point Camp

Creating quick connections can be tough when we have so much we want to do at staff training. I'll go over some of my favorite teambuilding exercises and why for the beginning of camp. We'll also go over some things to avoid and other things to keep in mind. Also, my favorite ways to reinforce those connections during camp. Finally, my favorite activity to do at the end of staff training, or camp to show appreciation and gratitude and solidify the connections we made during our camp.



Tracks: Staff Development

The Benefits of Community Involvement for Camp Programming and Beyond

Brett Northrup, MT-BC, Kids Cancer Alliance Indian Summer Camp and Brandon (Spot) Padgett, Kids Cancer Alliance



This presentation will explore the relationship between camp and community partners, and how the concept of creating working relationships with community partners serving the same population of campers can increase possibilities for programming at camp and beyond.

Tracks: Programming, Staff Development, Operations/Leadership, Child Development

The Five Dysfunctions of a Team

Laura Vaughn, Camp Quality USA



The Five Dysfunctions of a Team explores how teams fail to work cohesively together through a dynamic, five-part model of dysfunction. The five dysfunctions are 1) absence of trust, 2) fear of conflict, 3) lack of commitment, 4) avoidance of accountability, and 5) inattention to results. Through identifying these root causes of poor teamwork, teams can develop specific strategies for overcoming each of them. By doing this, they will become comfortable with one another, be willing to engage in constructive debate, achieve clarity and buy-in around team priorities, hold one another to high standards, and focus on team results instead of individual ambition.

Tracks: Staff Development, Operations/Leadership

The Other Cancer Patient: Cancer Siblings

Becca Adleberg, Camp Sunrise and Jaclyn Young, Camp Sunrise



In this presentation we will outline the ways in which cancer affects the family unit with an emphasis on siblings. Through a psychological and personal perspective, we aim to inform those running cancer camps on the importance of implementing sibling care. Too often we see sibling care being combined with oncology camps or left out entirely. This presentation will outline ideas for programming and other therapeutic outlets in which siblings can have a space of their own. Additionally we will discuss ways to continue serving these sibs after their brother or sister has passed.



Tracks: Programming, Staff Development, Operations/Leadership, Child Development

The Psychosocial Impact of Pediatric Cancer: Parents & Siblings

Karen Long-Traynor, PhD., Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



This session will focus on the psychosocial impact of pediatric cancer on parents and siblings.

A pediatric cancer diagnosis can affect the emotional and social health of patients, siblings, and parents. It is a disease that not only attacks the physical body but has the potential to impact nearly all aspects of life, such as social development, emotional health, financial well-being, and family relationships. This session will be broken into three hour long sections each focusing on a different aspect of how pediatric cancer affects children and their families as well as guidance in ways to help navigate the cancer journey. The first hour will focus on the experience of the child with cancer, the second hour will be devoted to siblings and parents, and the third hour will be a discussion on reacting to and dealing with potential psychosocial issues during camp.

Tracks: Child Development

The Psychosocial Impact of Pediatric Cancer: The Child with Cancer

Karen Long-Traynor, PhD., Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey



This session will focus on the psychosocial impact of pediatric cancer on the patient.

A pediatric cancer diagnosis can affect the emotional and social health of patients, siblings, and parents. It is a disease that not only attacks the physical body but has the potential to impact nearly all aspects of life, such as social development, emotional health, financial well-being, and family relationships. This session will be broken into three hour long sections each focusing on a different aspect of how pediatric cancer affects children and their families as well as guidance in ways to help navigate the cancer journey. The first hour will focus on the experience of the child with cancer, the second hour will be devoted to siblings and parents, and the third hour will be a discussion on reacting to and dealing with potential psychosocial issues during camp.

Tracks: Child Development

Therapeutic Art: A Guide to Material Choice When Using Art with Patients

Marcus Scarfo, MA, NCC, ATR-P, Center for Grief and Trauma Therapy





COCAcon 2022 Session List

This presentation reviews a brief history of art therapy and examines the difference between art therapy and therapeutic use of art. We will explore some of the benefits of the creative process as well as the inherent healing qualities of various art materials. We will also discuss where said art materials fall on a spectrum from fluid to structured, and examine the expressive therapies continuum, which can be used as a framework to inform decisions when providing creative experiences for patients. Cultural considerations and adaptations for increased accessibility when introducing art materials to patients will also be noted and discussed. Attendees will gain practical knowledge that will aid in making informed decisions when incorporating art into patient care.

Tracks: Medical CEU Eligible, Child Development

Using Social Media to Promote ALL THINGS CAMP!

Michael "Knuckles" Vasquez, Camp Okizu



This hour-long round table will be a time to gather with COCA camps from all around to bounce ideas on social media strategies, what works and what doesn't, and how you can help each other spread awareness on your camps through the power of Social Media! This event will be facilitated by COCA's social media manager and their practices, but will highly depend on peer-to-peer interaction in sharing ideas, tips and tricks, and getting a diverse view point of social media marketing.

Tracks: Programming, Fundraising

Volunteer Recruitment Success Stories

Erin Ulmer, Camp Rise Above and Jessica Cromer, Camp Rise Above



Do you struggle with recruiting quality volunteers? Has your team discovered an amazing way to attract new counselors? In this time where finding employees and volunteers is overwhelming and difficult, Camp Rise Above had some surprise success stories with new recruiting techniques, and learned lessons about what works (and what doesn't). Let's share our experiences and ideas with one another as we face another season of recruiting and retaining the volunteers that make our camps possible!

Tracks: Programming, Staff Development, Operations/Leadership

Why Me?

Rich Brundige, Camp Kids are Kids Chicago and Jennifer Cavazos, Camp Discovery



This presentation is for all those Camp Directors / Leadership personal who have/are wondering why we're the ones running the show and when everyone will figure out we're "making this up as we go along"!

Friday, October 7, 2022

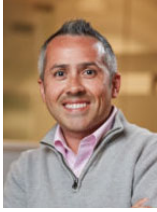


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Tracks: Staff Development, Operations/Leadership

Why Reinvent the Wheel?

Dina Dattilio, Camp Ta Kum Ta and Harry Brislin, Camp Ta Kum Ta



Join us for this participant driven programming round table! This is your opportunity to not only share your most successful camp activities and themes, but to also walk away with numerous ideas you can implement during future programs! What worked, what did not? Some of the topics we'll touch on are which activities worked best for specific age ranges, COVID friendly activities, which helped create the most connection, the most inclusive environment and much more!

Tracks: Programming
