

## **Luke D. Kantor**

Director - YMCA Camp Kenan, Youth Sports, & Teen Leadership Programs  
Leadership Niagara LYNC Program Facilitator

Leading and designing youth leadership programs for over 14 years, Luke brings a wealth of knowledge and a spirit of adventure to the team for Leadership Niagara as the Program Facilitator for our Leadership for the Youth of Niagara Communities (LYNC) Program. Each year the LYNC Program consists of 100 high school students from 13 local high schools in Niagara County and Grand Island.

Starting off his professional career working with college students as a faculty member at Niagara County Community College, Luke organized and implemented adventure education programs, student clubs / organizations, large college events (open houses, orientations, student career days), and student leadership programs for the college. He has helped to create many opportunities for students at the college to learn about themselves and connect with others coordinating semi-annual Leadership Retreats. Throughout his time at NCCC he has created and taught multiple teambuilding and ropes course college courses, worked with local school districts and area non-profits, and taught a team of student facilitators to implement adventure education programming with the community.

Since his time at NCCC, he has spent the last 6 years as the director for YMCA Camp Kenan, a 52-acre resident summer camp and retreat center in Barker, NY on the shore of Lake Ontario, where he works with countless youth, teens, and adults from across Western New York. Luke leads and coaches a team of staff to implement progressive experiential education programming with individuals and teams through teambuilding, group challenge activities, low and high ropes courses, and leadership programs. He also runs teen leadership programs, volunteer programs, and youth sports for the Lockport Family YMCA along with being a trainer for the YMCA of the USA.

Participating in the adult program of Leadership Niagara in 2013 Luke started assisting as a volunteer youth mentor for the LYNC Program and has grown into his current role in the organization. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Community and Student Services and uses it to assist in the various programs he coordinates.

In his spare time, he enjoys the outdoors, a hot cup of coffee, spending time with his wife Jennifer around a campfire, and volunteering for local non-profit agencies and groups. He has been a member of the Niagara County Auxiliary Police and certified New York State Peace Officer until recently when he decided to spend additional time leading and coaching others. Having a strong work ethic, a zeal for imaginative play, and a vast love of learning and facilitating, Luke's place is working with others and groups to bring out strengths and improve team dynamics.