



## **TSCS Podcast Episode 24 Speaker Bios**

Check out these amazing speakers from the Spring TSCS Retreat. They shared their 5 Minute Expert Talks with us at Camp Reimagined and now we're sharing them with you.

### **Emma Makdessi, Queer Camp**

[Emma Makdessi](#) (she/they) is the Director of Community Engagement for Outright Vermont. In this role Emma oversees the vision and implementation of Outright's youth and family programming, ensuring that the structures, activities, and affinity spaces help youth and families to flourish. They also direct Camp Outright, a residential summer camp with a queer twist, where they support a team of volunteer staff, craft a fun-filled itinerary for campers, coordinate logistics, and show up for youth in the ways that they need them. When she's not pouring over program plans and cabin assignments, Emma enjoys traveling, hiking, camping, and playing with her cat, Pistachio.

### **Lenny Lorenz, Invest in Seasonal Staff**

[Lenny Lorenz](#) is a seasonal Unit Manager at Camp Mosey Wood in Eastern PA. When not at camp she is a college student at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

### **Eliza Gentry, 3 D's of Dog Training**

[Eliza Gentry](#) is a camp director at Frost Valley YMCA! She oversees a traditional overnight camp program as well as an overnight horse camp program. Eliza fell in love with summer camp when she was a camper at Frost Valley. After that she worked as a counselor, coordinator, seasonal director, and a Program Instructor before becoming a camp director. Outside of camp, Eliza likes trail running, reading, camping, and picking up an unreasonable amount of hobbies.

## **Holly Hecht, Berry Picking Permit**

In addition to directing Camp Onas, [Holly](#) is the executive director of the Friends Camp Association of PA (FCA), which owns and operates Camp Onas. She works closely with the board of directors to ensure the organization is advancing its mission, evaluating its work, and planning for a bright future. Prior to returning to Onas, Holly led a 10-year career in development, working with large, national nonprofit organizations to enhance donor communications, analyze performance, and improve results.

Holly's hobbies and interests include practicing yoga, working with clay, and building things she dreams up. She is a graduate of Earlham College (BA), George school, and Newtown Friends School, and is a member of Wrightstown Friends Meeting. In addition to directing Camp Onas, Matt is a registered nurse and the operations director for the Friends Camp Association of PA.

## **Holly Lynn, International Songs at YOUR Camp**

[Holly Lynn](#) (she/her) is a Program Manager and the Summer Bridge Coordinator at Princeton-Blairstown Center (PBC). For more than 115 years, the Princeton-Blairstown Center has provided adventure-based, experiential education to youth from historically marginalized communities. As Program Manager, Holly works with PBC's partners to develop their Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and 21st-Century Learning Goals and aligns these with the programming and scheduling facilitated by the staff team. In her role as the Summer Bridge Coordinator, Holly has the joy of working with a team of facilitators and partners to bring STEM, Literacy, outdoor experiences, SEL skills, and adventure to middle-high school aged students from Trenton and Newark free of charge. Holly can often be heard belting (though often not on key) camp chants or Broadway tunes, speaking Ukrainian and supporting her friends and family there wholeheartedly, and adding plants to her already obsessive collection.

## **Jacqueline (Christy) McDonough, Camp for All**

[Jacqueline \(Christy\) McDonough](#) is a passionate educator and the founder of [Camp Jamison](#), a nonprofit summer camp that provides children in Philadelphia with the opportunity to experience the joys of summer camp. She was born and raised in Philadelphia and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from American University and a

Master of Education degree from Chestnut Hill College, where she wrote her thesis on the positive effects of nature on students.

Jacqueline has over 15 years of experience in public education, working as a classroom teacher and instructional coach in Philadelphia and Washington, DC. She is strongly committed to social justice and enjoys helping students and teachers find their voice and confidence in content areas and social justice issues.

As the Executive Director of Camp Jamison, Jacqueline oversees all aspects of the organization's operations and serves as the Camp Director during camp sessions. She founded Camp Jamison in 2008 based on her belief that all children should have access to summer camp's social and emotional benefits, which she experienced firsthand as a camper herself.

Jacqueline currently resides in Rockville, Maryland, with her husband and two children, Lola and Jude, who share her love of Camp Jamison and are committed to helping the organization continue to provide life-changing experiences for children.

### **Murphy Hammer, The Worm**

[Murphy Hammer](#) has served in many roles at many camps all across Michigan before joining Camp AGQ, [campagq.org](http://campagq.org) / [annarborymca.org](http://annarborymca.org), as the Executive Director in April 2022. Before camps and in a past life, Murphy was a social worker.

When you ask Murphy for a bio, they will say, "I have a wife and a dog. And I think rubber chickens will change the world."