

CCCA Workshop Descriptions and Bios

Tuesday, Jan 21st 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Apologetics for Youth by Matt Lee

The workshop explores the unique challenges Christian ministers face in engaging with today's youth. With shifting cultural landscapes and an abundance of competing narratives, effectively communicating the gospel requires not just knowledge but discernment and strategy. Together, we'll examine practical ways to help young people make sense of Christianity in a world that often questions its relevance.

Bio: Professor at Lancaster Bible College, Christian Apologist

Capital Campaigns 101 by Richie Musser

Come learn how to engage donors/stakeholders and the community in raising funds. In this workshop we will dive into building a vision, planning a capital campaign, and looking at a range of funding sources.

Bio: Richie Musser is the president of Kirby-Smith Associates. He has been working with Christian churches, camps, and schools for over 25 years. Richie enjoys seeing how God transforms lives in the spaces and places we serve.

Christian Gap Year Essentials by Ben Wilhite

Gap year enrollments are exploding. More and more Christian camps are jumping into the fray. But building (or upgrading) a healthy program that is on mission and sustainable requires some key ingredients. In this session, we'll outline the four essentials the best Christian gap years build on, and introduce a framework approach to building a dynamic, thriving program.

Bio: Ben's passion is to invest in the development of Kingdom people to amplify the disciple-making mission of the Church. In 2017, he launched Anchor Christian University, an innovative institution that partners with frontline ministries globally to train next-generation faith-driven leaders.

Finding Your Seat by Jonathan VanScoter

Dealing with people is hard. It can be messy. This is even more true when you have an upset parent or guest on your hands. Come to hear some practical wisdom that you can take back to apply into your context of ministry to serve your guests and constituents as Christ would.

Bio: Jonathan has been in Full-Time Christian Camping in the Northeast for over 15 years.

Foodservice: Beyond the Kitchen by Rusty Hertzler

I am going to talk about how to market your kitchen and camp outside of the kitchen. I have launched a line of products that are sold in the camp store. Some are very easy to incorporate and don't take much investment.

Bio: I have a culinary degree and have been working in foodservice all my life. I have been in camp Ministry for almost 10 years.

Facility Master Planning for Camps by Daniel Kirkley and Rick Walker

We will be discussing how to gather data about your existing facilities to determine how to best utilize what is available. This will include establishing goals and setting priorities.

Bio: Rick and Daniel have been in and around camps for many years, from serving on the Board of Directors and employed as Counselor, Maintenance and Lifeguard to designing individual buildings and full campus plans. Having worked together for over 20 years and decades of architectural experience, we have experience with many project design types, code requirements and locations up and down the Atlantic coast.

No Child Left Behind by Mark Davidhizar

How to reach and fund inner-city/under resourced campers. While the federal government's attempt to give every child the same educational opportunity experienced varying reviews of success, Camps must take on this challenge to reach every child - regardless of their ability to pay. This is a great opportunity! We need to find a way to overcome the hurdles that are present. This session will present philosophy, approach, and specific methods.

Bio: Mark is a former Executive Director of a Camp for urban and under-resourced youth. His heart is making the best tool of ministry available for everyone!

Wednesday, Jan 22nd 9:30 am– 10:45 am

Camp AI: Revolutionizing Marketing and Operations with ChatGPT: by Jon Bisset

Discover how to maximize AI, including ChatGPT, to enhance your camp's marketing and operations. Learn practical strategies for engaging campers, streamlining administration, and personalizing communication. This session offers actionable insights to propel your camp towards greater success through innovative technology

Bio: Jon is the Executive Director of River Valley Ranch in Maryland and has a B.A. from Towson University and an M.A. from Wheaton College. His background includes community organizing in Chicago and Board service with FCA and Curium Outreach in Mexico. A frequent presenter at ACA and CCCA conferences, Jon enjoys gardening, chess, running, and Peloton. He and his wife, Courtney, are proud parents of Anna and Aidan

Data Driven Decisions Part 1 by Jonathan VanScoter

Are you making decisions for your camp and conference center with just a hunch and your gut? While those may seem to currently help you, you can only get so far with relying on these two alone. Come and learn what metrics you might be able to use to analyze your camp and conference center numerically to continue to make a lasting impact and chart the course for the future. This is a two-part workshop that builds off each other.

Bio: Jonathan has been in Full-Time Christian Camping in the Northeast for over 15 years.

Living on Mission by Peter Greer

Mission Drift is common across organizations. Yet, it's not just organizations that drift; people do too. What does it mean to live life on mission? How can we continue to pursue our purpose through seasons of distraction and discouragement? Why do only 1/3 of biblical leaders finish well? Based on his book, *How Leaders Lose their Way*, Peter shares insights from research to anchor us, renew us, and propel us into meaningful mission and sustained service.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

How To Teach Young Men to Enjoy Their Work by Jeff Rush

We often look at "a job" as simply the stepping-stone to a more important role/job. Too often we just "endure" until something "better" comes along. We will lean into these situations and see what we can learn, and how to have a "satisfying" and Biblical posture toward WORK

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Overview of Mental Health by Eric Smith

An overview of how the experience of trauma and toxic stress can impact a person's experience of a faith community and strategies for support.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Print's Powerful Impact by Tim Beech

Facts, Tips, and Trends of Effective Print Communication: We will touch on what is working best to reach people with your message in today's culture - principles that are always at work and statistics from the last couple years. We will give practical advice on what camps can do to be more effective with their communications - you don't have to spend more money to do things better. We will also share real examples of what others are doing successfully that can be easily duplicated.

Bio: Tim grew up in their family printing business. He and his wife, Amy, live a block from the company and he has been privileged to work with folks all over the country for 36 years.

Small Camps: Overcoming Challenges to Thrive by John Skaggs

Assessing small camp culture, success, and resources.

Goals:

1. To help small camps overcome challenges to thrive as a small camp.
2. To help small camps stay on mission by assessing resources and navigating change.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Trauma Informed Discipleship by Arthur C Woods

As camp staff, we're entrusted with the profound opportunity to minister to campers, many of whom have endured significant trauma. How can we effectively convey the Gospel to these individuals? Let's explore strategies for reaching and connecting with campers who come from tough places. It's all about trauma informed discipleship.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

3 Tools to Bridge the Discipleship Gap Between Camp and Church by Josh Good

Camps and Churches both desire to see young people take steps forward in their faith and boldly pursue Christ. Camps are uniquely positioned to provide deep, engaging experiences which churches have the opportunity to build on. The challenge: there's often a disconnect between camp and church. This workshop explores practical strategies to link camp experiences with local church communities, ensuring that young people's spiritual growth continues long after they leave camp. Discover innovative ways to partner with churches and create a seamless path from camp to community!

Bio: As Ministry Director for CE, Josh helps churches establish an intentional and effective discipleship strategy for their youth ministry. He works closely with youth leaders, providing coaching, insight and encouragement.

Wednesday, Jan 22nd 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Appropriately Responding to The Negative Behaviors of Campers.

by Arthur C Woods

In this engaging talk, we will delve into the crucial importance of understanding the underlying reasons behind camper behaviors, emphasizing the need for a safe and nurturing environment. Learn how to be proactive in addressing potential issues before they escalate, and discover the S.A.F.E.T.Y Method—an effective framework that empowers you to respond thoughtfully and constructively to negative behaviors.

Equip yourself with the tools and strategies to create a positive camp experience for every camper, ensuring they feel valued and understood.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Board Documented Processes by VisionWorks

The strength and health of a Board is critical to every season of an organization. This workshop will identify key components that must be established and documented to help equip, prepare, and guide every board and its members. Too much is assumed. Being clear is being kind. Find yourself at a key point of challenge or growth? Training and preparing your Board is as important as training and preparing your staff and volunteers. One thing will be clear.....

Bio: Mark and Tammy have a combined experience of over 60 years working with camps and Boards. Both come from the Christian Camp world and have a heart to help each of us to continue to strengthen the health of our leadership teams.

Current Legal and Legislative Issues for Camps and Conference Centers by John Ruybalid

We will talk about current court decisions, cases, proposed laws, and legal issues of significance for camps and conference centers.

Bio: Thankful to have served as legal counsel for CCCA and many of its member camps and conferences for more than 30 years.

Data Driven Decisions Part 2 by Jonathan VanScoter

Are you making decisions for your camp and conference center with just a hunch and your gut? While those may seem to currently help you, you can only get so far with relying on these two alone. Come and learn what metrics you might be able to use to analyze your camp and conference center numerically to continue to make a lasting impact and chart the course for the future. This is a two-part workshop that builds off each other.

Bio: Jonathan has been in Full-Time Christian Camping in the Northeast for over 15 years.

Dealing with a Camp Crisis: A Personal Story of Navigating a Tragedy at Camp by Jon Bisset

Crisis situations are unpredictable. In 2014, River Valley Ranch (RVR) experienced a freak storm that took the life of a camper. Through this tragic situation, RVR learned some invaluable lessons that will help prepare you to deal with a potential crisis situation if it ever happens at your camp. Join Executive Director, Jon Bisset, to learn a framework you can use to effectively deal with the numerous challenges a crisis inevitably brings such as communicating with key constituents, the media, and caring for staff and families.

Bio: Jon is the Executive Director of River Valley Ranch in Maryland and has a B.A. from Towson University and an M.A. from Wheaton College. His background includes community organizing in Chicago and Board service with FCA and Curium Outreach in Mexico. A frequent presenter at ACA and CCCA conferences, Jon enjoys gardening, chess, running, and Peloton. He and his wife, Courtney, are proud parents of Anna and Aidan

Hospitality & Maintenance Ministry by Jeff Rush

The ministry of hospitality is perhaps THE most overlooked and underappreciated role in the Body of Christ, and an ESSENTIAL component of camp and conference ministry. In order for hospitality to happen effectively, there must be well-maintained buildings and systems providing the context. We therefore provide the "context and spaces" for God to work.

Bio: Having initially renovated and restored a 120 year-old Mansion into a retreat facility, I understand the importance of construction, systems, and ongoing maintenance in order to provide exceptional hospitality context. It's a passion of mine!

Making Your Camp Store Profitable by Anna Wesner

My presentation will be about presenting topics that will help make your camp store more profitable. The first main topic is about getting better engagement in your store by improving the layout/merchandising aspect of it. The second main topic touches base on knowing your inventory, correct markup, and ideas on sales and such that you can use to help increase your profit and have your store running smoothly.

Bio: I have been with Stickersandmore now for a little over a year as a Sales Consultant. Prior to that I was in management for a large retail store for 17 1/2 years. I had experience during that time with cross merchandising, setting displays, following sales and profit for my area, knowing our demographic and predicting future sales. Along with managing a team of associates and keeping shelves properly stocked. Although I may not have hands-on experience in a camp store, I feel I can bring helpful information to the table, as a camp store is just a mini version of their own large retail store! They both want to be successful in the same ways.

Spiritual Danger of Doing Good by Peter Greer

Too often, we hear of good people doing good work who make very bad decisions. From making ministry your mistress to Christian karma, a number of hidden attitudes can derail Christian leaders. In an honest and personal style, Peter uses his own story to explore how we can overcome the most challenging struggle—the one within our hearts—in order to serve faithfully.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Trauma Awareness in Faith Communities by Eric Smith

An overview of how the experience of trauma and toxic stress can impact a person's experience of a faith community and strategies for support.

Bio: See bio at end of handout..

6 Elements of Program by John Skaggs

Why do some program activities seem to be a big hit one day and to flop another? How do you create new and exciting programs for each guest group? Every program has six elements that can be identified and changed to keep programming fresh and effective.

Goals:

1. Identify the six elements at work in any program activity.
2. Assess the effectiveness of each element in a program activity.
3. Modify a program to maximize creativity and effectiveness.

Bio: See bio at end of handout.

Thursday, Jan 23rd 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Bed Bug Best Practices: Round Table Discussion - Maintenance Round Table

Discuss best practices at each camp for when Bed Bugs are reported, or discovered in guest rooms.

Bio: Buddy Bingaman has been in Camp maintenance for 20+ years. He is passionate about kids coming to know Christ and leading maintenance teams to serve well!

Christ Centered Customer Service by Jonathan VanScoter

Dealing with people is hard. It can be messy. This is even more true when you have an upset parent or guest on your hands. Come to hear some practical wisdom that you can take back to apply into your context of ministry to serve your guests and constituents as Christ would.

Bio: Jonathan has been in Full-Time Christian Camping in the Northeast for over 15 years.

Donor Relations and Major Gift Fundraising by Tina Blackman

For camps with little to no development staff, this will provide step-by-step suggestions for finding and building major donor relationships from your existing databases. For camps already raising major gifts successfully, there will be opportunity to share what's currently working for you so that all of us can find new ideas, refreshment, and encouragement in building authentic relationships that grow our Kingdom work.

Bio: Originally a music teacher who'd have said "no way" to ever being a fundraiser, Tina joined PJM in donor stewardship in 2005, became its Director of Development in 2015, and has found fundraising to be a humbling and sacred work that builds the Kingdom through relationships. Tina lives in Baltimore City with her jazz pianist husband and two college aged daughters.

Game Swap Round Table by Program People

Calling all game leaders and program people. Bring your favorite camp games to share and if you can play with other Program People. This is a round table of sharing, come ready to share, collaborate and learn.

Is the Bible Really the Word of God? by Matt Lee

This session will entertain one of the most profound questions about the Christian faith: Can we believe that the Bible is the Word of God? Together, we'll examine compelling reasons to confidently hold this view, exploring the Bible's unparalleled characteristics while carefully discerning why it is unique amongst other sacred writings of the world. The workshop will strengthen your confidence in the Word of God and help you gain answers to serve those who are doubting.

Bio: Professor at Lancaster Bible College, Christian Apologist

Lessons from the Boot Club: When Our Ministry Friends Get Fired by Mike Gehlert

Far too many people in ministry face forced resignations and transitions. What lessons can we learn from others so as to avoid this situation within our own camps?

Bio: Mike has served as director at Camp Conquest for 23 years. Prior to that time, he faced his own forced transition from ministry, and since that time he has had to help others transition into or from a ministry position.

Key Policies for Camps and Conference Centers by John Ruybalid

We will identify and discuss the key policies for addressing legal issues for the camp as a nonprofit tax-exempt organization. We will look at the key parts of the policies, drafting tips, and best practices. Some sample policies will be involved.

Bio: Thankful to have served as legal counsel for CCCA and many of its member camps and conference centers for more than 30 years.

Reaching the Next Generation Through the Arts by Tucker Rodkey

How do we reach an increasingly visually driven generation? How do we connect students with the Gospel when they have a harder and harder time listening? In this workshop we will dive into these topics, exploring unique methods and strategies to reach the next generation with the Gospel through the arts.

Bio: Tucker Rodkey is the founder and Executive Director of The Artists' Commission, a visual arts ministry that has reached thousands with the Gospel through spoken word, speed painting and music. Based out of the Philadelphia region Tucker has made it his life's work to empower artists and the church to reach the world with the Gospel in fresh, innovative ways.

Storytelling in your Marketing by Tammy Briggs

Discover how to harness storytelling to captivate audiences, evoke emotion, and drive action in fundraising and marketing. Learn practical techniques to craft compelling narratives that highlight your mission, connect with donors, and make your proposals stand out. This session will equip you with tools to transform data into stories that resonate and inspire, helping you build deeper connections and support for your cause.

Bio: Tammy Briggs brings over 25 years of non-profit experience, having held leadership roles at The Salvation Army and Camp Hebron, and now serving as a Senior Consultant at Visionworks. Her expertise includes grant writing, donor development, capital campaigns, and strategic communications, all highlighted by successful fundraising efforts and significant organizational growth.

Ways to Save Time while Saving the Flavor by Rusty Hertzler

I will be taking simple time saving ingredients and turning them into great dishes

Bio: I have a culinary degree and have worked in foodservice my whole life. I have been in camp ministry for almost 10 years.

Multi-track presenter's bios:

Peter Greer

Peter Greer is the president and CEO of HOPE International, a global Christ-centered economic development organization serving throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. He is the coauthor of 15 books, husband to Laurel, and dad to Keith, Lilliana, Myles, and London.

John Skaggs

John Skaggs is the chair of the camping ministry major at Appalachian Bible College (www.abc.edu). He has served for over 25 years in camp ministry and loves using the outdoors to teach biblical truth and to point people to the Creator.

Eric Smith

I have worked in the areas of church ministry and mental health for over 20 years. Serving for 20 years as Youth Pastor and now Teaching Pastor at Grace Community Church. I also ran the Bucks and Montgomery County Children's Mobile Crisis Programs for over 12 years. For the last 8 years I have been serving as Assistant Program Director at Lakeside School overseeing clinical services.

Arthur C. Woods

Arthur C. Woods is a highly experienced and dynamic speaker, trainer and coach, with a wealth of expertise in supporting parents, families and teenagers. He holds a master's degree in Student and Family Ministry, and sits on the board of directors for Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas, PA. He lives in Lancaster County with his wife (Elizabeth) of 24+ years.