

SERVICE AND PROGRAM

This concentration aims to empower participants with the necessary skills and insights to deliver premier ministry experiences. Through the courses and tools provided, you'll be equipped to elevate your organization's hospitality and program ministry ensuring they resonate deeply with those you serve. This concentration includes topics like staff training, worship and music, program planning, and creation stewardship. (2025, 2028, 2031)

Theology - Program Foundation

The session will include how our theology is the foundation for all our programs and practices in outdoor ministries. You will also learn effective ways to teach seasonal staff Christian theology and how to serve diverse faith populations. No matter your denominational identity, camps are serving people of all faiths, including those with no faith background.

Introduction to Outdoor Ministry Philosophy

Jesus had a mission; God cast the vision. Now it is your turn! This course will show you how your organization's philosophy shapes your mission and vision. We'll also look at refining how your organization articulates its WHY story and where it is clearly evident in program and people – every day.

Inviting Inclusivity

You will be challenged to confront your personal biases and to understand our call to be inclusive in outdoor ministry. Gain tools and resources to teach staff. Encourage organizations/ministries to look at diversity and inclusion within their own context and community.

Marketing Programs through Values

A strong marketing and communication plan is essential to informing people about opportunities at your camp and filling your programs. It's more than just sharing your mission and vision, you have to create a visual experience or a storyline that makes the viewer feel connected to your camp and excited to be a part of it. This session will explore the many facets involved in sharing your ministry's value, brand, and story. We'll work on identifying your key messages, visual highlights, and how you invite and welcome guests to your camp. You know you're awesome – let's shout it from the mountaintop!

Creation Stewardship - Activities and Tools

Creation Stewardship is not an option, it is a Biblical command. Learn how to incorporate creation stewardship into your year-round program through theology, creation stewardship assessment, and program planning.

Risk Management for Program

During this session you will be introduced to the concepts necessary to manage risk in your programs and camp setting. We'll work on strategies to put your risk management plan into action. Additional work will be done on preparing you to properly respond to a crisis situation in your programs. Don't risk missing this session!

Ministry of Hospitality

In this course you will learn why hospitality is important to outdoor ministry. Discover the key needs of guests and learn how to assess your organization's hospitality. Hospitality should be part of everything thing you do and should be what sets you apart as a organization!

Program Planning for all Seasons

Good program planning assesses and meets the needs of a wide variety of participants and constituents. In this session you will learn how to develop a program from an idea to implementation to evaluation.

Bible Study Development and Teaching

This course will help you discover how to plan Bible studies that engage and challenge. You will leave with skills and techniques to design Bible studies that meet the needs of diverse learners of all ages.

Program Staffing

Recruiting, equipping and empowering quality leaders can be challenging. Journey through the program staffing cycle and its many destinations throughout the year including recruiting, caring for, and retaining quality staff from year to year. You will leave with take home resources to assist you with program staffing.

Summer Staff Training

Staff training sets the tone for the whole summer! This session will be filled with ideas that will help you equip and empower your summer staff to live into your organization's mission and vision. We will brainstorm resources, share what works well, and capture new ideas to take home.

Worship

Discover the importance of planning and executing worship with intentionality and well-grounded theology. Understand how worship can be experienced in a variety of ways and different settings. Together we'll look at liturgical structure, worship flow, inclusive experience, leadership and participation styles, training, and outside resources.

Music

Music is a critical component to camp programs. Learn how to be intentional in choosing songs, training staff, and teaching campers. Come away with new ideas and resources to make this a strong aspect of your program, no matter your personal skill level.