



Jodi Franke
Executive Director, Colorado Lions Camp

Jodi joined the Colorado Lions Camp as the Executive Director in December 2016. She has spent the past 23 years working in the non-profit sector in executive management and administration. She is a graduate of the University of South Alabama, where she received her degree in Therapeutic Recreation. She began her camping career at an Easter Seals Camp in AL as a counselor, returned as the Sports Director, Program Director, seasonal staff member and completed her internship. After her first summer, she had found her passion which guided her life's path. During her college years, Jodi was contracted through a rehab center in AL to start a wheelchair sports program for children age 6-18 with physical disabilities and impairments. In her role as the South Alabama Coordinator, she organized, facilitated and coached monthly adaptive sports clinics for over 3 years. Since that time, she has managed year-round camping programs in 3 different states serving children and adults with special needs. Her greatest challenge was the start-up of a therapeutic camping program for children with special needs & terminal illnesses in her hometown of Bradenton, FL. She designed and managed the program for over 8 years. Beyond her camp career, she has provided consultant services to like-minded non-profits focusing on grant writing and organizational development. She was a Certified Case Manager in the State of Florida for a foster care program, an ARC group home manager in Illinois, and the Director of Child & Youth Services for the Department of Defense in the Marshall Islands.

As continuing education is critical to maintaining standards for programs serving individuals with special needs, Jodi continues course work through the nationally recognized American Camping Association, which includes the Camp Director's Certification and the Standards Course 1 & 2 for Camp Accreditation. In addition, she is also well versed through trainings/courses specific to operational & risk management, program outcomes, grant writing, government contracts oversight and ropes course facilitation through previous work experiences and community foundations. She is inspired by the campers she serves and the staff she has the privilege to work alongside. Jodi's favorite quote is one from Bob Marley: "Live the life you love, love the life you live", and it resonates as she witnesses the magical moments that camp provides. Seeing a camper try new activities and succeeding in developmental goals, is just as inspiring as mentoring staff who have a life changing experience from working with the program, just as she did so many years ago. Witnessing first-hand the growth, development, joy and accomplishment of campers, staff, and volunteers keeps her on path to living this life she loves.

Above all, her greatest love in life is her beautiful family: Bryan, Adalyn and Ryleigh. Together, they enjoy spending their time in the outdoors exploring, camping and travelling.

Jodi is extremely thankful for the opportunity to serve the Colorado Lions Camp and is looking forward to an amazing Summer Camp 2017!