

SUMMERAMA 2021

Schedule



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

For best results, 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."*

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





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. Due to the current climate we are unfortunately not able to meet in person this June for a larger event but we have produced a virtual conference opportunity so that our summer staff members are able to learn in as safe an environment as we are able to provide. Through the virtual platform we have a chance to reach staff throughout the entire state of Vermont. We hope to come together, in person, again in 2022 - bigger than ever - and this year is just the start of the regrowth of our summer third place programs!

We are excited to see you, virtually, on June 6th and cannot wait to witness our programs and staff grow to meet the needs of the youth in our communities this summer.

-Jazmin Ayerback

Summerama Chair



MEET OUR KEYNOTE



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.



Entry Level/First Time Counselor



Mid-Level/2-3 Year Counselor



Upper Level/Management

Schedule

All Day - Conference Help Room

9:00-9:50 Keynote



- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 10-10:40 | Building Community Through Mtn Biking |
| 10-10:40 | Gimme a T! Tips, Tricks, and Techniques for Successful Group Management |
| 10-11:30 | Just Play! |
| 10:50-11:30 | Volunteering with GMC during COVID |
| 10:50-11:30 | Unplugged! Engaging Campers without Technology |

Lunch & Brainstorm Relay- How to Participate

Block 2

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1-1:40 | Nature Crafts & Activities |
| 1-2:30 | Moving the Needle on STEM Facilitation |
| 1-2:30 | Implementing Strategies to Include Campers with Disabilities |
| 1:50-2:30 | Leave No Trace in Camp Programming & Management |

Block 3

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 2:40-3:20 | Inclusive Recreation: A Path Toward Friendship |
| 2:40-3:20 | Recreation Professionals Panel |
| 2:40-3:20 | The Art of Talking to Parents |

3:30-4 Endnote

Sessions

All Day - Conference Help Room

Join Room #1 anytime from 8:30 to 3:30 for technical help and questions

9:00-9:50 Keynote

A Trail Map to Our Future: The Path Forward

Lee Barrett

Very fitting of the Summerama 2021 theme - "A Trail Map to Our Future: The Path Forward" Lee's "life-map" has taken him around the country-growing up and attending college in Michigan, moving to and working in Texas and moving to and settling in Vermont. In all places he's lived, Lee's drive has always focused on creating environments where kids, adults and entire communities can recreate and PLAY together in a safe, healthy and meaningful way.

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

10:00-11:30 Full Block

Just Play

Lee Barrett



In a time of ups, downs, uncertainty and a desire to move forward to "normal" it's important to keep PLAY a central part of our summer life (and camp) experience. Playing together might look and feel a little different this year but let's test it out and JUST PLAY! Come with an open mind and readiness to "try it out" as we laugh and learn together while enjoying games, activities and discussion around PLAY.



Entry Level/First Time Counselor



Mid-Level/2-3 Year Counselor



Upper Level/Management



10:00-10:40 Half Blocks

Building Community Through Mountain Biking

 Joe Fox

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

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 talk will include a quick video demonstration on pre ride bike safety and things to consider when leading a group ride as well as a brainstorming/ sharing session about biking in your programs.

Gimme a T! Tips, Tricks and Techniques for Successful Group Management

 Robyn Myers-Moore
Waterfront Director (and long time cheer coach) - Camp Exclamation Point

Leadership is a skill. And just like any skilled activity, you can and should be continuously building your leadership techniques. Come benefit from 35+ years of leadership and group management experience. Learn how to use your voice, guide a group and teach others how to build their teams.

10:50-11:30 Half Blocks

Volunteering with the Green Mountain Club during COVID-19

 Lorne Currier

Volunteer and Education Coordinator, Green Mountain Club

The mission of the Green Mountain Club is to make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people by protecting and maintaining the Long Trail System and fostering, through education, the stewardship of Vermont's hiking trails and mountains. This session will describe how volunteers kept the Long Trail System open and accessible during the pandemic, the challenges they faced and our plans for even more volunteerism in the 2021 summer.

UNPLUGGED! Engaging Campers Without Technology

 Jazmin Averbuck
Outdoor Programs Coordinator & Resident Camp Director, Girl Scouts of the Green & White Mountains

In a culture and time where we're attached to our smart devices more than ever, camp is one of the only places left where we're expected to unplug, put the gadgets away and engage in hands-on activities both indoors and out, rain or shine. Come discuss the importance of the technology-free camp environments and how you can overcome the modern challenge of engaging campers and staff without the presence of technology.

11:40-12:50 Lunch & Brainstorm Relay

Work together with your department, either virtually or in person, to learn and practice interactive team building skills and activities. The Summerama Committee has created a guide to help walk you through some of our favorite hands on activities for group and team facilitation.



Entry Level/First Time Counselor



Mid-Level/2-3 Year Counselor



Upper Level/Management

Block 2

1:00-2:30 Full Blocks

Moving the Needle on STEM Facilitation

Tracy Truzansky

STEM Consultant, Painted Turtle Consulting



What do you do to fully engage youth in a STEM experience? Do you rely on the “fun factor”, or do you aspire to support youth in truly understanding science phenomena and/or engineering design? Explore strategies for asking purposeful questions, guiding science process, and giving youth voice in STEM experiences. We will use virtual activities, videos and discussion to reflect on our practice as afterschool STEM facilitators with an option to go deeper in your own professional learning beyond the workshop time.

Implementing Strategies to Include Campers with Disabilities

Lisa Drennan



MERGE: Diverse Abilities Inclusion Consulting

Welcome to this session where attendees will review the principles of inclusion, understand and practice inclusion strategies, giving you the tools and confidence to welcome, engage and support participants with disabilities (with focus on COVID considerations), allowing ALL program participants to reconnect and make memories together . Explore best practices around working with families, and dealing with behaviors. Apply strategies by solving inclusion scenarios that occur in recreation settings. Leave ready to implement these easy to use (and teach) strategies into your programs.

1:00-1:40 Half Block

Nature Crafts & Activities

Ashley Jerome



Outdoor Program Administrative Assistant, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains

Children love to play outside and explore nature. These hands-on activities and crafts will guide participants on a journey of exploration, education and imagination through our natural environment. Prior to this session participants should go outside and collect nature (rocks, sticks, leaves, flowers, pine needles, etc...) and bring with you to discover new ways to create art in the outdoors.

1:50-2:30 Half Block

Leave No Trace: Practices in Camp Programming and Management

John Plummer

Outreach and Field Coordinator,
Green Mountain Club



Learn how to incorporate the principles of Leave No Trace into your camp programming and management. The framework of seven principles developed by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics provides a system for thinking about best practices for outdoor recreation. From short activities to robust curriculum development, we will present a variety of strategies for camp staff to plan meaningful programs for campers.



Entry Level/First Time Counselor



Mid-Level/2-3 Year Counselor



Upper Level/Management



Block 3

2:40-3:20 Half Block

Inclusive Recreation: A Pathway Toward Friendship

Lisa Drennan

MERGE: Diverse Abilities Inclusion Consulting



Now more than ever, it is crucial that we work to create opportunities for social connectedness and belonging. Inclusive recreation and camp programs provide an ideal setting for this to happen. In this session you'll gain the tools and confidence to create a culture where relationships between children with and without disability can be fostered and supported to develop into a reciprocal and authentic friendship. Attendees will learn about the process of a person-centered design approach used to learn the values and gifts that a person has to share with the world. End the session with practical relationship building strategies to use between persons with and without disabilities, increasing the potential for a friendship to develop. Join us to create a pathway to friendship FOR ALL.

"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."

2:40-3:20 Half Block

Recreation Professionals Panel

Panelists



Did you know that this summer camp position could be a full time career? Professionals in the field will speak on how they made having fun into a full time job. Panelists will also be available for questions and advice on how you can turn recreation into a career.

The Art of Talking to Parents

Jazmin Averbuck



Outdoor Programs Coordinator & Resident Camp Director, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains

Parents have been attached to their children for the last year and it could be difficult for many to send their child(ren) to summer camp and to be away from them. Learn the art of communicating effectively, frequently and early as a director/manager of summer programs during this unprecedented summer.

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 2022. Want to join the Summerama Committee? Contact Jessica Brodie at jessica@VRPA.org or (802) 952-0030.



Entry Level/First Time Counselor



Mid-Level/2-3 Year Counselor



Upper Level/Management

Speakers



Jazmin Averbuck

Professionally, Jazmin is the outdoor programs coordinator 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.



Lorne Currier

As the Volunteer & Education Coordinator, Lorne is tasked with supporting the GMC's current base of active volunteers and with developing opportunities to engage new volunteers. He also coordinates GMC's educational programming, developing skills workshops and opportunities for people to learn about the Long Trail and its natural environment. Lorne grew up in South Berwick, Maine, and attended Keene State College, majoring in Environmental Studies and Geology. After college, Lorne spent three years working seasonally for the Appalachian Mountain Club in the White Mountains. Lorne moved to Vermont in 2016 and began working with the GMC in March of 2017. Lorne completed a Long Trail End-to-End hike in October 2018 and spends his free time solving crosswords, hiking, learning to tele-ski, and baking bread.



Lisa Drennan

Lisa has a long career dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities to be active and engaged within their community. As the Director of Inclusion for her local YMCA, she created a variety of adaptive programming and a fully inclusive model at 3 Day Camp sites. At her company, MERGE, she provides comprehensive consultation, and staff training to community recreation, camp, & sport program providers, giving them the tools and confidence to welcome, engage and support members of their community with diverse abilities. Lisa graduated from Saint Michael's College in Vermont, she lives with her family in Pembroke, Mass. and is an avid fitness enthusiast who enjoys outdoor adventure activities.



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."



Ashley Jerome

Ashley has been working with the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains for the last 10 years, in many different positions, most recently as the administrative assistant for the Outdoor Programs department. For the last 3 years she has taken her love of crafting and nature photography and merged them into many creative camp crafts that campers are excited to do and equally excited to show their families when they head home after every program or camp day! She lives in NH with her daughter who gets to test out all the crafts ahead of time, lucky girl!



Robyn Meyers Moore

Robyn's first experiences with leadership came when she joined the Girl Scouts in middle school. Formal leadership and public speaking training followed via the Air Force ROTC program in high school and college. Add to that 35 years experience coaching cheerleading and training cheer coaches plus several years as a Town Moderator and training moderators on behalf of the Vermont Secretary of State. From groups as small as a swim class to stadiums full of people, Robyn has facilitated successful groups of all sizes.



John Plummer

As the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board AmeriCorps member at the Green Mountain Club (GMC), John (he/him) serves as Outreach & Field Coordinator to support organized group hiking on the Long Trail and manage volunteer service trips. As a Leave No Trace Master Educator, John also takes an active role in hosting GMC education programs. John hiked the Long Trail in 2015, the Appalachian Trail in 2017, and then served as a Backcountry caretaker on the Long Trail in 2018. In 2019, he served in the Lakes Region Conservation Corps in New Hampshire. John is passionate about finding new ways to connect people with their landscape.



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 ACRES 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.



2021 Summerama



Two ways to partake -

1. **Virtually**- each staff member joins our Zoom meetings from wherever they are.
2. **Gather with your staff**- bring your staff together for a mix of virtual and hands-on training.

Even though Summerama is virtual again this year, we invite you to safely gather with your staff and join us for Summerama! Summerama provides an opportunity for face time with your staff prior to starting your season.

Tips for gathering -

IN PERSON SET UP

If you're bringing your staff together during Summerama, we suggest having

3

different areas set up with a way to tune into the Zoom rooms.

This gives your staff an opportunity to attend the sessions they feel best relate to their goals.

HANDS-ON TEAM BUILDING

Get together with your staff, in person or in your own Zoom meeting, and work on some fun team building activities **during lunch**

You can use the guide to interactive and hands-on activities that the committee will be providing for you after you've registered.



More Information at:
[Vermont Recreation and Parks Association –
Summerama Camp Staff Training 2021](#)



VERMONT
Recreation & Parks Association

Thank you

SUMMERAMA COMMITTEE

Jazmin Averbuck - Chair

Jessica Brodie

Kirsten Santor

Scott Moore

Kelli McGilic

Jay McDonough

Joe Fox

Tricia Pawlik-York

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 2021

- 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
- Zoom links for the conference will be sent after registration.



Before Early Bird Deadline May 1

Members: \$20 per person
(\$15 if 5+ staff register)
Non-Members: \$25



American Red Cross CPR, First Aid & AED Certification Space is limited.
Registrations are processed on a first-come, first serve basis.
Additional Course Fee: \$50



CONTACT US

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VERMONT
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