

# SUMMERAMA 2022 Schedule

RUTLAND RECREATION  
and PARKS DEPARTMENT

**for**thecommunity

fun opportunity respect



**VERMONT**  
Recreation & Parks Association

A TRAIL MAP TO OUR FUTURE

*the path forward*

For over 40 years, the Vermont Parks & Recreation Association has hosted Summerama, a camp-specific training program for new and seasoned counselors and recreation staff. The purpose of this workshop is to supplement in-house staff orientations with a robust schedule of hands-on education sessions lead by regional camp professionals. Summerama is the first step toward training your staff and initiating a strong team bond that'll pull through the season.

### **Bring your training to the next level!**

The Summerama schedule includes sessions covering a wide variety of camp topics. With a mix of interactive and informational, long and short time blocks, and material suited for all levels of experience. Every member of your staff can customize their training with selections that pique their interest.

### **Lasting benefits...**

Joining Summerama and the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association family will open your team to a vast network of opportunity. Connections with neighboring camps is a great way to share resources and provide a sense of belonging in the greater camp community. Your staff will leave feel empowered and eager to kick off a great season!

### **Making the most of Summerama**

We recommend splitting up to cover the most ground. Debriefing as a team during your regularly-scheduled orientation following the event is the best way to share information and nurture team bonding further. Some sessions will be limited to one or two participants from each organization.

All sessions are open to anyone! If you're not sure where to begin, use this guide to 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. The session guide is merely a suggestion, so your team should arrange sessions in a way that best fits their personal and professional goals. Sessions labeled as "TPO" are limited to two attendees per organization.



Entry Level/First Time Counselor



Mid-Level/2-3 Year Counselor



Upper Level/Management

*"Summerama is  
the first step to  
a great  
summer."*

**RUTLAND  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022**

**8AM - 4PM**

**134 COMMUNITY  
CENTER DRIVE  
RUTLAND, VERMONT  
05701**



# A Message

FROM OUR

# Chair

Summer camp is a time for the youth in our communities to experience new opportunities, build confidence in themselves and make new friends along the way. The staff that oversee these programs are such a special and important piece of the overall summer camp experience. Camp counselors and administrators are the glue that hold our summer programs and third spaces together. Summerama is a chance for our amazing summer staff to come together and learn from local professionals about inclusionary practices for campers and staff, managing groups of campers, the best of camp crafts and so much more. We promised you last year that 2022 would be bigger than ever and we weren't kidding. We have moved to a new venue at the Rutland, VT Community Center and have introduced a "Camp for Counselors" portion where you will be a camper and engage in a very fast paced day at camp; learning tips and tricks from some of the states most knowledgeable program directors and counselors.

*-Jazmin Averbuck*  
Summerama Chair



## MEET OUR PLAYNOTE



### **Emma Makdessi** (she/they)

Emma is the Director of Community Engagement at Outright Vermont, bridging communities throughout the state to ensure all LGBTQ+ youth have hope, equity, and power. Within this role, Emma serves as the Director of Camp Outright, a traditional residential summer camp with a queer twist. Emma is a camp person through and through, and brings over 15 years experience in the Camp world - day camps, excursion camps, and residential camps alike. In addition to Camp, Emma's primary work experience has been focused in youth development, programming, and diversity & inclusion work. They earned their B.A. from the University of South Florida in International Studies with a minor in Spanish. When not at work, Emma likes to spend time outside or train her cat, Pistachio.



Entry Level/First Time Counselor



Mid-Level/2-3 Year Counselor



Upper Level/Management

# Schedule

**8:15-8:30** Welcome

## **CAMP FOR COUNSELORS (all)**

Find your "counselor" & experience a morning of camp

**9-9:25** Welcome to Camp!

**9:25-9:30** I'm new to Camp

**9:30-9:55** Wheels on the Bus

**9:55-10** "I don't Wanna!"

**10-10:25** Learn to Dance in the Rain

**10:25-10:30** From Point "A" to "B"

**10:30-10:55** Sunscreen, Camp Buddies, and Your "Why"

**11-11:45** Playnote

**12-12:45** Lunch & Director's Round Table

**1-1:40** Help! I'm New To This

**1-1:40** Debrief about "A Day at Camp"

## Block 1

**1-2:30** Leave No Trace Awareness

**1-2:30** Engineering 101: Process, Projects, Persistence & Purposeful Questions

**1-2:30** CPR Skills Session (pre-registration required)

## Block 2

**1:50-2:30** Professionalism & Family Engagement

**1:50-2:30** Creative Programming

## Block 3

**2:40-3:20** Just Play

**2:40-3:20** Leading a Group Bike Ride 101

**2:40-3:20** Youth Voice & Empowerment

**3:30-4** Endnote & Ice Cream

# Sessions

8:15-8:30

Welcome

9-11 Camp for Counselors (all)

Summerama participants (campers) will find their pre-assigned "counselor" to experience a morning of camp as a camper.

**9:00 - 9:25**

*Welcome to Camp*

Introductions with our Summerama Committee chair, Jazmin Averbeck (Bubbles)!

**9:25 - 9:30**

*I'm new to Camp*

Nature games, ice breakers and songs

**9:30 - 9:55**

*Wheels on the Bus*

Making field trips and bussing fun and engaging

**9:55 - 10:00**

*I Don't Wanna!*

How to engage campers who may not want to change activities

**10:00 - 10:25**

*Learn to Dance in the Rain*

Rainy day activities, indoors and outdoors

**10:25 - 10:30**

*From Point 'A' to point 'B'*

Lines, Blobs, and everything in between.

**10:30 - 10:55**

*Sunscreen, Camp Buddies, and Your Why*

Discussion about health, safety, and leadership at camp

*"Summerama  
taught me how to  
be a good counselor  
by making me feel  
like a camper."*



Entry Level/First Time Counselor



Mid-Level/2-3 Year Counselor



Upper Level/Management

## 11-11:45 Playnote

### **Emma Makdessi**



*Director of Community Engagement; Outright Vermont*

For this information and inspiring Playnote, folks should be ready to make it like camp! Games, "fireside" chats, and reflections will all be part of this session as we talk about what it means to empower youth and bring in their voices at this magical place called camp.

## 12-12:45 Lunch & Director's Round Table

Counselors will have the chance to head outside for pizza and field games. Play a game of kickball, disk golf or a quick hike. Directors will get the chance to network with one another and discuss topics pertinent to today's staff, campers and families.

## 1-1:40 Education Session 1

### **Help! I'm New To This**

*Todd Goodwin*  

*Williston Parks & Recreation Director*

Are you a new counselor, or are you looking for ways to interact with your campers positively? If so, it starts with being prepared and setting the expectations. In this session, participants will learn the do's and don'ts of working with groups of children and how you can create the most enjoyable summer for you and your campers starting from the very first day.

### **Debrief about "A Day at Camp"**

*Jazmin Averback*     
*Manager - Outdoor Program; GSGWM*

Did you learn something new during the morning's "Camp for Counselors" that you are interested in learning a bit more about. During this time we will talk at more length about the activities and processes from the morning.



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## Engineering 101: Process, Projects, Persistence and Purposeful Questions

Tracy Truzansky



STEM Consultant, Painted Turtle Consulting

Are you interested in doing more meaningful STEM experiences in summer? This experiential workshop will unpack the engineering design process, provide resources for choosing relatable engineering challenges, and introduce facilitation strategies that help kids persist while problem-solving. Kids are capable of remarkably ingenious and creative solutions. This workshop will help you set the stage for engineering experiences for all ages.

## Leave No Trace Awareness

Liz Palmer & Lorne Currier



Green Mountain Club

Activities to engage camp counselors and recreation staff in thinking about leave no trace (LNT). Session will be led by a Leave No Trace Master Educator. Activity topics will center around LNT in the context of summer camp. We will play games to get staff thinking about their own outdoor ethics and how they might want to share outdoor ethics with their campers. The session will incorporate experiential learning techniques and discussion.

## Professionalism & Family Engagement

Tricia Pawlik



Vermont Afterschool

During this session participants will learn tips on how to effectively engage with families of children in their program. We will discuss professionalism and share strategies for productive and successful communication with families.

## Intro to Creative Programming

Cassandra "Strings" Jillson



Program Supervisor, GSGWM - Camp Farnsworth

A camper's experience at camp comes from the friendships they make, the mentors they gain and the activities they take part in. Creative programming gives campers a way to bring camp home to share with their family through fun stories and craft projects. Complete a fun craft and learn about developing creative programming from the resources you have available.

*"Summerama is an amazing opportunity for learning and professional growth at any level. It sets the tone for an awesome summer and the training was essential for me to become a better camp counselor."*



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Upper Level/Management



# Block 3



2:40-3:20 Education Session 3

## Leading a Group Bike Ride 101

Joe Fox



Director of Recreation Programs, St. Johnsbury Academy. Co-Owner of Noble Fox Adventures, LLC. VP, Caledonia Trail Collaborative

Mountain biking has become one of the fastest-growing sports in the country, and Vermont has become one of the premier destinations in the world for the sport. In 2020, many trail organizations reported anywhere from a 100-500% increase in trail usage! In this interactive session, we will discuss different strategies to broaden your department's reach by incorporating several aspects of the sport of mountain biking into your programming; such as weaving trail building, trail maintenance, group rides, and lessons into your programs and how to make them successful, safe, and fun as well as discussing possible partners to assist you in this endeavor. The session will demonstrate pre-ride bike safety and things to consider when leading a group ride as well as a brainstorming/sharing session about what has worked well for you or has been a challenge in implementing biking in your programs. Bring your bikes!

*"A great place to meet campy people."*

## Just Play

Lee Barrett

Highgate Recreation



Come ready for fun, laughter and learning as we discuss "play" and become fully engaged in it. Plato said "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than you can in a year of conversation." We have 90 minutes! Let's use every one of those minutes to tap into our inner kid and get lost in games, activities and discussion.

## Youth Voice & Empowerment

Matt Wolfe

Vermont Afterschool - Youth Voice Coordinator



Come learn foundational youth empowerment principles and explore simple frameworks for engaging and utilizing youth voice in every day interactions and programming. Youth are more invested in activities when they have a voice that genuinely influences how that programming progresses. This also helps them build deeper connections with staff resulting in staff having a stronger impact on the lives of these youth. This workshop will give participants simple tools to enhance everyday interactions and foster their youths' engagement in their programs.

3:30-4:00 Endnote

We want your feedback! Surveys are the primary tool we use to develop this program each year. Please take a moment to reflect on your day and leave thoughtful ideas and suggestions to help guide our program in 2023. Want to join the Summerama Committee? Contact Jessica Brodie at [jessica@VRPA.org](mailto:jessica@VRPA.org) or (802) 952-0030.



Entry Level/First Time Counselor



Mid-Level/2-3 Year Counselor



Upper Level/Management

# Speakers



## Tricia Pawlik

In her role at Vermont Afterschool, Tricia supports professionals on the afterschool professional pathway and quality improvement initiatives. Tricia also co-leads Vermont Afterschool's Leadership Exploration and Development Program (L.E.A.D.) for young professionals looking to earn a micro-credential in leadership, as well as provides training on various topics. Her passion is coaching and mentoring, so you can frequently find her traveling the state to work with staff and programs to support their work on STARS, licensing, program quality assessment (YPOA), and grant administration. Her overarching goal is to support program quality and improvement, collaboration among professionals, and advancement in the afterschool field.



## Joe Fox

Joe is a 2000 graduate of Lyndon State College where he received a BS in Recreation Resource and Ski Resort Management. He has served as the Recreation Director in St. Johnsbury since 2005. He proudly serves as the Vice President of the Caledonia Trail Collaborative and is a Wilderness First Responder and certified ride guide by the Professional Mountain Bike Instructor Association. Joe is an avid mountain biker, hiker, and backcountry skier. He and his wife Bryna live in Barnet, VT where they operate Noble Fox Adventures, LLC, leading custom hiking and biking adventures and skills clinics, in their "off time."



## Matt Wolfe

Matt has worked with youth and young adults in Vermont for over fifteen years - working to inspire & empower their leadership development and advocating for them in the VT system of care. He has been active in promoting young adult leadership & peer support work statewide, as well as, supporting staff to develop a strengths-driven approach to this population that often "straddles" the line between the children's and adult service systems. As Vermont Afterschool's Youth Voice Coordinator, Matt is taking his history with training, youth empowerment and systems building & coordination to a new broader level of work all across Vermont's public and private youth serving sectors.



## Todd Goodwin

Todd is currently the Recreation & Parks Director for the Town of Williston. He has 42 years of recreation and camp experience from counselor to director. He has experience directing day camps and working at residential camps. He has been involved in running highly successful day camps for campers spanning ages 3 to 15 since 1991. He also taught Physical Education to Pre-school through 8th grade for 15 years and has coached on the High School level.



## Elizabeth Palmer

Liz Palmer (she/her) is the Group Outreach and Field Coordinator at the Green Mountain Club (GMC). Liz started in September of 2021 as an AmeriCorps member serving the GMC. Since then she trained to become a Leave No Trace Master Educator. Now she uses that knowledge to start conversations with organizations utilizing outdoor spaces, especially those using the Long Trail in Vermont. Liz also runs service trips and helps groups plan their hikes on the Long Trail. Growing up Liz attended summer camp for eight years, so she is very excited to lead a session with Summerama. In her free time she loves hanging out with her cats, crafting, dancing, and spending time outside!



## Tracy Truzansky

Tracy's work supports informal STEM educators through coaching, training, content consultation, program design and evaluation. Over the past decade she has designed and implemented a nationally recognized afterschool STEM Initiative, STEM professional learning modules, and managed multiple STEM-focused programs for rural afterschool sites across Vermont. She has been an ACREC Coach for three years with the Maine Math and Science Alliance. Most recently, Tracy designed a fully virtual engineering program for middle school girls and non-binary youth for Vermont Afterschool, Inc.



# Speakers



## Lee Barret

Lee's work has included focused efforts in the Non-Profit sector as a Program Coordinator, Program Manager and National Trainer and in the Recreation Field as Recreation Coordinator, After School Director and Special Event Planning support. Who doesn't love a few random facts? I...dabble a bit in VERY amateur photography and baking efforts, got married in an old converted movie theater, was a ski instructor for a number of years, was a RA in college, portrayed Napoleon Dynamite for a college homecoming "Mock Rock", am originally from Michigan and can show you where I grew up on my HAND MAP (cause the lower part of Michigan looks like a mitten), and had a mix up the moving day when my wife and I bought our house - the movers arrived a day early.



## Emma Makdessi

Emma is the Director of Community Engagement at Outright Vermont, bridging communities throughout the state to ensure all LGBTQ+ youth have hope, equity, and power. Within this role, Emma serves as the Director of Camp Outright, a traditional residential summer camp with a queer twist. Emma is a camp person through and through, and brings over 15 years experience in the Camp world - day camps, excursion camps, and residential camps alike. In addition to Camp, Emma's primary work experience has been focused in youth development, programming, and diversity & inclusion work. They earned their B.A. from the University of South Florida in International Studies with a minor in Spanish. When not at work, Emma likes to spend time outside or train her cat, Pistachio.



## Jazmin Averbuck

Professionally, Jazmin is the Manager of Outdoor Program for the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains where she trains volunteers and camp staff in outdoor skills such as backpacking, trekking, orienteering, campfire cooking, whittling and more. In her very limited down time she trains as a competitive strongman athlete and coordinates lifting events for Vermont Powerlifting.



## Cassandra Jillson

"Strings" has worked at Camp Farnsworth in various capacities since 2017 and spent much of her childhood there. At camp, Strings enjoy leading climbing, boating, archery, air soft and crafts. She loves creating new programs to lead in each area. In her free time, Strings is an avid photographer and loves spending time outdoors.



## Umesh Acharya

As the Vermont Afterschool Youth Resilience Coordinator, Umesh designs strategies to improve social-emotional learning, trauma-responsive care, Resilience, and restorative practices for the afterschool programs and communities. He's a certified Youth Mental Health First Aid trainer



## Kirsten Santor

Kirsten Santor works for Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront as a Recreation Program Manager. 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 both nationally and internationally, including destinations in Hawaii and Scotland. She has a bachelors degree in Recreation, Adventure Travel, and Ecotourism and a master's degree in Recreation Administration. Kirsten is a certified Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor, Water Safety Instructor, Wilderness First Responder, and previously held her Maine Sea Kayak Guide certification.



# Thank you

## SUMMERAMA COMMITTEE

Jazmin Averback - Chair

Jessica Brodie

Kirsten Santor

Kelli Millick

Joe Fox

Tricia Pawlik

RUTLAND RECREATION  
and PARKS DEPARTMENT

for the community

fun opportunity respect



## VERMONT RECREATION & PARKS ASSOCIATION

The Vermont Recreation and Parks Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, development, and improvement of all recreation and park services within the State of Vermont.

400+ members strong, VRPA is committed to providing education, resources, and networking opportunities to professionals and citizen volunteers to assist with their role as advocates for parks and recreation services.

We pride ourselves on providing personalized service. We strive to continuously update services based on the needs of members and develop strategies to advance our field. Member benefits include:

- Continuing Education
- Networking Opportunities
- Membership Directory
- Weekly Check-in e-newsletter
- Event & Program Discounts
- Professional Assistance
- Access to VRPA Resources
- Legislative Advocacy

# Registration

## REGISTERING YOUR TEAM ONLINE IS EASY!

Vermont Recreation and Parks Association -  
Summerama Camp Staff Training 2022

- Log on to VRPA's website using the link above
- Register your organization and participant information
- Pay with card or print an invoice to mail payment later



### **Before Early Bird Deadline May 13**

Members: \$27 per person  
(\$20 if 10+ staff register)  
Non-Members: \$32  
\$25 if 10+ staff register)

### **After May 13**

Members: \$37  
Non-Members: \$42

### **Registration closes June 10**



Trainings in Red Cross CPR, First Aid & AED and Mental Health First Aid are available for an additional fee. Space is limited and registrations are processed on a first-come, first serve basis.



## CONTACT US

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PO Box 33, Brownsville, VT 05037

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VERMONT  
Recreation & Parks Association

