

# 2024 COCAcon: Better Together, Groovin' Forever!

Celebrating strength in unity, as we learn, grow, and support each other. "Better Together" honors the collective efforts of Region 7 co-hosting the conference, and that we as COCA are better when we support each other.

Time slots will be updated weekly as new sessions are added. All times and room assignments are subject to change.

FD- Fundraising  
SD- Staff Development  
CD- Child Development  
PR- Programming  
OP- Operations/Leadership  
MD- Medical CEU  
RT- Roundtable

## Wednesday, November 13

8:30 am- 4:30 pm COCA Board Meeting- Redwood Board Room (2nd floor)

## Thursday, November 14

8:30 AM-Noon COCA Board Meeting- Redwood Board Room (2nd floor)

8:00 AM- 5 PM Conference Registration & Information Desk -Pre-function 1

Maple Ballroom      Meeting Room 1      Meeting Room 2      Meeting Room 3

1:00 PM 30 Minute New Attendee Meet & Greet

RT- Networking Hour with Peers, Executives, Camp/Program Directors, Medical Staff, Social Media/Marketing, Fundraising

1:45 PM BREAK

2:45 PM MD, SD, OP: Behavioral Health Roundtable: Focus on Staff & Volunteers, Brandon Briery, PhD

OP: Danger, Danger Will Robinson- Tracking Our Risks and Opportunities, Dennis DePaul and Lisa Susslin

PR: Mad Hatter Tea Party, Incorporating themed meals, Heather and Tyler Olsen (Offered twice)

PR, OP, CD: Navigating Camp Participation: The Social Worker's Role in Supporting Youth with Medical Complications and Their Families, Michelle Fritsch, LCSW and Larry Geiger

3:00 PM BREAK

4:00 PM PR, SD, OP, CD, FD: The Magic of Camp Sparkle: Creating a Year Long Program, Michelle Massey, MSW, LICSW

SD, OP, CD: Freedom to Fail, Tini Graff, CPA

PR, CD: Improving Camper Engagement- Using Achievement Badges to Encourage Participation, Jamie Ekstrom, M.Ed.

MD, PR, SD, CD: Let's Talk About Grief, Baby, Laurel Christensen, LCSW, OSW-C

4:15 PM Dinner on your own

5:15 PM Conference Kick-Off Reception -Flat Stick Pub (Couple blocks from Hotel)

6:30-8:30 PM Hospitality Suite Open (Governor's Suite)

9:00-11:00 PM

## Friday, November 15

7:30 AM- 5 PM Conference Registration & Information Desk -Pre-function 1

7:30-8:30 AM Buffet Breakfast- Grand Ballroom A

8:30 AM WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS - Grand Ballroom A

Grand Ballroom A      Maple Ballroom      Meeting Room 2      Meeting Room 3      Meeting Room 4      Birch

9:00 AM KEYNOTE: "Everyone Fundraise" with David Phillips, Immersive 1st-Grand Ballroom A

10:15 AM COCAcademy- A Training Smorgasbord: A Buffet of Ideas to Engage Your Staff in the Learning Process (2 Hours), Kim Aycock, MST

FD: Strong Board/Weak Board - the key to your future! David Phillips, Immersive 1st

RT, OP: Social Media Roundtable, Michael "Knuckles" Vasquez

PR, SD, OP, CD, FD: The Magic of Camp Sparkle: Creating a Year Long Program, Michelle Massey, MSW, LICSW

MD, OP: Essentials of Health Services Orientation for Camp Leaders and Staff, Tracey Gaslin, PhD, CPNP, FNP-BC, CRNI, RN-BC, ACH CEO

PR, OP: Gold Ribbon Accreditation Program 2025 Overview, Dr. Mike Amylon

11:30 AM COCAcademy: A Training Smorgasbord: A Buffet of Ideas to Engage Your Staff in the Learning Process (2 Hours), Kim Aycock, MST

MD, PR, CD, OP, SD: More Room at the Table: Supporting Campers with Disabilities and Medical Conditions Beyond Cancer, Brandon Briery, PhD

PR, SD, CD: Caring for the Caregivers, Including Ourselves!, Stephanie Irwin, BS, CCLS and Morgan Shelton, MS, CCLS

RT, PR- Camp Brave Hearts, Zeff Gomes and Heather Donnella

PR, SD, OP: Does the Mission End? Supporting Campers who Can't be Counselors, Jessica Hopper

SD, OP: Walnuts & Popcorn: Strategies for Self and Time Management, Mark Lowry (Offered twice)

11:30 AM Network and Visit w/Exhibitors

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12:30 PM BREAK

2:00 PM COCAcademy: The Telephone Game for Learning Group Games: Calling All Staff to Have the Opportunity to Lead, Kim Aycock, MST

FD: Staff Supervision - an organizational imperative David Phillips, Immersive 1st

PR, SD, OP: Compassionate Caregiving for Camp Counselors, Cameron Lynn Brown, D.Min, M.Div, BSSW

PR, CD: Share and Care- A family camp experience, Kym Allen and Stephanie Grayson, CCLS

MD, PR, CD, OP, SD: Watering is Never Wasted: Creating a Meaningful Life, Tracey Gaslin, PhD, CPNP, FNP-BC, CRNI, RN-BC, ACH CEO

OP- 1st Hour-View from the Executive Chair-Challenges & Opportunities-Open Forum Discussion-Executive Session for CEO's, ED's and COO's only please- Led by Michele Vernon, Melissa McNichol & Erin Ulmer

3:15 PM COCAcademy: This Is Not That: Guiding Staff On A Journey From The Ordinary World To The Extraordinary Camp World, Kim Aycock, MST

MD, PR: Camp New Horizons - Grief Camp for Bereaved Siblings, Tara Rose, PsyD and Caitlin Sullivan, LMSW

RT, PR, FD: Volunteer Recruitment and Cultivation, Stephanie Feyler, MBA

PR: Welcome to THUNDERDOME: Planning Approachable Activities, Tony Clinger

PR: Engaging Long-Term Cancer Survivors in Year-Round Programs, Larry Geiger

OP- 2nd Hour-View from the Executive Chair-Challenges & Opportunities-Open Forum Discussion-Executive Session for CEO's, ED's and COO's only please- Led by Michele Vernon, Melissa McNichol & Erin Ulmer

4:30 PM Region Meetings

5:30 PM Dinner on your own

9:00- 11:00 PM Hospitality Suite Open (Governor's Suite)

Saturday, November 16						
8:00 AM- 5 PM	Conference Registration & Information Desk -Pre-function 1					
8:30 AM	Announcements					
	Grand Ballroom A	Maple Ballroom	Meeting Room 2	Meeting Room 3	Meeting Room 4	Birch
9:00 AM	Care Camps Foundation Huddle, Gwynn Sullivan, MSN, and Lexi Bickford	MD, OP: Jeopardy for Camp Health Services, Tracey Gaslin, PhD, CPNP, FNP-BC, CRNI, RN-BC, ACH CEO				
10:00 AM-10:15 AM	BREAK					
10:15 AM	COC Academy: 4 Rules to Personal and Professional Success/Fulfillment, Trevor Nelson	PR, OP: Pursuing American Camp Association Accreditation, Tamara Korth	PR, SD, OP, CD: The Camp CULT-ure, Rich Brundige, Matt Rutler, Brandon Briery, Ph. D.	MD: Pediatric Oncology Camp Healthcare Provider Round Table, Kaye Wagner, MD MME	PR: Mad Hatter Tea Party, Incorporating themed meals, Heather and Tyler Olsen (Offered twice)	RT, OP, Site Owners Roundtable, Ryan Campbell and Jennifer Benton
11:15 AM-11:30 AM	BREAK					
11:45 AM	COC Academy: Your Mission's Message in 10 Words or Less- Elevator Pitch Workshop, Trevor Nelson	PR: Game On!, Dave Smith and Holly Senn, CCLS	RT, OP, PR, SD, CD:- Day Camps Round Table- Come share what you do, learn from others or get ideas to start one, Deanna Slade	MD, PR, CD, OP, SD, FD: Examining the Sibling Experience and How Camp Can Help, Mike Amylon, MD	FD, SD, OP: Navigating the Muddy Waters of Board Member Changes, Erin Marie Ulmer	PR, OP, CD: Child Life Specialists to Program Directors- Improving the Therapeutic Goals of a Pediatric Oncology Non-Profit, Mary Blackwelder, MS, CCLS, CTRS and Catie Stallworth, MS, CCLS
12:45 PM	Lunch On Your Own					
2:15 PM	COC Academy: Sponsorship Workshop, Trevor Nelson	PR: Let's Go to Camp! Energize Your Afternoon & Camp Programming: Large Group Games (Tyler and Heather Olsen)	PR: Let's Go to Camp! Energize Your Afternoon & Camp Programming: STEM Activity (Robots), Knuckles Vasquez	MD, SD, CD: The Kids Ain't Alright!, Laurel Christensen, LCSW, OSW-C and Holly Senn, CCLS	PR: Let's Go to Camp! Energize Your Afternoon & Camp Programming: When it comes to camp songs, everyone can sing!, Mark Lowry	PR: Let's Go to Camp! Energize Your Afternoon & Camp Programming: Arts & Crafts
3:15-3:30 PM	SNACK BREAK					
3:30 PM	COC Academy: Best of COCA: Fundraising Panel- Camps that submit may present what they did; during this session- Trevor Nelson will facilitate this panel	PR, OP, CD: True Inclusion for Neurodiverse Populations, Erin Marie Ulmer	PR, SD, OP: Does the Mission End? Supporting Campers who Can't be Counselors, Jessica Hopper	SD, OP: Walnuts & Popcorn: Strategies for Self and Time Management, Mark Lowry (Offered twice)	MD, CD, OP, SD: Behavioral Health Roundtable: Focus on Campers, Brandon Briery, PhD	PR, SD, OP: Exploring American Camp Association Resources, Tamara Korth
4:45 PM		OP: Lessons from Strategic Planning Process, Bridget Dolan and Sarah Swanberg	RT: Camp Traditions Roundtable, Belinda Jacobsen and Marilyn Taylor	PR, SD, OP, CD: Trauma-Informed Approach at Camp using Trust-Based Relational Interventions, Cameron Lynn Brown, D.Min, M.Div, BSSW	SD, OP: Connection, Purpose, and Play, I Got 99 Problems but Teambuilding Ain't One, Russel Birdwell, MFA	PR, SD, OP: Crisis – It Really Can Happen to You - Lessons from the ACA Crisis Hotline Team, Tamara Korth
6:30- 9:00 PM	Silent Auction, Bead Game, Cash Bars (Grand Ballroom A)					
7:00 PM	Dinner & Best of COCA Awards Banquet (Grand Ballroom A)					
9:00- 11:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open (Governor's Suite)					
Sunday, November 17						
	Safe travels home! Thank you for joining us for COCAcon 2024, we hope to see you for COCAcon 2025!					