

Kurt Podeszwa

Kurt Podeszwa is a camping professional, speaker and educator. He has a bachelor's degree in Education, and has spent much of his adult life working in outdoor and adventure education, with over 25 years of professional youth development and nonprofit management experience. Kurt is committed to safety, fun, and learning in the outdoor environment.

As the Camp Director for Camp For All in Burton, Texas, a camp for children and adults with special needs and challenging illnesses, Kurt has had the opportunity to work with a variety of special populations. Some of these populations include individuals with traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, down syndrome, muscular dystrophy, cancer, kidney disease, autism, cerebral palsy and more.

Kurt is an accomplished presenter and author, and the founder of Journey Consulting. He is a faculty member of Expert Online Training and has presented at national and regional conferences, as well as for companies and schools on topics ranging from staff training and development to adaptive programming and processing. Kurt has held various positions within the American Camp Association, most recently on the national board.

Kurt has worked with companies such as Kraft, Motorola, Chrysler and more to help develop teamwork, enhance communication and build leaders in those companies. He has also worked with organizations to develop their mission, vision and value statements and create strategic plans to help live out those statements.

Camp For All serves over 11,000 campers a year. He first started working with camps during his undergraduate years at Western Illinois University and found a love for working with children in the outdoors. Having worked at a number of camps across the country, Kurt has spent the last 12 years at Camp For All. Podeszwa describes Camp For All as “ A place where children and adults come to discover life and focus on the things they can do rather than what they cannot.”

To stay active Kurt likes to go rock climbing, do Crossfit, go running, and enjoys anything active in the outdoors.

At the 2018 Able, Active, and Adaptive Climate and Diversity Conference, Kurt will be presenting an interactive workshop “ *The Language of Adaption: How Our Words Affect Our Actions*” that will focus on the internal and external language used for adapting activities and for those living with disabilities. Kurt will lead participants on a journey to discover how they think about adaptation through combining video, lecture, small group interaction, and discussion.

For more information on Kurt Podeszwa and Camp for all visit: www.campforall.org