

CCCA Workshop Descriptions and Bios

Tuesday, Jan 30th 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Audio / Video setups - The Basics by Joel Varga

Understanding the basics of an A/V setup to best meet the needs of your guests and have you feeling more confident in your ability to troubleshoot and understand the systems better. We will look at some science of sound, a lot of terminology, parts of an A/V system and some basic setups. Discuss the basic operation of a sound board and what all those knobs do.

Bio: Installing, operating, and training people on the use of an A/V system is so much fun for me. But knowing a functional system can enhance ministries makes it even better. Joel has extensive AV experience at camp and has been playing with AV equipment since middle school.

Food Allergies and Other Kitchen Struggles by Mindy Palm

Talking about dealing with food allergies in the kitchen and any other struggles that come up. Come with questions and ready to discuss.

Bio: Food Service Director for Christian Retreat Center for 9 and a half years. I am very family and church oriented.

Kidz-Min, Children's Church, Chapel: How to teach kids to make it "stick!" by Alisha M. Finn

Children learn through meaningful hands-on experiences. They like to see, hear, touch, and move! As we get ready to lead chapel, children's church, a Bible lesson, or even cabin devotions, we want to incorporate as many tools as possible to help them put God's Word deep in their hearts and minds. This workshop will give tips and ideas on how to reach visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic learners while having a blast!

Bio: I was a children's pastor for 12 years in Endicott, NY before relocating to PA. I've been leading chapel times for our Junior Campers at Rock Mountain Bible Camp for at least ten years and it's the highlight of my summer. I have two sons, Malachi (age 13) and Jeremiah (age 9) and my husband, Jeremy, and I have been serving in ministry our whole lives.

Google Ad Grants for Nonprofits by Tammy Briggs

An introduction to the Google Ad Grants, explaining what it is, who is eligible, and its benefits for non-profit organizations. Guidance on how to create and set up "free" Google Ads accounts for non-profits, including understanding ad campaigns and keywords.

Bio: Tammy Briggs has 27 years of experience in the field of Communications, Marketing and Development. She presents all over the country each year and enjoys coaching and training Christian non-profits to build their resources and their brand.

Leveraging Your Genius to Avoid Burnout by Zac Wilcox

Burnout is often not so much a symptom of too much work, but too much of the wrong kind of work. In this workshop we'll learn more about the six basic types of work, how you can leverage that knowledge to your benefit and be able to use your genius at work to increase the productivity that you have at work, as well as the joy and energy that you get while at work to stop yourself (And your team) from being burnt out. Through this workshop you'll also be able to increase the trust that you have with your team, your supervisor, and understand why you get so frustrated at work and at home.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

The Innovative Team by Sue Nigh

Would you like to get your team on board to avoid irrelevance, create efficiencies, save money, solve problems, make continual improvements, achieve excellence, and so much more? In this interactive workshop you will discover creative ways to inspire and empower your team to achieve your ministry's goals.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Steal This: Ideas of Awesomeness by Christopher Kallal

This is the original class that started it all. Just a huge random collection of super epic programing for your camp! We will be presenting a slew of ideas that you can steal and start doing. I will have gobs of handouts and hands-on activities so that you can take these ideas back home and implement them into your programming tomorrow!

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Serving with Margin by Bethann Miller

The needs and suffering of others can be overwhelming, and for those who work in environments of service, the demands can overtake our schedules, emotions, and even relationships. In this training we will take a pastoral approach to understanding how serving others impacts one's personhood and effective ways to create a rhythm of serving out of rest

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Watch your Language. By Rachael Botting PhD

Are you having challenges recruiting staff to work at your camp? How are you shaping the expectations of your camper families? Your language about camp matters. We'll discuss the inadequacy of the current narratives used to talk about Christian camping and share research that will help us better communicate the value of camp to donors, staff, and camper families.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Wednesday, Jan 31st 9:30 am– 10:45 am

Building Team Members by Mark Taber-Miller

This session will focus on Building TEAM members through use of portable team building props. Discussion and debriefing will focus on how the formation of a team creates an identity that becomes part of and yet separate from all of the members of the team.

Bio: Mark has been providing teambuilding and challenge course services for over 35 years.

Caring for Others: Identifying Common Mental Health Concerns by Bethann Miller

Mental health concerns are prevalent in our communities, workplaces, families, friends, and even ourselves. Despite such a prevalence, there can be wide gaps in understanding, knowledge, and skills for interacting and caring for those experiencing mental health difficulties. Through the course of this training, we will provide a guide to understanding common mental health concerns along with ways to build empathy and tools for caring for others.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Communicating the Full-Gospel in a Post-Christian Culture by John Zeigenfuse

How do you follow the “rules” when the “rules” keep changing? The term “Post Christian” and “Deconstruction” have become buzz words recently and introduces the idea that what was widely accepted as foundational is now irrelevant or unstable. We will discuss how we can continue to live out our mission without compromising it?

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

16 Weeks to a Successful Event by Kent Wallace, Mark Davidhizar & Tammy Briggs

You will learn how to choose an event, assign responsibilities, establish a timeline, and execute an exciting, engaging, profitable, and sustainable event.

Bio: Kent has worked for over 30 years in camping and 23 years as a consultant. He has innovated and executed 100's of events during his career.

Programming for Adult Transformation by Rachael Botting PhD

Many of us in Christian camping have programming for youth down to a science. But what about when adults fill your camp and retreat centers during the "off season"? What does programming look like for adults? What principles of summer camp programming are effective in the adult retreat model? Come

learn more about how adults learn and grow and how you can intentionally design programs that meet their needs while still giving them a true camp experience.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Responsible Leadership - An Ounce of Cyber Prevention by Kordel Eberly

We will open with a handful of real stories about organizations like yours that experienced Cyber incidents and recovered (and a few organizations that did NOT recover).

You should leave this workshop with simple tools to evaluate your organizations' "Cyber Resilience", as well as an understanding of the most important things that you need to change, and simple steps that you can take immediately.

Bio: Former Camp Counselor and Worship Director. Founder of Eberly Systems, and I.T. Service Provider in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Steal This: Ideas of Contemporary Craftiness by Christopher Kallal

Chris and Carrie will be presenting a ton of craft ideas to make your Camp Crafts the coolest thing this summer! If your crafts are meh, then this is the session for you! Your campers will want to take these crafts home and hang them up and show them to their friends! From refurbishing some old reliables to completely new ideas, this session has the best of the best!

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Stewarding our Camp Lands well by Jason Martin

We will discuss creative management practices of forests, meadows & ponds/lakes. I will present what I have done at our camp along with partner organizations that I work with. I would also like to have an open discussion with others and their ideas as well.

Bio: The last few years I have had the opportunity to bring my love of Penn's woods into my role in facility management at Woodcrest Retreat. I have been in and out of camp ministry for the last 30 years in a variety of different roles.

Wednesday, Jan 31st 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Board Diversity by Kent Wallace, Mark Davidhizar, and Tammy Briggs

You will learn how to recruit a diverse and aligned board with proper perspectives and expectations.

Bio: Visionworks has worked with not-for-profit boards for over 23 years. From board recruitment, to training or mediation and succession planning, Visionworks consultant's two decades of experience will serve your organization's needs with experience and expertise.

Sustainable Volunteerism by Deke Rider

Have you ever wanted to hire more staff, but the money isn't there? This workshop will be a space for people to come together and share ideas about recruiting, equipping, & appreciating volunteers within our organizations. We recruit volunteers, but sometimes forget to give them all the tools they need to be successful.

Bio: Executive Director for 20+ years serving in two ministries. I am passionate about serving well and the importance of balancing ministries with volunteers and staff.

The Art of Asking the Right Questions by Sue Nigh

The right question is often much more powerful than the right answer. In this seminar, you will learn what, when, why, and how to ask the right questions. You can then put this knowledge to work in both your personal and professional lives.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

The Everyday Pioneer - Cyber Security for Everyone by Nate Moss

Year over year, more of what we do every day is on a computer, a phone, or some other device connected to the internet. We are now in an age when everyone we know carries a powerful digital device with them everywhere they go.

As the first generation to be in this position, like it or not, you are a pioneer. In this session, we will explore how to use technology effectively and securely in a world where organization after organization experiences cybersecurity incidents and breaches.

Bio: DevOpsArtist, Biblicist, and Thinker. With over 12 years working in technology in a range of environments, Nate has a passion for helping people use technology in a more effective and healthy way.

Steal This: Ideas of CAFE Bag-i-ness by Christopher Kallal

Looking for ideas unlike any you've ever heard of? You've found it! CAFE Bags are bags that include Competition, Activities, Feats, and Entertainment. These bags work for rainy days, too hot days, or just schedule this as an actual time! Attending this session will give you gobs of ideas to make your very own CAFE Bags at your camp!

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Tech Integration into Facilities Management by Davis Swift

Affordable and user-friendly ways to track assets, collect hospitality and maintenance needs, store institutional knowledge, and more. Not just for youngsters.

Bio: It has been 24 years since Davis Smith soiled my pants at camp. Almost half of that time since has been spent working at Christian camps year-round, splitting my work between program, facilities, and administration.

Understanding God's master plan and our opportunity to Participate by John Zeigenfuse

"Follow me", is a recurring refrain in the Gospels. Jesus is inviting people into an opportunity to participate in His work. However, His work began a long time before His arrival on Earth – it is important to know the back story because it allows us to see the Master Plan was at work from the very beginning.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Women in Outdoor Ministry: A conversation for men and women by Rachael Botting PhD

This seminar will integrate current research on women in the outdoors with the historical landscape of female involvement in Christian camping and facilitate a conversation about the experiences of women in outdoor ministry as both participants and leaders. This seminar is designed for men and women alike to explore this topic and consider what it means for our ministries.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Thursday, Feb 1st 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Almost, But Not Quite: The Gracious Tease of God's Kingdom by Mark Fodale

In Mark 12 Jesus challenges an eager scribe with this astounding statement, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." So ... why was he "near" & not "far"? And why was he "near" but not "in"? And what can we learn from this scene about our relationship with Jesus, as well as our ministry to others?

Bio: Mark has served in full-time campus ministry for 39 years, and serves as Pastor at Providence PCA in Quakertown, PA. Mark & his wife Shannon have 4 children, 2 grandchildren, and love to make much of Jesus in their teaching, training, and discipleships.

Building a Strategy and a Plan that Helps You Make Decisions by Zac Wilcox

You can tell what an organization's strategy is by the decisions that they make - because that is what a strategy does. Look at Apple, or Southwest, or Chick-fil-A, they all have clear definable strategies that we can see from the outside if we stop and look. Yet too often an organization doesn't have a clear, well-defined strategy and you can tell from the decisions that they make, or it seems like they have no strategy at all. Bad strategies can sink thriving companies. Look at Kodak, Blockbuster, Borders, Sports Authority, Toys R Us, and I could go on. Having a clear strategy and a well-defined strategic plan is simple, but not easy.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

De-escalation: Understanding and Navigating High Intensity Situations by Bethann Miller

For those working and serving in high trauma environments, the potential for crisis, conflict, and ...is ever present. While there is no flaw-proof way of managing escalated situations, there are some tools and concepts that can help us feel more equipped to manage ourselves and respond well to others during high intensity moments. In this training we will explore the factors leading up to a crisis event, helpful tools for 'turning down the volume', and ways to care for oneself after navigating these experiences.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Development 101 by Richie Musser

Development 101: Acquiring donors, raising funds and the attitude of gratitude.

Bio: Richie Musser is President of Kirby-Smith Associates, a company founded in 1938 as a Ministry of Stewardship and Finance. Richie oversees all development and marketing, as well as corporate administration. Kirby-Smith provides a full range of capital campaigns, feasibility studies, and development services.

Developing a Fully Inclusive Camp Program for Children with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities by Jim Payne

Totally inclusive camps are a way to assist children with special needs to develop appropriate peer interactions, appropriate play skills, and appropriate communication skills in a relaxed environment. Participating in all activities alongside their typically developing peers, children with special needs experience appropriate ways to interact and communicate.

The Bible tells us in Matthew 25:40 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' This workshop will provide the tools needed to develop, run, and fund a program that meets the needs of children with special needs and their families all for God's glory!

Bio: Jim oversees all the Camp Orchard Hill Ministries. He has served on staff since 1996 and as Executive Director since 1998. He is committed to continually striving for excellence in ministry. "Camp Orchard Hill continues to improve its facilities, programs, activities and staff so that we can meet the physical, emotional, relational and spiritual needs of our guests."

Maximizing Simple Evaluation and Assessment Tools by Rachael Botting PhD

Evaluation is an essential component of any ministry. It helps ensure we are faithful to your organizational mission and keeps us accountable to our stated outcomes. When things begin to shift off mission, evaluation can help us identify the problem. This seminar will provide you with a simple 6 step framework for engaging or refining your evaluation process. Come gain new tools and get feedback on existing evaluations!

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

The Philosophy of Games by Bill Klees

Like every area of camp, mission must drive our programs. Why do we have fun at camp? Does your camp have a philosophy of games that help guide staff? In this active workshop we will talk about and play games that help you have fun for the glory of God.

Bio: Bill Klees has been in camp and pastoral ministry for a long time. He has a passion to equip people to do their creative best for God's glory. He currently serves as the executive director of Woodcrest Retreat.

Steal This: Ideas for Time Fillers and Brain Break-i-ness by Christopher Kallal

Get ready to watch the craziest conference session ever! In this class, Dr. Sirhc will be talking about his favorite thing, BRAINS...er Brain Breaks. Brain Breaks are short breaks to help your brain when you are learning lots of stuff. At your Camp, if you need a time filler or just need to let campers rest their brain for a bit, this class will give you a Brain-full of great ideas!

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Multi-track presenter's bios:

Bethann Miller

Bethann is the co-founder and CEO of Safe Place, a ministry that provides support, training, care, and guidance to folks serving in Christ-centered ministry throughout the world. She is also a licensed chaplain, board-certified pastoral counselor, and author of "The Invitation," a handbook that sets the stage for couples to engage in deeper relational connection. After serving for over 30 years in full time ministry and traveling to over 53 countries, it is Bethann's joy to support pastors, missionaries, and leaders in that to which they have set their hands. Beyond this, Bethann can be found either out riding her motorcycle 'Pearl' or at home with her husband Tom and their two cats watching the national football league channel.

Christopher Kallal

Chris has been in Camp Ministry for 23 years at 4 different camps. He has taught his classes around the world and written 15 books of ideas for camps. During what little free time he has, he loves to find the newest, neatest ideas and "steal them" for his camp!

John Zigenfuse

As a former teacher and ordained minister, John has a passion for communicating with students and for studying the Word. His collaborative approach - prioritizes the student's learning styles and cultural

connections to maximize the impact on students. John is currently the CEO and founder of Vantage Point Consulting LLC, working with for-profit and nonprofit leadership teams to improve culture and increase capacity for impact. He and his wife have been married for over 26 years and are raising five children (4 boys and a girl) between the ages of 24 and 15.

Rachael Botting PhD

Rachael is on faculty at the HoneyRock Center for Leadership Development at Wheaton College, where she teaches courses in Outdoor and Adventure Leadership. She has a PhD from Biola University in Christian Education and lives in central NY with her husband and two young boys.

Sue Nigh

Sue Nigh, CCCA section ambassador, has served in Christian camping for over 25 years, with most of her time serving as Executive Director at Heartland Conference Retreat Center in Marengo, Ohio. She has also served as CCCA Ohio Section President and as an at-large member of the CCCA national board.

Zac Wilcox

Zac first started working with camps in 2006 at Hume Lake Christian Camps in California - over the years his work in the camping ministry has given him a passion for the ministry and a desire to see it succeed.

When he started his own consulting business in 2020, working with camps and helping them succeed was a priority for him. Now having worked with the leadership teams of construction companies, financial institutions, churches, and healthcare organizations (among others), he's excited to give back to camping ministry in a more intentional way.