

2016 Presentation Descriptions



Rewards of Risk: Interplay of Risk, Culture, and Objectives

Drew Leemon, National Outdoor Leadership School

Wilderness and adventure programs and organizations that work in remote environments have to manage risks. Every organization has a culture, and organizations that are successful in managing risks in remote environments have cultures that enhance their ability to manage risks while achieving their organizational objectives. This workshop will explore effective risk management culture through the lens of high reliability theory and systems design and then dive into the details of creating and supporting an effective incident reporting system.

The Teenage Brain and Risk Management: Connecting the Dots

Erin Walsh, Mind Positive Parenting

Erin will continue to connect the dots between the latest in brain science and risk-taking behaviors in adolescence. Using stories, warmth and humor, Erin will explore the major construction zones in the adolescent brain, the role of “emotional accelerators” in risk taking behaviors, and identify practical strategies for building on young people’s strengths in the wilderness context.

Participants will:

- Gain a better understanding of teenage brain development
- Understand that risk taking is an essential task of adolescence
- Identify practical strategies for managing risk with the brain in mind

Comprehensive Risk Management Planning and Implementation

Grant Herman, Paul Lovaas, and Tim Sheehan, Camp Manito-wish YMCA

Too often our risk management mindset starts and stops in the field. In this presentation and workshop, we will attempt to broaden our collective perspective on holistic risk management across an entire organization from lightning stance to your stance on lightbulbs. In addition to discussing the scope and scale of risk management at an organization like yours, we will take time to analyze case studies from Camp Manito-wish programs through a comprehensive lens to better understand the complex systems and management tools at play, available, and lacking when an incident occurs. Participants will walk away from this session with resources to begin a more comprehensive assessment of their own program and organization back home.

Participants will leave with:

- A broader understanding of the complexities and interplay of risk throughout your organization
- Resources to help you and your colleagues make a more comprehensive assessment of your overall risk exposure as an organization
- Strategies (and hopefully some inspiration) for collaborating and building in redundancies to manage risk in teams

Changing Environments Require Changing Risk Management Practices

Fred Sproat, YMCA Camp Menogyn

The natural world and the places we recreate is changing as a result of climate change. In managing the risks associated with our work it's important to know what is happening on the ground level right now and what to expect and how to adapt for future years.

3 Takeaways:

- Storms are trending to only get gnarlier and less predictable
- Wildfires pose a larger and more diffused threat than the immediate hear and now
- The critters we think about existing and effecting our ecosystems today are not the ones we'll be thinking about tomorrow.

Critical Incident Management

Poppy Potter, Suellen Sack, and Jack Lee, Voyageur Outward Bound School

The Voyageur Outward Bound School will share its experience with critical incident management from recent experiences. Jack Lee, Executive Director, along with Suellen Sack and Poppy Potter will share their learning from critical incident management. This team will articulate important steps during these stressful situations. From supporting the instructors in the field, to critical communications with staff, families, board and public, to emergency management team roles and support for students' families.

3 Takeaways:

- Roles and responsibilities in Emergency Response Team
- Supporting field staff, and student families
- Communication - internal and external

Medical Training for Summer Staff

Greg Fleming, NOLS Wilderness Medicine

This presentation will focus on ways refresh important wilderness medicine skills in-house. Often staff go 9 months without practicing their wilderness medicine skills and this presentation will address how to bring everyone back up to speed before the start of your season.

Participants will:

- Leave with tools you can use to keep your team's wilderness skills fresh
- Gain resources to practice wilderness medicine skills and concepts
- Reinforce common concepts in wilderness medicine

Diverse Populations and Outdoor Accessibility

Abigail Lucas, Wilderness Inquiry

Wilderness Inquiry has been providing experiences in the wilderness for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds for over 30 years. Through years of hands-on experience Wilderness Inquiry has become one of the leaders in outdoor accessibility, despite the inherent unpredictability of the great outdoors.

Creating a Comprehensive Risk Management Database

Kathleen Floberg, YMCA Camp Widjiwagan and Kurt Simer, BOLD & GOLD

This presentation will give your organization ideas for how to move from “that sounds like a good risk management decision” to “this is a good risk management decision because it’s supported by years of data analysis.” Camp Widjiwagan has tracked incident and near miss data for 17 years. These data have been used to strengthen and guide its programming through a combination of data analysis and Committee review. Since its inception, this database has helped Widjiwagan improve in the following areas: staff training, administrative processes, field practices, and emergency planning and response.

Participants will leave with:

- Ideas for what types of data to collect
- Processes to analyze and review data
- Ways to move your staff culture towards a “pro-reporting” one

Promoting Inclusiveness in Adventure Education Programming

Dean Witman, Madison Area Technical College and Carla Hacker, University of Wisconsin- La Crosse

Historically, adventure education programming has been led by a dominant white male culture, largely of northern European ancestry. Despite assertions to the contrary, the field struggles to demonstrate advantages over mainstream education in helping learners to understand the universals in the human condition and embrace diversity as source of strength. This workshop will feature collaborative activity that invites participants to resolve the question: *are adventure education programs’ efforts to become more inclusive consistent with the needs of an increasingly diverse client base and workforce?* Participants will create products they can use in the workplace including a bibliography and a self-assessment.

Takeaways: At least three action items from the workshop that will help participants improve their risk management practice.

- Opinion statement: Participants will practice expressing their opinions clearly on an appropriate topic using the time provided
- List of resources: Participants will evaluate diverse forms of information, locate relevant sources, and use credible sources to support their arguments
- Debate: Participants will practice listening respectfully, arguing strongly but politely, and remaining focused on the core issue
- Rebuttal: Participants will demonstrate flexible thinking
- Conclusion: Participants will show empathy for diverse points of view and critically assess their behaviors and attitudes

Preparing Direct Care Staff for Emotional Risk Management

Ben Koch, New Vision Wilderness Therapy

Emotions play an important role in human judgement and in hindsight, many 'risky' situations groups find themselves in can be traced back to emotional decision-making affecting leader judgement. With this understanding in mind, this presentation will explore through a combination of lecture, activities, and group discussion how managers and leaders can prepare staff teams to understand and manage their own emotional states and provide more sound risk management decisions.

Here are the 3 main takeaways for this presentation

- Management of our own emotional states is risk management-mismanagement of emotional states leads to poor decision-making
- Managers need to proactively provide training for staff on understanding and managing their emotional states
- Non-judgmental approaches to debriefing staff post-incidents is vital in providing a safe emotional space and helping direct care staff manage emotional risk

Managing Challenging Behaviors to Prevent Crisis

Eli Jackson and Rob Van Nuland, Coulee Connections

Coming soon

Keynote Panel: A System's View

Moderated by Amy Hadow, YMCA Camp Widjiwagan

Our panelists represent a variety of outdoor and adventure education organizations. In their current roles, their approach to effective risk management must necessarily differ. Factors such as organizational mission and history, position responsibilities, past experiences, participant population, and external expectations (of parents, participants, supervisors, volunteers, etc.) all play a role in the risk-management related decisions of each of our panelists. The theme of the panel this year is "A System's View." Amy will ask the panelists a series of questions about their organizations' approaches to risk management from a systems thinking perspective. There will also be time for audience members to ask the panelists questions.