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Presentations for Camp Conferences and Meetings by Michael Brandwein

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The following are just some of the available sessions Michael presents for camp and recreation people at meetings and professional conferences. Other sessions can be developed to meet your specific needs.

(If you are looking for presentations for camp STAFF TRAINING, please go to michaelbrandwein.com and click on the camp side of the site where you can click on the oval that says, "Camp Staff Training.")

Youth Development & Meeting Camp Goals

THE INTENTIONAL CAMP: Presenting Purposeful Programs that Meet the Mission of Strengthening Skills for Life

Based on Michael's forthcoming new book, these are specific techniques we can put into place right away to ensure our programs are designed and our staff expertly trained for developing powerful and positive changes in our campers. This session demonstrates specific techniques to assure that we really deliver what we promise—using every element of the camp experience to teach young people greater respect, responsibility, teamwork, decision-making, limits, creativity, and more.

The Intentional Camp: From Magical to Methodical

We often use the word "magic" to describe what camp does, but like all magic, there's a trick to it. Youth development experts working with the American Camp Association have identified five specific ingredients that young people need to become successful in life. Learn how we can build these elements into our programs every day to help our campers become their best.

CampSight: Motivating and Managing Staff to Achieve the 8 Great Values of Camp

This session defines eight specific and unique elements for camp success and how to use creative training materials and techniques to present these precisely and motivationally so staff and supervisors can get them done every day. Includes: “change challenge” tools for creative programs; goals for staff growth, “WESTI” — outstanding first day procedures; the school vs. camp difference; and more.

Staff Supervision and Training of the Camp Leadership Team

SUPER STAFF SUPERVISION: Powerful & Practical Techniques to Manage & Motivate Staff

From the author of the number one best-selling book on camp supervision, this session demonstrates the six specific things supervisors and other head staff should do when “walking around” and exactly how to get them done, along with training materials to help train supervisors for success. Plus: better communication, motivation, support, preventing burn-out, improving safety, handling undesired staff behavior, creative program and leadership, and more.

“YES, IT’S FUN—BUT IT’S A REAL JOB...”

Solid Solutions to Increase Staff Professionalism and Responsibility

This session provides powerful techniques to get staff to take this fun job seriously and act professionally. Learn techniques for training superb supervisors, staff interviewing and selection, producing positive staff behavior, motivating, accountability, and orientation activities and materials that boost staff professionalism.

CDOS: Boosting Staff Performance through Masterful Staff Management

No more leaders sitting while kids are playing! Here are Michael’s newest techniques and methods to help teach supervisors to be team leaders and raise the level of staff performance. Communicate expectations firmly but positively, solve problems with confidence, and coach staff to be their best.

Supervising Staff to Encourage Openness, Trust, and an Atmosphere of Constant Growth & Improvement

What to do and say to create a camp environment where everyone asks, “How can we do this better?” Reduce talk behind backs; boost constructive problem-solving and communication; instill respectful correction of undesired staff behavior.

STAFF TRAINING

Terrific Training Techniques for Dynamic, Motivating Orientations

Orientation time is spare and precious. This skill-packed session by Michael Brandwein, master trainer and author of the number one best-selling camp staff training book, *Training Terrific Staff*, demonstrates outstanding, practical activities and training techniques to maximize learning, retention, motivation, attention, and participation. It includes nationally acclaimed, fast, creative, easy-to-use, and original activities that you can plug into your own training right away to teach communication, teamwork, professionalism, responsibility, and leadership in fresh and effective ways.

TEACHING STUFF THAT STICKS: Making Sure that Staff Really LEARN During Orientation

Each year we pack more and more into our training—but how much does staff really “get”? This session provides lots of specific training activities and superbly effective teaching methods you can use right away to increase learning, participation, teamwork, and retention during orientation so that staff are really ready to meet challenges and accomplish great goals.

TOP TEACHING: Training Staff to Be Outstanding Teachers

These are specific activities and materials you can use to demonstrate to staff how to excel when instructing campers in any camp program or subject. Most staff, as products of school, are used to learning by lecture, and they are likely to follow that example when teaching our campers. This session teaches them how to take full advantage of the power of experiential learning to help young people learn by discovery. Plus: the communication, motivation, and organization skills used by the greatest teachers and how to use them every day at camp.

"THERE'S A SPECIALIST AT THIS ACTIVITY, SO IT'S A REST PERIOD FOR ME..."

How to Form Collaborative, Professional, & Effective Relationships Between Specialists & Assisting Staff

This special session was designed to handle one of the most common camp challenges—getting specialists, group and cabin counselors, and other staff to work together. It includes an actual training session, with materials, for lead instructors and specialists that demonstrates four proven, proactive steps and five techniques to get these relationships built correctly from the very beginning.

IMPROV TO IMPROVE: Fast & Fun Activities to Teach & Learn Leadership, Creativity, and Teamwork

Join us for an involving and exciting session of fast-paced fun and learning! Energize staff training with these terrific improv-based games and activities which successfully teach creativity, team-building, leadership, communication, and more. Use them with campers, too! They comfortably involve everyone, are easy to lead, and—most importantly—you’ll learn the exact post-activity discussion points for maximum impact.

EXPRESS TRAIN: More Terrific Training Tools to Increase Staff Learning & Leadership

Grab staff attention, increase learning, and involve staff more directly and effectively with these practical, original training activities and materials that you can plug into orientation right away to teach staff important skills in communication, group leadership, instruction, and more.

Working Directly with Campers

BUILDING BETTER CHILDREN: How to Teach Campers Good Choices & Outstanding Life Skills

These specific, practical, and motivating techniques and materials teach staff to focus on, communicate about, and develop more positive camper behavior. It teaches exactly what to say and do to teach cooperation, teamwork, communication, respectful behavior, and more. The session identifies key life skill behaviors and values and how staff can practice what to say to make these grow. Includes: “Bonnie” and “DB Search” (identifying expectations); cutting through the most challenging problem children have with self-image; making praise “puke-proof”; and more.

LEADING LITTLER ONES: Terrific Ways to Develop Self-Esteem, Responsibility, and Confidence in YOUNG CAMPERS

Working with our younger ones (about 10 and under) at day camp or resident camp requires special care and training. Learn loads of great, easy-to-learn techniques to give these campers success so they’ll develop strong life skills and come back again and again, plus the special secrets to keep young groups together and motivated as they move around camp.

DUMPING THE D'S:

How to Stop Put-Downs, Bullying, Taunting, & Teasing While Creating a Safe & Respectful Environment for Learning & Growth

One of the key conditions required to assure successful education and youth development is safety—not just physical, but emotional. When anxiety goes up, learning and the willingness to participate go down. Youth development research reveals that adults often believe most young people feel basically safe, yet the youth themselves report otherwise. This session presents specific and practical tools and techniques. Past participants have used these skills with success throughout the U.S. and Canada in schools, camps, and other organizations. These methods teach young people increased respect while reducing put-downs and other negative behavior. This is not “theory”—it’s a hands-on skills session that demonstrates precisely what to say and do to handle these undesired behaviors pre K-12 and how to help young people take more responsibility for their peer environment while learning to handle disagreement and conflict without hurting the feelings of others.

“NO” MEANS “KNOW”: How to Teach Respect & Responsibility to Campers

This session includes: training staff to help campers learn limits, self-discipline, and respectful behavior in positive ways; exactly what to say and do when kids say “You can’t make me!”; the messages to send to young people to make them feel supported even when making mistakes; increasing responsibility; and more.

LARGE GROUP LEADERSHIP: Increasing Attention & Fun for All-Camp Moments

Use those moments when you’re up in front of everyone — opening/closing daily gatherings, announcements, special events, campfires, song-leading, etc. — as terrific opportunities to develop staff skills and model leadership and creativity that will powerfully affect your entire camp program all season. This example-packed, unique session demonstrates practical skills to seize attention, motivate excitement, and more.

TELL ME MORE: Teaching Superb Communication Skills to Staff

From the writer and presenter of an Emmy® award-winning television series on listening and talking with youth, this session is packed with specific skills to teach the most important skill staff use: Communication. These materials and activities will help staff get campers to express feelings constructively and calmly, even when they are upset. They will use these techniques to listen effectively not only to campers but also to each other and parents while build trust, respect, and strong relationships. Learn to be a world-class listener and camp communicator!

How to Teach Responsibility, Problem-Solving, & Other Great Skills to Campers & Staff

Good thinking is teachable, and this session demonstrates specific and practical techniques, materials, and activities that we can use to train staff and which staff can use to lead campers to cope with an increasingly challenging world, including: the three-step “Doing the D.O.T.” method for solving problems, the secret to muscular brains, problem-solving language, taking more personal responsibility, and more. Camp is an outstanding environment to stretch kid’s brains. While school tends to focus most on *what* we want youth to learn, camp has the time, tools, and setting that allows us to focus even more on *how* to learn. This session presents exactly what to say and do to help campers solve problems and take more responsibility with calmness and confidence to better prepare them for success in life.

CIT, LIT, & Teen LEADERSHIP programs

Learning Leadership: How to Develop Outstanding Leadership Training Programs at Camp

This session by the author of the nationally acclaimed camp best-seller *Learning Leadership* shows seven terrific tools you can use right away to teach leadership skills to youth, including values, responsibility, teamwork, and communication. It provides great ways you can teach older campers to be leaders in a positive, practical program, for camps with established programs and also those looking to revamp or start one. Identify the specific Leader Actions and Leader Actions that you want them to learn, improve mentoring, lead great discussions, use evaluations to promote positive and life-long learning, and learn outstanding activities that teach leadership and life skills.

More Topics on Building Great Camps

MANUAL DEXTERITY: Super Improvements for Staff Orientation Manuals

Make your staff manual a TRUE TRAINING TOOL! Learn fresh, practical techniques to get staff to actually read, learn from, interact with, and be motivated by your written materials.

COMMUNICATION: How to Deal with Disagreement, Conflicts, & Hot People Without Using A Blowtorch

The hardest part of working with staff, parents, and campers is handling disagreement, disappointment, and conflict. This skill-packed session teaches techniques you will use immediately, every day, to acquire better understanding and respect with staff, parents, and campers. Resolve conflicts with less stress

and greater trust and credibility. Includes: precisely what to say and not to say when resolving disagreements; tailoring responses to the needs of others; handling angry people, and more.

Time Management for People Who Don't Have Time to Take a Time Management Course

Six simple, practical, highly flexible steps for camp professionals to get more done in better, calmer ways. These techniques are easy to remember and use. Never have a day when "nothing important got done." Beat procrastination, improve organization, and increase your confidence and calmness in achieving important goals.

Super Skills for the Dynamic Day Camp

Bring your camp to a new level of excellence with these creative and exciting tools. Included: Michael's special fool-proof formula for planning and presenting superb and unique special events; improving staff attention and retention during orientation; new tips on customer service for office staff; how to teach critical group leadership techniques; and more.

Superb Customer Service for Camps: Training A Service-Oriented Team

Here are specific skills we can use to deliver great service to our parents and campers and how to quickly and powerfully teach these skills to office and other staff in motivating ways, including: the single most important key to excellent service, preventing and handling problems, difficult communication, establishing trust and terrific impressions, and more. Special feature: Michael's "Why Us?" activity that helps us to figure out how to communicate the best characteristics of our camp and what sets us apart from others.

The Super Solution Seminar for Camp Directors and Leadership Staff

If you're a camp director or other leadership staff/administrator, this is your chance to get some outstanding inside secrets and answers to your most challenging questions. Michael will start this exciting session with some super techniques to work with camp parents, kids, and staff, immediately followed by specific and practical solutions to your most pressing issues and questions.

Camp Games: The Powerhouse Collection

At camp, we learn while we play. This session demonstrates outstanding games and activities that require no or virtually no set up, are lots of fun, and also teach important life skills like teamwork, respect, problem-solving and more to bring out the best in our campers. Most importantly, you not only learn the games but you learn the secrets of great game leadership. Grab attention, motivate and maximize participation, build respectful behavior, and boost creativity and flexibility. Included: the 10 best instant set-up games that every staff person should know.