



Open to all Youth Organization  
Adult Volunteers & Professionals

**Keynote Address**

**Lyndsey (Medders) Fennelly**

All-American point guard at Iowa State (2007) and drafted by the WNBA Indiana Fever

# Youth Safety Summit

November 15, 2025

8:30am - 4:30pm

Maytag Scout Center

6123 Scout Trail, Des Moines

Registration





## Youth Safety Summit

November 15  
Free Event

# Schedule

	8:30 - 9:15am	<b>Registration &amp; Networking</b> Continental Breakfast
	9:15am	<b>Opening Reflections</b>
	9:30 - 10:30am	<b>Breakout Session One</b> Suicide Prevention - QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer (Part 1 of 2) Understanding Autism: Building Bridges of Empathy & Inclusion
	9:45 - 11:45am	<b>Breakout Session Two</b> Suicide Prevention - QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer (Part 2 of 2) Inclusion Toolbox for Volunteers
	Noon - 1:00pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Keynote - Lyndsey Fennelly</b> Undeclared: An Unbeatable, Unbreakable Spirit
	1:15 - 2:15pm	<b>Breakout Session Three</b> Crisis Stabilization: Opportunities in Iowa Leading the Way: Strategies for Working with Male & Female Youth
	2:30 - 3:30pm	<b>Breakout Session Four</b> Recognizing and Responding to Youth-on-Youth Harm Ending the Silence on Mental Health
	3:45pm	<b>Ask the Experts &amp; Closing</b>

Open to all Youth Organization Adult Volunteers & Professionals

# YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT

## AN INVITATION



### **MATT HILL, SCOUT EXECUTIVE/CEO**

*Scouting America - Mid Iowa Council*

Dear Youth Advocates and Leaders,

On behalf of Scouting America's Mid Iowa Council, I invite you to the Youth Safety Summit. As both a parent and volunteer, I appreciate your commitment to youth safety and thank you for sharing your time and expertise to support and protect young people in your organization. The Youth Safety Summit is open to all Youth Organization Adult Volunteers & Professionals; membership with Scouting America is not required. There is no cost to attend but we do ask that you preregister. At this summit, we will join together to deepen our understanding of youth protection, strengthen the measures that keep our programs safe, and collaborate on best practices that ensure every young person in our care can thrive. Your role as an adult volunteer is vital, not only in implementing safety measures but also in modeling integrity and responsibility for our youth.

Throughout the summit, you will have opportunities to participate in informative sessions, engage in meaningful discussions, and connect with fellow volunteers who share your dedication. We encourage you to ask questions, share your experiences, and take full advantage of the resources available.

The safety and well-being of our youth is our highest priority. Together, we can create an environment where every child feels protected, respected, and empowered. Thank you for being an essential part of this mission.

I look forward to greeting you at the summit and working together to build a safer future for youth across Iowa.

Sincerely,  
Matt Hill  
Scout Executive/CEO

# YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT KEYNOTE



## LYNDSEY (MEDDERS) FENNELLY

*Mental Health Advocate*

*All-American point guard at Iowa State and drafted by the WNBA Indiana Fever*

*Keynote: Undefeated: An Unbeatable, Unbreakable Spirit*

Lyndsey (Medders) Fennelly is former Iowa State women's basketball All-American and WNBA draftee of the Indiana Fever in 2007, as well as an Iowa State Hall of Fame inductee (2024).

She has been a successful business owner and entrepreneur as well as volunteer contributor in Ames, Iowa. Lyndsey has been a loud advocate since 2018 as a public speaker on mental health, visiting with over 130 engagements and reaching over 20,000 individuals in sharing her journey, hoping to create awareness while reducing the shame and stigma.

She is a Mom to Will (11) and Callie (7) and married to Iowa State assistant basketball coach, Billy Fennelly. Lyndsey shares her leadership stories, entrepreneurial ideas, and mental health lessons with audiences nationwide. Sit back and listen better than her two children, it won't take much!

# YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



## **SUICIDE PREVENTION - QPR: QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER**

*Ryan Nesbit, Co-founder Alive and Running Iowa  
Breakout Sessions One & Two*

This training equips participants with practical tools to recognize and respond to signs of suicidal ideation. Attendees will learn how to QPR: Question, Persuade, and Refer someone who may be at risk, as well as how to seek help for themselves or others. The session covers the common causes and warning signs of suicide, and provides guidance on supporting someone in crisis.

Additional topics include suicide-related statistics, the impact of suicide loss and grief, and an understanding of suicidal ideations. Participants will also receive information on local and statewide resources for suicide prevention and mental health support. This session is designed to empower families, educators, and youth-serving professionals with knowledge and confidence to take action and save lives.

## **UNDERSTANDING AUTISM: BUILDING BRIDGES OF EMPATHY AND INCLUSION**

*Erin Enyart, Executive Director, Autism Society of Iowa  
Tiffany Hoffman, Associate Director, Autism Society of Iowa  
Breakout Session One*

This session offers a practical and compassionate overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), highlighting common traits, strengths, and challenges individuals may experience. We'll explore key areas such as communication, social interaction, behavior, sensory processing, and safety concerns—especially those relevant to youth environments.

Attendees will gain insight into effective strategies that families, educators, and youth-serving professionals can use to foster inclusion and success. The presentation features real-life stories and photos from Iowa families impacted by autism, along with a guide to statewide resources available to support individuals with ASD and those who care for them.

# YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



## **INCLUSION TOOLBOX FOR VOLUNTEERS**

*Kevin Harris, Special Needs Parent & Scouting America Volunteer  
Breakout Session Two*

Creating inclusive spaces for all youth starts with understanding the tools available to support them. We'll explore how a Joining Conference can serve as a bridge between families and youth organizations, fostering collaboration and ensuring every child has the opportunity to participate fully. This session will introduce volunteers to key educational concepts such as IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) and 504 Plans and how similar tools can be used in your youth organization.

Volunteers will leave with practical strategies to support diverse needs, promote accessibility, and build welcoming environments in Scouting and other youth programs. Whether you're new to inclusion or looking to strengthen your approach, this session offers valuable insights and resources to help you support all youth with confidence and compassion.

## **CRISIS STABILIZATION: OPPORTUNITIES IN IOWA**

*Tony Raymer, LISW, RPT-S, Director of Brain Health Easter Seals of Iowa  
Breakout Session Three*

A brief overview of crisis services available across Iowa, including how to access crisis services and identify youth (and adults) in need of additional support.

## **LEADING THE WAY: STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH MALE & FEMALE YOUTH**

*Christine Halbrook, Scouting America Volunteer  
Breakout Session Three*

Youth organizations like Scouting America bring together youth of all backgrounds, fostering leadership, teamwork, and adventure. As a volunteer, understanding how to support both males and females ensures an inclusive, empowering experience for all. This seminar explores practical strategies for mentorship, communication, and activity planning that engage and inspire every youth member. Attendees will learn best practices for fostering a positive environment, addressing challenges, and creating meaningful opportunities for growth. Whether you're a seasoned leader or new to an organization, this session will equip you with valuable tools to guide and support youth effectively.

# YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS



## RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO YOUTH-ON-YOUTH HARM

*Jordan Mix, Director of Educational Programming, Iowa Safe Schools*

*Breakout Session Four*

As young people navigate friendships, peer groups, and early relationships, adults who work with them often serve as the first line of defense against harmful behaviors. This interactive workshop equips troop leaders and volunteers with practical tools to identify, interrupt, and prevent peer-to-peer abuse in its many forms. We'll explore the warning signs of bullying and harassment, discuss how hazing has evolved in 2025 and what it looks like today. We'll also examine the early indicators of dating violence and unhealthy relationship dynamics among youth. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of the behaviors to watch for, strategies for fostering safe and supportive environments, and resources to take action when concerns arise.

## NAMI IN OUR OWN VOICE

*Facilitated by NAMI Iowa*

*Breakout Session Four*

NAMI In Our Own Voice presentations change attitudes, assumptions and ideas about people with mental health conditions and provide a personal perspective of mental health conditions, as leaders with lived experience talk openly about what it's like to have a mental health condition.

This presentation will provide:

- An opportunity to hear open and honest perspectives on a highly misunderstood topic
- A chance to ask leaders questions, allowing for a deeper understanding of mental health conditions and dispelling of stereotypes and misconceptions
- The understanding that people with mental health conditions have lives enriched by hopes, dreams and goals
- Information on how to learn more about mental health and get involved with the mental health community

# YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT PRESENTERS



## ERIN ENYART

*Executive Director, Autism Society of Iowa (ASI)*

*Breakout Session One*

*Understanding Autism: Building Bridges of Empathy and Inclusion*

Erin Enyart is the Executive Director of the Autism Society of Iowa, a role she assumed in February 2025 after serving as an ASI Board Member since 2014 and Associate Director since 2016. As the mother of two young adults with Autism, Harper (20) and Gibson (19), Erin's advocacy is deeply personal. Her experience as a caregiver drives her commitment to advancing services, resources, and opportunities for individuals with significant support needs. Outside of her professional life, Erin enjoys spending time with her husband, Jerrod, her extremely high-maintenance Shui Tsu, Olive, and curling up with a good book.



## CHRISTINE HALBROOK

*Scouting America Volunteer*

*Breakout Session Three*

*Leading the Way: Strategies for Working with Male & Female Youth*

Christine Halbrook is dedicated to shaping the future of Scouting America by fostering inclusion, safety, and belonging. As Assistant Scoutmaster for Troops 50G & 50B in Des Moines, she has seen Scouts thrive when young people of all genders grow and lead together. With her children James (Life Rank) and Sophia (Star Rank) fully engaged, Christine guides Scouts toward a future where every participant feels safe and supported.

Her vision began as a Lion Den Leader, witnessing boys and girls build community through shared experiences. This insight fuels her commitment to making co-ed Scouting a flourishing model for tomorrow's leaders. Christine collaborates with Council staff to create inclusive programming at Camp Mitigwa, teaching Scouts about boundaries, addressing concerns, and fostering unity. These foundations prepare Scouts to lead in a diverse world.

Christine believes Scouting America's future relies on welcoming every young person. By prioritizing respect and shared responsibility, Scouting inspires future generations. For Christine, the path is clear: every Scout—regardless of gender or orientation—can grow in confidence, character, and community.

# YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT PRESENTERS



## KEVIN HARRIS

*Special Needs Parent & Scouting America Volunteer*

*Breakout Session Two*

*Inclusion Toolbox for Volunteers*

Kevin Harris is a committed parent and advocate, drawing from personal experience to support families navigating the challenges of raising a medically complex adult child. His journey has shaped his dedication to ensuring families receive coordinated care and access to vital support systems.

In Scouting America, Kevin serves as Committee Chair for Troop/Crew 188 in Ankeny and as Unit Commissioner for Johnston Cub Scout Packs, where he works to make Scouting welcoming and accessible for all youth. He also contributes to his community as a long-standing member of Johnston Community School District's School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) and as a board member for Dance Without Limits, a program designed to empower dancers with special needs.

Kevin extends his advocacy as a Family Advocate with the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council. He previously chaired the Council's Public Policy Committee and currently serves on its Executive Committee, helping to advance policies that benefit individuals with disabilities and their families. Kevin is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with those who share a commitment to inclusion, support, and positive change.



## TIFFANY HOFFMAN

*Associate Director, Autism Society of Iowa*

*Breakout Session One*

*Understanding Autism: Building Bridges of Empathy and Inclusion*

Tiffany Hoffman is a former early childhood special education para turned teacher and program director. She is a proud mom of three incredible kids—one navigating freshman year of college with autism, a high school senior pursuing their own degree in early childhood special education, and a middle schooler with ADHD and Cerebral Palsy 1. Her personal and professional experiences fuel her mission to advocate for and support individuals and families across the state of Iowa. When she and her husband aren't working, you'll find them cheering on their kids in their passions, traveling, or relaxing at home with a good movie.

# YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT PRESENTERS



## JORDAN MIX

*Director of Educational Programming, Iowa Safe Schools  
Breakout Session Four*

*Recognizing and Responding to Youth-on-Youth Harm*

Jordan Mix (they/them) has been with Iowa Safe Schools since March 2020, where they provide education and support to parents, families, teachers, and youth-serving professionals to create safer, more affirming spaces for LGBTQ youth. A proud Drake University graduate with a degree in Law, Politics, and Society, Jordan also completed a graduate program in Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. Outside of their professional work, Jordan owns a small coffee company and lives in Des Moines with their wife, twin nine-month-olds, and a very cautious cat. They're passionate about women's sports, love spending time in the kitchen, and firmly believe there's no bad day that ice cream can't improve.



## RYAN NESBIT

*Co-founder Alive and Running Iowa  
Breakout Sessions One & Two*

*Suicide Prevention - QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer*

Ryan Nesbit, co-founder of Alive and Running Iowa, is a certified trainer of QPR's "industry-leading approach to suicide prevention." QPR (Question. Persuade. Refer.), just like CPR, is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can SAVE lives. QPR is the most widely taught gatekeeper training in the world.

After Ryan's close friend Rodger committed suicide in 1991 and after many years of inner turmoil, lost sleep, late-night conversations with friends & family, Ryan decided to help. He wants to help another Rodger. He wants to prevent this from happening again. He wants people to know there are other options. Ryan is now a QPR and an ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) instructor. Ryan teaches these suicide intervention trainings all over Iowa.

# YOUTH SAFETY SUMMIT PRESENTERS



## **TONY RAYMER, LISW, RPT-S**

*Director of Brain Health Easterseals of Iowa  
Breakout Session Three*

*Crisis Stabilization: Opportunities in Iowa*

Tony Raymer, LISW, RPT-S, has worked in mental health and disability services in Polk County since 2007. A Wartburg College and University of Iowa MSW graduate, he supports children, families, and adults with disabilities through individual, group, and community-based therapy. As Director of Brain Health at Easterseals Iowa, Tony leads three programs: Outpatient Therapy, Crisis Stabilization, and Multisystemic Therapy. He's served in leadership roles with the Iowa Board of Social Work and the National Association of Social Workers. Outside of work, Tony enjoys biking, kayaking, hiking with his family, learning woodturning, and is the proud father of two.

# ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATIONS



## **SARAH KENDRICK, PH.D.**

*Clinical Psychologist & Scouting America Volunteer*

Sarah Kendrick is a clinical psychologist licensed in California and Iowa. She has worked with diverse clients in public healthcare, primary care, the VA, and private practice. Much of her career has focused on helping individuals who have experienced interpersonal violence and providing safety planning. She has extensive experience treating trauma. Dr. Kendrick served as training director for the Psychosocial Medicine Psychology Internship Program at San Francisco General Hospital and supervised psychology interns. She currently provides psychosocial evaluations for diagnostic purposes. Active in Scouting, she has been her son's den leader for three years and is the Popcorn Kernel for her pack and the Twin Rivers District.

During the Youth Safety Summit, Dr. Kendrick will be available to offer support, answer questions, provide referrals, or just need a safe space to re-center. These interactions are not therapy, but one-on-one opportunities to discuss anything that comes up during the day.

**Thank you to our partners**

