Date

Hello <insert school administrator name>,

I would like to attend the 2024 Tri-State Camp Conference as Professional Development days from March 12th-14th in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

According to the ACA (American Camp Association), the purpose of the conference is to gather camp professionals from all over the world. The camp community of over 3,000 people will be able to come together to join in on over 160 educational sessions and spend time with like-minded people who are dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of children.

Although the conference is centered on camp, I truly believe that the content of the lectures and activities are closely aligned with the strategies and practice pointers presented in teacher professional development sessions (e.g., interpersonal relationships, managing child behavior, parent communication, etc.). I believe that the key to a successful teacher-student relationship is the ability to empathize and understand the child's mind in order to foster positive social-emotional relationships.

**You can view ALL the sessions** [**here**](https://web.cvent.com/event/bdd8a5da-b021-4f03-8814-cd85308b784f/summary)**. The sessions listed below are examples of the many sessions geared towards teachers. I feel my attendance at the conference will provide me with valuable takeaways to bring to the classroom:**

**Add or subtract to the below as you see fit! [insert applicable sessions here]**

**Improvisation: It’s Not a Scary Word:** Whether your camp is a theater arts camp or a traditional camp, your campers will be thrilled to let their imaginations run wild. During this session we will enter into a safe space where all will engage in building community through a variety of games with a reminder of why we improvise and some takeaways for your camp. We will use the age-old improvisation saying “Yes, and…” to foster the growth of individual and group understanding. We will begin with a warmup consisting of a name game and an energy builder. Next, we will utilize quick improvisation games to remind us of the roots of improvisation. Lastly, we will push our imaginations to their limits with a short form game during which we remember that improvisation is not scary; it’s fun!

**Emotional Literacy Activities for Everyday Programming:** Activities that solicit a range of emotions and spark conversations are crucial - now more than ever. This workshop is for facilitators who want activities and skills to deepen connections with their groups and expand their social emotional learning repertoire for talking about emotions. We'll share effective group problem solving initiatives, quick check-in activities and reflection tools that work in any setting.

**Designing Inclusive Education: Empowering Culturally Affirming Curricula and Activities:** Education's power lies in its ability to embrace diversity. This session will empower camp professionals to create culturally affirming curricula and activities for historically underestimated youth. It emphasizes the transformative impact of cultural affirmation and provides practical strategies for recognizing and addressing biases. Through inclusive pedagogical approaches and continuous evaluation, participants learn to foster an educational environment that reflects and respects diverse perspectives. By joining, camp professionals become catalysts for inclusive, equitable, and empathetic education, shaping a brighter future for all learners.

**Imposter Syndrome - Embracing Our Strengths and Delegating Our Weaknesses:** Have you ever experienced Imposter Syndrome? Most of us that have experienced success in any way, regardless of what that success looks like, have questioned our own abilities. Stephanie teaches how to embrace our strengths and delegate our weaknesses.

**Incorporating Social-Emotional Learning Into Your Program to Meet This Moment:** Camp can be such a unique vehicle to help children reconnect with their childhood and unpack their understanding of the world around them and where they fit into it. Often we tend to overthink it or think that we lack the knowledge to offer an intentional Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum. SEL can and should be intentionally incorporated into the work we do with our campers always, but particularly now.

**Unlock Your Resurgence: Build Your Burnout Prevention and Recovery Plan:** Are you feeling drained, disconnected, or unsure of your future at camp? This session will recharge your energy, realign your purpose, and reignite your passion to maximize joy at camp. Join LEAD’s President & Founder as she introduces the Six Pillars of Resurgence, that will empower you to build your ultimate burnout prevention and recovery toolkit for camp. You’ll feel empowered to slow down, reconnect with yourself, and fully show up in your role this summer. Participants will receive 100+ original self-care challenges that will remind you of the importance of self-love and community care, enabling you to build your ultimate, strength-based self-care toolkit for your burnout prevention and recovery journey. Nurture your well-being, challenge harmful habits, and kickstart your healing!

**Experiential Activities: Stop Just Playing Games and Start Learning:** This workshop is experiential learning in action. You'll take part in a series of collaborative, hands-on activities. You'll learn, experience and reflect on 5 fundamental principles that you can apply to your group games and activities that will enable your instructors to take them to the next level.

**The 2024 Tri-State Keynotes are:**

***Danny Meyer,*** CEO of Union Square Hospitality Group

***Katie Sowers,*** American football coach

Full biographies can be found [here.](https://www.acanynj.org/tri-state-camp-conference/keynotes)

More information on the conference can be found on [www.tristatecampconference.com](http://www.tristatecampconference.com).

**I also will be able to earn 17 Continuing Education Credits and am willing to take what I learn at the conference and bring it back to help the school run training or provide professional development for my colleagues.**

Questions about the conference can be directed to me or the Director of Events, Samara Feinberg at samara@acanynj.org.

Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to hearing back from you,

<insert name here>