



Speakers and Presenters

Kristy Andrews

Camp Wawenock

Kristy was a camper and continued on through many seasonal roles. After graduating from Bates College, Kristy taught abroad before returning to Maine to pursue her passion for camp by becoming a year-round camp professional. She is currently the Assistant Director and Waterfront Head at Camp Wawenock in Raymond, Maine and is the chair of the Maine Summer Camps Outreach Committee. Kristy is excited to be a part of ACA New England's EPIC Committee!

Scott Arizala

The Camp Counselor

Scott is one of the leading experts & trainers on kids, staff, and the experience of summer camp. He is the CEO of The Camp Counselor, a consulting & training company working with hundreds of camps and thousands of staff & administrators across the country and abroad. He is the proud partner of Sanofi Genzyme, delivering the Camp Academy Staff Training Program to camps for kids with bleeding disorders, and the Founder of Chasing Summer, an organization dedicated to creating access for people with autism in recreation. He is a pioneering faculty member of Expert Online Training, a regular contributor to ACA's Camping Magazine, and is the author of the best-selling book on summer camp & youth development, *S'more Than Camp*.

Benjamin Aronson

Needham Youth and Family Services

Ben is a licensed mental health counselor and nationally certified school psychologist who strives to help adolescents develop a strong self-concept through experiential education. Ben believes that a key ingredient to helping adolescents meet that goal is CAMP! Ben began attending overnight camp when he was 9-years-old and he has not left yet. He is currently a boys' head counselor at Camp Tevya when he enjoys helping campers and counselors develop confidence in themselves. Outside of camp, Ben loves the outdoors and is an avid hockey fan.

Laura Blaisdell

Camp Winnebago

Dr. Laura Blaisdell, MD/MPH, FAAP is a pediatrician, researcher, and advocate. For 20 years, she has worked in camp medicine, serving as Medical Director at Camp Winnebago. She currently is Vice President of Maine AAP and a founding member of Maine Families for Vaccines. Dr. Blaisdell researches parental vaccine hesitation with Maine Medical Center (MMC). Additionally, she served as site director for the National Children's Study, Chair of the Institutional Review Board at MMC, Chief of Pediatrics at InterMed, and currently is Trustee to Mercy Hospital in Portland. She is an Assistant Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine. She resides in South Portland, ME with her two sons and husband, Andy Lilienthal.

Phil Brown

High 5 Adventure Learning Center

Phil joined the High 5 team in May 2015 having previously worked in Adventure and Outdoor education for seven years. Originally from England, Phil moved to the United States in 2008 to work at the New York YMCA camp, first as a Camp Counselor, then an Outdoor Educator, and finally as the Challenge Course Coordinator. Phil brings high energy and devotion to the Adventure field and has presented at the NEYCC, ACA, New England, ACCT, Northeast and International AEE, BOOST, and several regional Phys Ed conferences and at the High 5 Symposium. He is also one of the co-authors of the book "Tinker: Building Purposeful Experiences from Classic Adventure Activities" and the producer/host of "High 5 Adventure - The Podcast".

Jonathan Caflun

Camp Wekeela

Jonathan has been in camp for 24 years; 10 years as a camper and eight as a staff member. Before entering into full-time camping, Jonathan attended Boston University's School of Hospitality Administration. Jonathan lives in Boston, MA and is a member of ACA, New England's EPIC and Education Committees.

Sarah Castro

Fleur de Lis Camp

Sarah is the Assistant Director for Advancement at Fleur de Lis Camp. She grew up on the shores of Laurel Lake and rose through the ranks at Camp Takodah. Sarah majored in Human Services and minored in Psychology at Geneva College in PA. After college and a fund development internship with a local YMCA, she moved back to NH and started her professional career in camping with Camp Takodah, before joining Fleur de Lis. Sarah loves crafting, hanging out with her niece, and dogs!

Emily Chaleff

Camp Alsing

Emily (Rosenberg) Chaleff is a co-founder and the director of Camp Alsing, a residential Maine summer camp for kids with high-functioning autism and other social challenges. Prior to founding camp, Emily's career was based in the nonprofit sector leading mission-driven organizations in strategic planning, fundraising and transformational change. Emily attended Camp Thunderbird for Girls in Bemidji, MN for 13 years as a camper, counselor, and trip leader. She believes deeply in the power of camp to change lives and when the opportunity to make a career of camp arrived, she grabbed it! Originally from Chicago, Emily and her husband moved to Portland, ME in 2008 where they live now with Gideon (8yrs), Asher (5yrs), and Burt the dog.

Max Claman

Oasis Day Camp

Max has been working in the camp world for over a decade, having held leadership roles at both day and residential camps, for both private and nonprofit organizations. In addition to his role as a Camp Director, Max serves as a trainer, facilitator, and speaker, having spoken at camps and conferences since 2014, in addition to serving on multiple committees for the ACA NY/NJ. Max currently serves as the Director of Development for Oasis Day Camps, helping manage multiple camps throughout the greater New York City area. Max has two degrees from Ohio State University, where he also worked in the Department of Athletics in multiple capacities.

Garrett Coler

Children's Island Day Camp/Northshore YMCA

Garrett is originally from Manchester, NH, currently lives in Danvers, MA, and works as the Athletics Director and Day Camp Director at Lynch Van/Otterloo YMCA in Marblehead, MA. This will be his 9th summer working at camp and his 5th Directing. Has worked at Residential camps, Summer Boarding Schools, and Day camps across New England. His favorite part about working at camp is seeing development in both counselors and campers over the summer and working to build and promote elite sports camps in the surrounding community..

Stephanie "Ruby" Compton

Ruby Outdoors

Ruby Compton's experience in the outdoor industry includes work with residential, day, private, and non-profit camps as well as school-year environmental and experiential education programs. She volunteers as an Accreditation Visitor and Standards Instructor. Ruby supports camps during the school year by co-hosting the podcast Camp Code--a free podcast that offers best practices for creating and delivering intentional staff training. She also serves as the Masterclass Provost for Go Camp Pro coordinating and teaching online classes offered to camp professionals around the world on a variety of topics applicable to the camp industry. She is also a member of the planning team for the Women in Camp Summit.

Michelle Cove

MEDIAGIRLS

Michelle Cove is the founder and Executive Director of MEDIAGIRLS, a non-profit that teaches girls and young adults to know their self-worth and harness the power of media for positive change. She is an award-winning filmmaker, author, and journalist whose projects have been featured on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," "The Today Show," and national publications including The Washington Post, Psychology Today, Parenting, U.S. World News & Report, and more. She is the author of I Love Mondays (Seal Press, 2012), co-author of the national bestseller I'm Not Mad, I Just Hate You!: A New Understanding of Mother-Daughter Conflict (Viking, 1999), and author of Seeking Happily Ever After (Tarcher Penguin, 2010).

Zach d'Arbeloff

Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Summer Camp

Zach d'Arbeloff joined the camping world in 2009 and only ever looked back once (because, let's be honest, finding full time jobs in camping is hard). Currently, he is Director of Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Summer Camp. With a background in environmental and agricultural education, Zach's passion is bringing a knowledge of local nature and farming to his campers. Zach is also an avid ultimate player and lover of cats.

Alexis Dascoulias

Camp CenterStage

Graduate of the MS program for Camp Directors & Leadership at Touro University and Camp Director & Co-Founder of Camp CenterStage, Alexis has 25 years experience as a camp director, teacher, public speaker, and theater producer. After spending 12 years on Maui, she returned to Maine last year to fulfill her lifelong dream of owning (and building) a camp. Alexis has directed residential and day camps in New Hampshire, Maine, and Hawaii. As a guest presenter at Rotary International conventions, STEM conferences, and many ACA conferences, she strongly believes in the power of camp and that having an "attitude of gratitude" is the best way to live!

Bob Ditter

Bob Ditter has been teaching, coaching, and learning from camp professionals since he was a counselor at a boys' sailing camp on Cape Cod in 1974. He is a highly regarded child, adolescent, and family therapist from Boston and an internationally recognized trainer and consultant. Bob has the largest lexicon of published camp titles of anyone in the field, with 5 books, 21 training DVDs, and an article or column in every issue Camping Magazine since 1987. He is currently President of the Board of Boston Explorers, an urban day camp for curious, capable kids in the city who have little access to quality camp programs. Bob is well known to folks in New England having started his own camp career here.

Jack Erler

Maine Youth Camp Association

Jack Erler is an attorney in Portland, Maine. For more than 50 years Jack has been representing youth camps in all aspects of their operation. In addition, Jack represents Maine Youth Camping Foundation, the State wide non-profit organizations of youth camps and Maine Youth Camp Association, the policy arm of the Foundation. Jack is the recipient of the Halsey Gulick Award for distinguished service to the organized camping movement in Maine; the ACANE Community Honor Recognition; and the ACA Special Recognition awards for outstanding service to organized camping. Jack is a speaker on legal issues affecting youth camping including the duty of care, child abuse, sexual harassment, laws regulating alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

Amy Farnham

ReVision Energy

Before coming to ReVision, Amy managed a child care center at Phillips Exeter Academy for nine years where she was able to be with her children while providing quality child care for local families. During her time at PEA, she was able to take advantage of the academic environment where sustainability was beginning to thrive. She joined the Sustainability Advisory Committee and learned about how sustainability works on a campus. After taking courses on Solar Energy, she became interested in the notion that working to bring more solar to our corner of the world would fulfill her in both a personal and professional capacity. When her sons graduated from the child care center, she felt it was time to move on and commit to a career in solar! Amy is part of ReVision's Brentwood branch where, as a NABCEP-certified PV Technical Sales Professional, she is enjoying the opportunity to educate residents of New Hampshire on energy efficiency and how to respect the planet on which we live.

Karin Freed

Boston University

Karin is a teacher turned MBA student at Boston University's Questrom School of Business. Karin has her M.Ed. from Harvard University and was a high school English teacher and college counselor at an urban charter school. There, she started an outdoor leadership program for struggling 11th graders, which was inspired by her time as a camp counselor. Karin loves improv and making people laugh!

Kelley Freridge

American Camp Association

Kelley Freridge is the chief marketing officer for the American Camp Association. With ten years of senior leadership roles in the outdoor industry at Eastern Mountain Sports, Patagonia, and Chaco, she brings consumer insight and digital savvy to her role with the American Camp Association. Kelley points to her childhood experiences growing up at Van Buren Youth Camp as the compass she leverages in every business decision. As a National Outdoor Leadership School graduate and mother, Kelley recognizes the essential value of outdoor experience in developing tomorrow's leaders and is passionate about passing down this cornerstone to the next generation.

Jeffrey Frigon

The Browne Center for Innovative Learning

Jeff has been involved in Adventure-based Experiential Education for 25 years. He got his start in camps at Camp Nashoba North in 1994 & has worked in many environments: therapeutic-adventure with Outward Bound, Classroom-based with the Exeter Alternative High School, and has been with youth and adults as an educational consultant at The Browne Center and an Adjunct Instructor at UNH since 2010. Jeff holds a B.S. in Outdoor Education and Psychology from UNH and an M.S. in Experiential Education from The University of Minnesota. When not at work, Jeff spends as much time adventuring as possible: surfing, kayaking, SUPing, backcountry snowboarding, MTB, and road biking and spending QT with his wife and dog.

Becky Gilles

Mass Audubon's Wildwood

Marcie Glad

Tenacre Day Camp

Originally from Utah, Marcie Glad has been working in the camp industry for over a decade. She specializes in creating resident and day camp schedules using Excel. Marcie is also pursuing her MBA at Boston University. Her superpower is knowing the exact size of tupperware for leftovers.

Polly Goddard

Sandbar Coaching & Consulting

After receiving a degree in Outdoor Recreation Management from the University of Maine at Machias and a degree in Recreation & Leisure Service Administration from California State University, Fresno, Polly has traveled the United States developing her leadership, management and coaching practice. From directing ropes courses and adventure education programs at camps and schools in MT, NM, CA, and CT to leading conservation programs in MD, VT, and MA to coaching managers and leaders across the country, Polly has spent her career growing and learning about leadership presence, effective management practices, effective feedback processes, and employing coaching techniques to develop cultures of growth, commitment, and resiliency.

Emily Golinsky

Bright Moose Training

Emily's sessions get called many things, and her favorites are: "tremendously helpful," "definitely not the same-old-same-old," "fun and informative" and "not to be missed - a reason to come to the conference!" Emily provides training and strategic support to camps, enabling success for staff and participants, and helping manage behaviors from "challenging" to "crisis." She sits on the Board of Directors for NHCamps, and volunteers with ACA NE as a Visitor, member of the Conference & Fund Development committees, and New Camp Directors' Workshop faculty. Emily has a BS in Health Psychology and MS in Camp Administration/Leadership. She spent 14 years as Executive Director at Camp Starfish and is excited about her new project, Bright Moose LLC - a training, consulting and advocacy organization. She is an avid collector of terribly awesome puns.

Meghan Haslam

Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Camp

Meghan began her career as camp counselor in the Rocky Mountains outside Buena Vista, Colorado. After graduating with a B.A. in Creative Writing from Colorado College, she spent three years in the Peace Corps in Nicaragua, where she went on to found and direct the 4 Walls Project, a housing improvement organization. While continuing to live and work in Central America, she managed a range of community, educational, and outdoor programs. Since returning to the U.S. in 2014 she has directed the 100 Elk Outdoor Center, oversaw outdoor education programs at North Carolina Outward Bound School, and is now the Camp Director at Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Camp in Lincoln, MA. Her passion is connecting with diverse communities through nature.

Lori Hoffner

Supporting CommUnity, Inc.

Lori A. Hoffner has been offering training for positive youth development, community networking, and organizational relationship building since 1997 and has spoken nationally regarding youth program development, employment and staff engagement as well as multiple community issues. For 11 years, Lori was the Executive Director of PACCT, a small non-profit in Jefferson County, Colorado, an organization dedicated to the success of youth and community. Lori specializes in positive staff and organizational relationships based on generational studies and research. Additionally, she has years of experience with youth programming, program development and youth staffing. Lori is an ASIST Certified Trainer and SafeTALK Master Trainer. She has her B.A. in Psychology and is a member of the Jefferson Foundation Board of Directors.

Anna Hopkins

Friends Camp

Anna Hopkins has been the camp director at Friends Camp, a non-profit overnight camp in Maine, since September 2016. Anna is chair of the Education Committee for Maine Summer Camps and a facilitator with The Summer Camp Society. Anna is now an MBA student, figuring out some of the ways business school thinking can inform the way we run our camps.

Katie Johnson

The Redwoods Group

Katie Johnson has spent 20+ years as a youth development professional working with both resident & day camp programs, including eight years with the American Camp Association. Katie joined The Redwoods Group in 2016 as a consultant where she is sharing her professional experiences to help camps and youth serving organizations provide safe environments and programs for children and families.

Erin Kelly, Kim Baker, & Chelsea Gutierrez

Boston Nature Center

Kim Baker and Chelsea Gutierrez are Camp Directors at Mass Audubon's popular Boston Nature Center camps which annually serve 1,500 Boston children. Kim has worked in urban environmental education in MA, NY, and CT for 15 years and holds a M.S. in environmental education. Chelsea is a teacher at BNC's nature preschool, received a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation from University of Massachusetts, and has worked at BNC for 6 years. Erin Kelly, Education Manager, has been supervising both BNC summer camps for 12 years, and was a residential camp director in NY and CT. Erin has been leading educational programs that meet the needs of urban audiences for 20 years. Erin earned a M.S. in environmental education from Antioch University New England.

Mia Klinger

Daybreak Day Camp

Mia is the co-founder and director of Daybreak Day Camp, a program serving children from under-resourced circumstances who demonstrate social, emotional, and behavioral challenges resulting from trauma or disability. This year Daybreak marked its 30th summer and its first year offering Saturday school-year programming to its campers and teen CITs. Mia is a career special educator who currently consults to schools and after school programs around creating trauma-sensitive environments to support children's needs. She also teaches undergraduates at Curry College. As a camper, CIT, counselor, and administrator, Mia has spent all but 5 summers of her life in camp.

Pat Malone

Children's Island Day Camp/Northshore YMCA

Patrick Malone is a graduate of Endicott College (2018) having received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Sport Management. He has spent the past 2+ years at the Lynch van/Otterloo YMCA, currently as the Youth Program Specialist. Patrick continues to build experience in leading youth sports & athletics classes, Summer Sports Camp programs, as well as recreational and travel leagues such as the Jr. Celtics Youth Development and Jr. NBA Travel League(s). Patrick continues to coach sports to children starting from preschool and all the way through middle school. His previous experiences consists of a Woburn Memorial High School Athletic Department internship, and work with the Woburn Recreation Department and Stop It Goaltending.

Isaac Mamayasky

Potomac Law Group, PLLC, Camp Zeke

Isaac Mamaysky is a partner in Potomac Law Group, where he focuses on the unique legal needs of camps and many other employers. Isaac advises companies on various employment issues, including internal investigations, employment agreements, staff handbooks, separations and severance agreements, and many related matters. He also advises camps on camper challenges, contractual needs, negotiations, state regulations and licensing requirements, mandatory reporting questions, and related litigations. Isaac prides himself on his relationship with clients and especially enjoys serving as outside general counsel to a number of camps and other businesses.

In addition to his legal role, Isaac is the founder and director of a large overnight camp in Wayne County, PA. As a camp operator, Isaac has firsthand management-side experience with the same legal issues faced by his clients. Isaac earned his JD cum laude from the Boston University School of Law and his BA summa cum laude from the University of Rhode Island Honors Program.

Jon Mattleman

Minding Your Mind

Across all of his work, Jon brings warmth, understanding, and patience...plus a healthy dose of humor! In his over 35 years of experience as a therapist and presenter, clients have felt comforted by his ability to acknowledge that the challenges they face are complex - and often downright exhausting! In acknowledgment of this, his work is grounded in delivering tools that can be implemented in real time. Jon holds a BA from Clark University, and an MS in Counseling from the University of Hartford. He served as Director of the Stoughton, MA Youth Commission from 1983 to 1993, and as Director of Needham, MA Youth Services from 1993 to June 2017. Currently, Jon is the Clinical Director and lead presented for Minding Your Mind's New England.

Ian Moorhouse

Dexter Southfield

Ian Moorhouse is the Director of Operations at Dexter Southfield, a private school and summer camp on their Brookline campus. With over 20 years of experience, Ian has played an active role in the camping world and has presented at various conferences and seminars across the country.

Terri Mulks

Camp Susan Curtis

Terri L. Mulks has a Bachelor of Social Work from Southern Connecticut State University and 25 years of experience with at-risk youth in out-of-school time programming. She incorporates trauma-informed methodology to build collaborative behavior management systems and experiential curriculum while strengthening staff, programs, and operations. She is currently the Director at Camp Susan Curtis (recipient of the 2015 ACA Eleanor Eels Award for Program Excellence) after a lengthy YMCA career. Terri is an ACA Visitor and a Board Member of Maine Summer Camps. She and her husband, Jay, live with their rescued pets and are halfway through a personal lifetime mission to backpack in all the National Parks.

Jennifer O'Rourke

MGH Aspire

Jenn O'Rourke studied psychology at the University of Massachusetts and earned her Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis at Northeastern University. Jenn worked as a Special Education Instructor at a recreational summer camp for children and teenagers with developmental disabilities from 2004-2010. She served as a Special Education Inclusion facilitator at a Reggio Emilia inspired school, in the District of Columbia Public School System, serving children with High Cognitive Functioning Autism. Jenn currently works as an Assistant Program Manager for Massachusetts General Hospital's Aspire Child-Program year-round and serves in a camp director role during the summer.

Joseph Pangaro

True Security Design

Joseph Pangaro is a 27-year veteran police lieutenant, school security director, master trainer, safety and security expert, nationally published police and security expert, professional speaker, and school safety TV Show Host of "Hope is NOT a Tactic". He was recently named to the Campus Safety magazine HQ board of experts.

Suzi Pond

Redbird Media Group

Suzi Pond is an awarding-winning digital journalist, producer, and storyteller and the founder of Redbird Media Group - a video production company based in Freeport, Maine that specializes in commercial, nonprofit, and fundraising films. Suzi gets camp. From camper to counselor (to the one sticking on name tags), Suzi expertly weaves together journalism, documentary, and video production skills to deliver cinematic and purposeful videos to her camping clients. Suzi's journalism work has appeared on NPR's "All Things Considered" and numerous magazines and newspapers throughout New England. She has worked for Boston Magazine and the Portland Press Herald and teaches audio storytelling at Maine Media Workshops and the Oklahoma Arts Institute.

Thayer Raines

Research Advisory Committee (REAC)/American Camp Association

Thayer Raines is Assistant Professor of Sport & Recreation Management in the College of Business at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, NH. He serves on the Board of the American Camp Association, New England and the Research Advisory Committee for the American Camp Association.

Heather Ramsey

Sojourn Partners

Heather Ramsey is passionate about helping individuals and teams define their leadership path through executive coaching. Her clients move forward fueled, not only by their vision, but with the emotional intelligence to effectively navigate complex situations. Her education and experience is a complementary mix of business, counseling, and education. She is a Certified Professional Coach through the International Coach Federation with a B.S. in Business Management from Northeastern University and a Masters in Mental Health Counseling from Argosy University. Heather infuses a civic responsibility in her clients, yet augments that with her international background and global approach to organizations.

Mary Schafhauser

Pine Tree Camp

Mary Schafhauser is the current Assistant Director of Pine Tree Camp, a summer camp for adults and children with special needs located in Rome, ME. Mary joined the Pine Tree Camp team as the Assistant Director in 2018 after serving in Peace Corps Mongolia from 2015-2017. Together with Dawn Willard-Robinson, they have more than 35 years of experience in the world of adaptive recreation and camping. Their combined experience has led them to constantly work towards inclusivity and accessibility within Pine Tree Camp as well as share their knowledge with others within the camping world.

Cathy Scheder

Second Nature Partners, LLC

Cathy Scheder is the managing partner of Second Nature Partners, a consulting firm in camp, youth development, heritage interpretation, and environmental stewardship. She has a vast knowledge base and experience on aquatics risk management, general risk management, strategic planning, and operational administration. She literally wrote the book on Camp Waterfront Management for Camp and Recreation Programs and is a faculty member for Expert Online Training.

Kryss Shane

ThisIsKryss.com

Named by The New York Times and many national and international platforms as the go-to Leading LGBT Expert, Kryss Shane, MS, MSW, LSW, LMSW (she/her) has 24+ years of experience guiding the world's top leaders in business, education, and community via individual, small group, and full-staff trainings. One of her specialty areas focuses on LGBT+ youth, including making camp and educational settings safe, inclusive, and affirming for all. Kryss is well known for making each organization's specific Diversity, Equity, Inclusion needs more manageable, approachable, and actionable without significant costs. This includes physical spaces, hiring practices, policies/procedures, and more. You can reach her via her website: ThisIsKryss.com.

Daniel Shore

I'm Shore Research & Consulting

Daniel Shore is a researcher and consultant with an MA (and about to finish his PhD) in workplace psychology. He conducts research across numerous settings, from cybersecurity teams to summer camps, and turns data into action by (1) facilitating training experiences, (2) conducting feedback focus groups, and (3) creating professional development and training curricula. In the camp world, Daniel combines his ten summers of experience as a staff member, unit supervisor, and director of staff and leadership development with his research expertise to help camps strategically train staff to enhance the camp staff experience. Daniel is always looking to connect with leaders who agree that to have happy campers, you need happy counselors, too!

Doug Sutherland

Brantwood Camp

Originally from St. Louis, MO, Doug moved to New Hampshire to work directly with children and adults in an outdoor setting. He took on the adventure of expanding his own experience to several other camp settings where he worked in high level admin positions. Currently, Doug is helping to start the conversation of race in the camp industry and his community. His current role is the Executive Director of Brantwood Camp in Greenfield, NH, a non-profit camp that serves kids from urban areas in the Northeast.

Gabi Tetelman

WingSpeed Adventures

Gabi Tetelman started her career in experiential education working with youth, colleges, and non-profits from diverse communities across Massachusetts. Her work within these communities afforded her the hands-on opportunity to learn from leaders in their fields, predominantly experiential education, non-violent communication, and cultural awareness.

Christopher Thurber

CampSpirit, LLC & Camp Belknap

Dr. Christopher Thurber educates leaders using innovative content that stirs thinking and compels action. A graduate of Harvard University, Chris has worked at Camp Belknap since 1983 and has served as an instructor and psychologist at Phillips Exeter Academy since 1999. He co-authored *The Summer Camp Handbook*, now available in Mandarin, and is co-founder of ExpertOnlineTraining.com, which thousands of camps use for their pre-arrival staff training. Chris has been invited to deliver keynotes, contribute articles, and lead workshops on five continents. You can learn more about Chris and access all of his articles, book chapters, and podcasts on DrChrisThurber.com. Families can access Chris's homesickness prevention video on Prep4Camp.com.

James Tresner

Wanakee

James has served as the Executive Director at Wanakee, a summer camp and retreat center in Meredith (NH), for four years. Prior to this role, James worked in fundraising, marketing, and outreach for a large national non-profit, taught 6th grade at a Saudi school on the Arabian Gulf, led an after school program at a Massachusetts public school, and worked in higher education in student and residential life. James is a graduate of Middlebury College (VT), where he studied Environmental Studies and Music, and has finally accepted that his dad was right when used to wonder "what are you going to be, a singing park ranger?"

Nikki Turpin

Concord Academy Summer Camp

Nikki Turpin is the Office Manager at Concord Academy Summer Camp. During the school year, she works at Nashoba Brooks School as a building substitute and is part of the Inclusivity Board Team and Assembly Committee, bringing diverse performers to Nashoba Brooks. She is the Programming Director for Robbins House in Concord and leads the Youth In Philanthropy Program for Foundation for MetroWest. Nikki recently presented at the Association of African American Museums, discussing the importance of telling the full stories of African American female suffragist. Nikki's experience as a parent, educator, and on the front lines of camp communication provides her with multiple perspectives on how best to connect with parents, campers, and staff.

Donna Volpitta

The Center for Resilient Leadership

As the founder of the Center for Resilient Leadership, Donna Volpitta, Ed.D. makes brain science of resilience and mental health easy to understand and apply. Her Resilient Mindset Model, which draws on the latest research in neurology, psychology, and education, has been applied to areas of leadership from parenting to corporate management. Donna is co-author of the book *The Resilience Formula: A Guide to Proactive-Not Reactive-Parenting*, author of *Neuroworld: A Guide for Teaching the Brain Science of Resilience*, and co-creator of the Nametags Education Program.

Mac Wallace

Children's Island Day Camp/Northshore YMCA

Mac Wallace is originally from Florida where he Directed Day Camps for pre school age children. He is currently the Camp Director/Youth Program Director for Children's Island Day Camp and Lynch Van Otterloo YMCA in Marblehead, MA. Mac also worked in Residential camps for 5 years as the Head Counselor for Greenwood Trails Summer camp in Winsted, CT. For Mac camp is the place where you can truly be yourself, and feel supported by the people around you.

Dawn Willard-Robinson***Pine Tree Camp***

Dawn Willard-Robinson is the current Director of Pine Tree Camp, a summer camp for adults and children with special needs located in Rome, ME. Dawn started out as a counselor at Pine Tree Camp in 1985 and became the camp's director in 2005. Together with Mary Schafhauser, they have more than 35 years of experience in the world of adaptive recreation and camping. Their combined experience has led them to constantly work towards inclusivity and accessibility within Pine Tree Camp as well as share their knowledge with others within the camping world.

Elise Wulff***MGH Aspire***

Elise Wulff has over 10 years of experience collaborating with and supporting the neurodiverse population, their families, and professionals in both public and private settings. A veteran of the specialized camp world, Elise helps programs develop, implement, and refine staff training modules for such topics as inclusion practices, behavior management, social skills development, stress management, and self-awareness strategies in the camp setting. Elise combines her teaching experience with research-supported social-emotional interventions to help camps reach their own goals of supporting the Whole Camper. In addition, Elise oversees year-round programming that includes groups, parent coaching, professional development, curriculum design.

Rebecca Zelis***Songadeewin of Keewaydin***

Rebecca Zelis is a Culture and Communications Strategist who works with schools, camps, and businesses to build ideal environments for sustainable learning, growth, and creativity. Rebecca has a MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and develops programs emphasizing the health of individuals as the foundation of strong communities. She is the Staff Wellness Coordinator at Songadeewin of Keewaydin.