



COCAcademy:

Learn from the BEST, BRIGHTEST & MOST INNOVATIVE camp professionals! Come join the **COCAcademy!** It's FREE ... no extra charge.

Every year you strive to bring joy, excitement, and healing to all of your campers, however, that can be a daunting task in this new social and technological age. **COCAcademy** is for EVERYONE! Seasoned and new camp people. Directors, staff, volunteers, counselors!

WARNING: This workshop will not be your typical sit, listen, & repeat environment. Be prepared to leave ridiculously excited, blown away by the innovative new methods you learn, and have your campers and staff find you annoyingly creative and quite possibly inspirational.

2-Day Immersion Workshop (Friday and Saturday). Join in for one or more sessions, or the entire 2 days.



COCAcademy is Proudly Sponsored by our Partner, Care Camps

2023 COCAcademy:

PLAYing with Purpose: Revitalizing Staff Training & Empowering Campers

Presenters: Allison Krabill and Jack Schott, The Summer Camp Society

Friday, November 10, 2023

Presentation Summaries & Objectives/Outcomes:

Session 1-10:15-11:15 am – *PLAY Basics & Why It Matters* (Programming, Staff Development)

In this interactive session, we'll dive into the powerful impact of PLAY—Play, Leadership, Adaptability, and Youth—and how it can be harnessed to drive personal and organizational growth. We'll play, talk about why it matters at camp, and what it might look like at our different organizations.

Objectives/Outcomes:

1. Understand the value of PLAY and the potential PLAY can have at camp
2. Experience play and facilitation techniques you can use to encourage PLAY at your camp
3. Identify opportunities for PLAY in your program

Session 2-11:30 am-12:30 pm – *Setting the Sandbox* (Programming)

We can't just let campers play—or can we? Creating a sandbox for play empowers campers to make their own decisions and play in their own ways while also giving staff a framework for them to play inside. We'll talk about the sandbox, and how set it.

Objectives/Outcomes:

1. Understand free choice/camper choice and the importance of trusting and empowering youth voice
2. Explore different types of free choice/camper choice activities and policies
3. Identify program areas/times of your camp where campers can have voice and choice

Session 3-2:00-3:00 pm – Playing in the Sandbox, Part I (Programming, Staff Development)
(Attendance at both sessions is recommended)

By bringing play to staff training, we'll open staff's eyes to the sandbox and help them help more campers play. In the first session, we'll talk about how we can get staff on board, how supervising the sandbox works, and how we can bring play to staff training. In the second session, we'll go more in depth about how both campers and staff can play at camp.

Objectives/Outcomes:

1. Understand the value of play, engagement, and discussions in staff training
2. Build out staff training sessions that you can use for Summer 2024 and beyond
3. Explore ways of supervising and facilitating camper choice

Session 4-3:30-4:30 pm – Playing in the Sandbox, Part II (Programming, Staff Development)

- Continuation of 2:00 session

- Attendance at both sessions is recommended.

By bringing play to staff training, we'll open staff's eyes to the sandbox and help them help more campers play. In the first session, we'll talk about how we can get staff on board, how supervising the sandbox works, and how we can bring play to staff training. In the second session, we'll go more in depth about how both campers and staff can play at camp.

Objectives/Outcomes:

1. Understand the value of play, engagement, and discussions in staff training
2. Build out staff training sessions that you can use for Summer 2024 and beyond
3. Explore ways of supervising and facilitating camper choice

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Presentation Summaries & Objectives/Outcomes:

Session 5- 9:00-10:00 am – "Partner With" Leadership

Instead of using our power to make decisions for people, we believe in using our power to make decisions with people. That means asking questions, getting others involved, trying new things, making things as easy as possible for everyone involved, and more. In this session, we'll talk about how we can partner with campers, caregivers, and staff to be more impactful leaders.

Objectives/Outcomes:

1. Understand the concepts of "partner with" and "power over" along with the benefits of partnering with
2. Explore different ways we can partner with campers, staff, and caregivers
3. Identify opportunities for partnering with that exist in our programs

Session 6-10:15-11:15 am – Building Connections to Advocate & Adapt (Part 1 of 2)

(Attendance at both is recommended)

Building connection is key at camp. We'll talk through how we can build relationships and utilize them to identify camper needs and want. From there, we'll talk about how we can empower staff to advocate for their campers needs and we'll model ways to teach staff to adapt programs.

Objectives/Outcomes:

1. Experience tactics for building connections and learn how to utilize these with staff
2. Discuss ways to encourage campers to speak up for their needs and wants
3. Learn model-able techniques staff can use to adapt programs

Session 7-11:30 am-12:30 pm— *Building Connections to Advocate & Adapt (Part 2 of 2)*

(Attendance at both is recommended)

Building connection is key at camp. We'll talk through how we can build relationships and utilize them to identify camper needs and want. From there, we'll talk about how we can empower staff to advocate for their campers needs and we'll model ways to teach staff to adapt programs.

Objectives/Outcomes:

1. Experience tactics for building connections and learn how to utilize these with staff
2. Discuss ways to encourage campers to speak up for their needs and wants
3. Learn model-able techniques staff can use to adapt programs

Session 8-2:00-3:00 pm — *Youth: The Why, The How, and the What Now*

(Attendance at previous sessions is recommended)

We've talked through Play, Leadership, and Adaptability, and now we're tying up why it matters, how we can best serve youth, and what we can do when we get home. This session will be largely reflective with a focus on action-planning.

Objectives/Outcomes:

1. Understand the impact PLAY can have at camp
2. Reflect on information in the previous sessions
3. Make plans for implementing PLAY and techniques used during the sessions after going home