



SUMMERAMA 2017

... a one-day training program and conference for new & returning camp staff

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Dothan Brook School

8:30 - 9:00 am Registration & Light Refreshments - get ready for a great day!

Where should I go next? All sessions are open to everyone! If you're not sure where to start, we've created an informal guide to help participants understand the target audience for each workshop. Although content in most of the sessions *could* be relevant to all, some speakers have geared their discussions toward certain experience levels. Our guide is merely a suggestion. Our hope is that your team will use this experience and arrange your sessions in a way that best fits your personal and professional goals!

 **Entry Level/First Time Counselor**  **Mid Level/2-3 Year**  **Upper Level/Management**

9:00 - 10:00 am

OPENING SESSION - EVERYONE

Starting Off With Style! Going Beyond the Icebreakers...

Jennifer Stanchfield, Educator, Author, and Founder of Experiential Tools

The first few minutes of an experience are key to hook and engage participants. Join this interactive workshop and take away effective rapport building and group development activities and strategies that go beyond the usual icebreaker. Set a positive tone and increase engagement from the very start and engage participants the moment they walk into your program. Create context, increase buy-in and ownership and start your program off on the right foot!

10:10 - 11:00 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS - CHOOSE ONE

Games & Activities that TEACH!

Jennifer Stanchfield, Educator, Author, and Founder of Experiential Tools

In this interactive workshop, learn a variety of fun activities, games and experiential approaches to teach and reinforce skills such as: problem-solving, critical thinking, responsibility, communication, and reflective learning. Add new activities to your toolkit. These activities can be facilitated in any size space with simple materials and can be adapted to varying ages and abilities.

Risky Business

Brian Bevacqua, Recreation Manager & Kirsten Domas, Program Director

We've all heard it before, "isn't that activity risky? Will my child be safe doing that?" Recreation is an inherently risky business but how can we address the risk without taking the excitement out? How can we communicate risk to our staff, participants and parents? This session teaches risk assessment techniques and solutions for minimizing danger without compromising fun. We'll delve into how to get our (sometimes inexperienced) staff to identify risk as well as ways to explain risk to protective parents.

Handling Challenging Camp Behaviors like a Pro!

Barbara Boutsikaris, Mental Health Counselor and Former Camp Counselor

As a camp counselor, you have the opportunity to make an extraordinary difference in a child's life. There's also the chance that you'll run into some unpredictable challenging camper behaviors that may leave you confused and frustrated. This workshop will provide a clear algorithm, or set of steps, for handling challenging camper behaviors and get everyone back on track for a great summer experience!



ALL EYES ON YOU! Are you ready?

Jessica Booth, Parks & Recreation Director & Todd Goodwin Parks & Recreation Director

Being a first-time camp counselor or activity leader can be intimidating. Knowing what to say and how to say it is a skill not easily mastered - especially the moment all eyes are on you! This session is filled with practical advice to muster up that self-confidence and be a LOUD, captivating speaker in front of large groups. Learn tips and tricks to get everyone's attention without necessarily competing for volume. Once you have their attention, train yourself to deliver clear, confident and concise messages that your camp director will love to see!

11:10 am - 12:00 noon

CONCURRENT SESSIONS - CHOOSE ONE



Bring Learning to Life with Meaningful & Engaging Reflection Tools

Jennifer Stanchfield, Educator, Author, and Founder of Experiential Tools

Make reflection an engaging part of your programs and create lasting memories. Go beyond the typical "debrief" and explore active brain-based strategies that enliven the traditional sharing circle. Take away innovative participant-centered techniques that can be adapted to a variety of group settings and woven throughout a program. Increase relevancy and meaning, depth of understanding, and connection to real life and future learning.



Bringing Out the Best in Your Campers - Ten Easy Steps

Barbara Boutsikaris, Mental Health Counselor and Former Camp Counselor

Summer camp can be an incredibly rewarding experience. Understanding some of the challenging behaviors you might encounter and how to handle them will make the experience even more enjoyable for you and your campers. This workshop will provide some clear tips for preventing and handling challenging camper behaviors.



Diary of a Camp Counselor - Real Life Stories Panel & Discussion

Jessica Booth, Parks & Recreation Director & Todd Goodwin, Parks & Recreation Director

We're sharing some juicy details from the pages of our camp history books! Any seasoned counselor has been there - the time when you found yourself in a jam with an angry parent, dealing with a staff member gone rogue or an out-of-control camper who is beyond reasoning. They aren't the glory moments at camp, but they all have one thing in common - a lesson to be learned. Situations like these can be uncomfortable and a true test of your skill as a camp leader. With some reflection, these times are valuable and are the best teachers to improve camp policy, customer service or over-all preparedness.

Have a moment you'd like to share? This will be an open panel with discussion as time allows. Come prepared to tell what happened, how it was handled and how it impacted your program or professional development.

12:00 - 12:30 pm

LUNCH - PIZZA, SALAD & DRINKS

It will be quick - grab a slice & some salad and get ready for another great session!



Director's Lunch Round Table - Camp directors and assistant directors are invited to lunch

together in the art room for an open round table discussion of topics that matter to you! Trying something new this year at camp? Want ideas or solutions to a problem? Whatever your interest, bring it to the Director's Round Table!

12:30 - 1:20 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS - CHOOSE ONE



Recreation for One, Recreation for All!

Emily Boek, Program Director & Kirsten Domas, Program Director

Inclusion is a word we hear often, but may not understand fully. Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of recreation. Summer Camp gives children the chance to play together regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, economic background, or ability. This session will shine a light on ability, awareness and inclusion principles, and giving participants hands-on tools to make sure everyone in your program has a chance for success. Participants will leave with a repertoire of time tested inclusion practices to utilize in your summer camp settings.



The Art of the "Full Value Contract"

Brian Bevacqua, Recreation Manager

We all have rules at our camps, but sometimes the best rules are the ones the children create themselves. The full value contract is essential for any summer camp or adventure education program to be successful. It sets the tone for the day and allows participants to come up with the behaviors they deem appropriate for the group. This is the first step to your group owning their experience. In this interactive session, participants will learn several different ways to create a full value contract by creating several of their own! Utilizing these contracts in your programs not only helps with camper behaviors, it helps your group form a lasting connection throughout the summer.



10 New Art Projects & Resources for 1,000 More

Jessica Booth, Parks & Recreation Director

Back by popular demand, we're reviving the old craft closet! Sick of rock painting and friendship bracelets? Breathe new life into pompoms and pipe cleaners as we explore 10 new projects that can be created with supplies you already have on hand! Participants will leave with a resource list and tips on where to find an endless supply of kid-pleasing crafts to add to your summer camp repertoire!

1:30 - 2:00 pm

EVALUATIONS, ICE CREAM & ENDNOTE

We want your feedback! Surveys are the primary tool we use to develop next year's program! Please take a moment to reflect on your day and leave thoughtful ideas and suggestions to help guide our program in 2018! Want to join the Summerama Committee? Contact Chair Jessica Booth!

MEET THIS YEAR'S SUMMERAMA SPEAKERS

Jennifer Stanchfield inspires educators and learners the world over with workshops, facilitation tools, and publications. In her 25 years in the field, she has worked as a recreational therapist in mental health treatment centers and community organizations for adolescents and children, as an adventure educator, a teacher, and in professional training and organizational teambuilding. Jen is the founder of Experiential Tools and author of *Inspired Educator*, *Inspired Learner* and *Tips and Tools for the Art of Experiential Group Facilitation and Teaching*. Visit her blog at experientialtools.com.

Barbara Boutsikaris is a Vermont Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor with a private practice in Burlington, VT. For over two decades Barbara has worked as an adolescent and family counselor, university instructor, consultant, and workshop presenter. Barbara went to summer camp every summer from the time she was 9 years old until adulthood, working her way from camper to counselor. She credits summer camp for shaping her life, personally and professionally.

Brian Bevacqua has been working with youth in the outdoors since his early high school years when he became an outdoor guide and instructor. He went on to start two adventure companies of his own. He is currently the Recreation Manager at the Quechee Club. Brian's qualifications and certifications include two undergraduate degrees in Adventure Education and Youth Development and Camp Management, ACA Kayak Instructor, Vermont Firefighter I and II, Wilderness First Aid, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, Leave No Trace Master Educator, and National Incident Command 200b.

Emily Boek has a degree in Therapeutic Recreation and over twelve years of experience working in the recreation field. She has worked at various day and residential camps as a counselor, life guard, assistant director, and inclusion specialist. She has also shared her passion for recreation by instructing canoe, kayak, and SUP paddling as well as skiing and snowboarding to people of all abilities. Emily began working as the Program Director for the Stowe Parks & Recreation Department in 2014. She has developed, maintained and improved many programs within the department. Her goal is to provide recreational opportunities for all people to live, grow and play together.

Jessica Booth began working in Newport at the end of 2012 following her experience with the Stowe & Waterbury Recreation Departments. Born and raised in Vermont, Jessica has loved summer camp since childhood and began working in the field as a junior counselor in 8th grade. With a degree in Elementary Education from Castleton University, her creative spirit and extensive experience provides a great foundation for her position as Parks & Recreation Director in Newport. Among other duties, Jessica handles most of the programming for Newport Parks & Recreation including annual community events, school vacation camps and summer activities.

Todd Goodwin has more than 30 years of camp experience as a Counselor, Program Director and Director. He was Camp Director at Camp Greylock and Camp Jericho day camps. Todd also worked at Camp Abnaki and Camp Exclamation Point residential camps. He has also volunteered with boys and girls scout camps. In South Burlington and now in Williston, Todd has been involved in running highly successful day camps for youth ages 3-15 since 1991.

Kirsten Domas started working at Essex Jct. Recreation & Parks in July 2016 but worked as a Recreation Coordinator in college. She attended a variety of camps as a child and credits those experiences with helping her find her career in recreation. She has experience leading trips with college students both nationally and internationally including destinations to Hawaii and Scotland. She has a bachelor degree in Recreation, Adventure Travel, and Ecotourism and is currently pursuing a masters degree in Recreation Therapy. Kirsten is a certified Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor, Water Safety Instructor, Wilderness First Responder, Maine Sea Kayak guide, and New York State guide. At EJRP she oversees program planning for the entire community and loves providing recreation opportunities to people of all ages.

DOTHAN BROOK SCHOOL

2300 CHRISTIAN STREET, WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT 05001

THANK YOU SUMMERAMA COMMITTEE!

Jessica Booth (Chair)
Brian Bevacqua
John Leonard

Emily Boek
Jay McDonough
Betsy Terry

Kirsten Domas
Arne McMullen

2017 VRPA Summerama Registration Form

Department/Agency _____

Address _____

Contact Person _____ Phone (work) _____

Phone (cell) _____ Email _____

Participant Names:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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Registration Fees: (REGISTER BY FRIDAY, May 26th)

VRPA Members:	\$15/person	\$13/person (if registering 10 or more)
Non-members:	\$20/person	
After May 26 th :	\$30/person (members and non-members)	

Registration Payment:

___ A check for \$_____ is enclosed. (Checks payable to VRPA)
___ A purchase order for \$_____ is in the works and payment will be sent later.

Mail or email registrations to:
VRPA Summerama
721 Main Street
Colchester, VT 05446
Email: Betsy@vrpa.org

Questions?
Contact Committee Chair, Jessica
Booth, 802-334-6345
JBooth@NewportRecreation.org