



## **CAMP STAFF TRAINING DAY HAWAII**

### **Sara Kuljis, Keynote**



**Sara Kuljis** is a second generation camp director. She is owner/director of Yosemite Sierra Summer Camp and Emerald Cove Day Camp, along with her husband Steve. Sara is in her second term as a Board Member of ACA Southern California/Hawaii, and has served on the Education Work Group, Policy Task Force, Executive and Institutional Advancement committees. Because Sara loves to talk a lot and tell heartwarming camp stories, she has been at the center of efforts to communicate the benefits of ACA to a broader community. Monthly “Discovery ACA” events and the annual “Everyone Goes to Camp Breakfast” are among her venues.

Prior to realizing that she was destined to follow in her parents’ footsteps as a camp director, Sara earned her B.S. in food science and nutrition from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and enjoyed careers in public relations and non-profit management. She remains passionate about developing programs and training staff, which in turn can help shape the “whole child.”

Sara is involved in a variety of school, church and neighborhood activities and serves as an officer for Star Rock Ministries. She winters in San Juan Capistrano and summers in Bass Lake with her handsome husband, three terrific children, father-in-law, at least one camp staff member and a hamster.

### **Keynote Topic: Attunement, Not Agenda**

Camp offers children not simply a series of well organized activities in which they can participate, but a community in which they are seen, heard and understood, and in which they can blossom. Creating this kind of community requires attunement on behalf of all staff. An attuned staff ensures that campers feel safe, is able to determine camper needs, and leads children creatively and confidently into experiences that allow for discovery, growth, and affirmation.

In this interactive 2-hour session, staff will:

- Explore elements that promote emotional safety at camp
- Discuss the needs of campers in their care and how to identify these needs
- Practice making scheduling decisions to meet camper needs
- Identify one tool for providing camper affirmation