

# The Camp Abilities Newsletter "The C A N"

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“The CAN” (Camp Abilities Newsletter) is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Janet Joseph, “The CAN” founder and Lauren Lieberman's mother. “The CAN”, as in, yes YOU CAN!

# Meet the Staff and Specialties

The Camp Abilities staff and specialists have been working tirelessly and hard to make sure that Camp Abilities is at it's very best. It's time to shine a light on these wonderful people!



Lieberman (rightmost) guides an athlete down the docks to go fishing.

## Founder and Director of Camp Abilities

**Lauren Lieberman** is celebrating the 25th year of Camp Abilities Brockport! Lieberman spent the fall of 2019 starting Camp Abilities in Ghana, Ireland, and in Brazil on a Global Fulbright Scholarship through the US Government. She has attended so many other Camp Abilities all over the world that she can't count the exact number. She is currently on the board to start a new Camp Abilities in Kenya in the near future. "I hope everyone is thinking about starting more camps to provide more opportunities for children with visual impairments. Don't forget, "Believe You Can Achieve!"

## Assistant Director and Yoga Specialist

This is **Alex Stribing's** tenth year at Camp Abilities. Stribing has been to Camp Abilities Brockport, Saratoga, Boston, Delaware, and Texas. She just recently received a Ph.D. where she specialized in motor development and visual impairment. Her favorite thing about camp is "the feeling of happiness and excitement in the room and being around the camp fam." While getting ready for virtual camp, Stribing bought an electronic drum set and is taking lessons over quarantine.



Stribing (on the right) embraces an athlete as they smile for a picture.



## Graduate Assistant

**Matthew Farwell** has been a part of the Camp Abilities family for five years. He has helped with Camp Abilities Brockport for 4 years and a summer at Camp Abilities Tucson. Farwell will be moving in the next month, and we are very excited for him. He loves golf and has a hat collection.

### Graduate Assistant

This will be **Jasmine Bradwell's** fourth year at Camp Abilities. She attended Camp Abilities Saratoga, Boston, North Georgia, Long Island, Kasher Camp Abilities and, Camp Abilities at Lions Camp Badger. Her favorite part of camp is seeing the athletes do things they've never done before. "Camp season is the best season!" Bradwell's goal is to travel around the world to go to other Camp Abilities.

Bradwell (on the right) helping an athlete with her swing.



### Graduate Assistant

This is **Cristina Iannacchino's** second time at Camp Abilities Brockport. She has been to Camp Abilities Spencer as well as the mini camps held during the school year at Brockport College! Iannacchino is a lifeguard and a swim instructor. She also loves to play volleyball. One of her favorite things about camp is Care to Share! Care to Share is a time where the athletes have the opportunity to share their goals as well as their amazing accomplishments.

### Graduate Assistant and Assistant Team Leader

**Kelsey Sammon** is going into her third year at Camp Abilities Brockport. She has also been to Camp Abilities at Camp Badger. This is Sammon's first year as a camp Grad Assistant! Her favorite thing about camp is tandem biking and Terry Kelly's dance parties! Terry Kelly performs at camp so that we can all sing, dance, and have a good time!

Sammon (on the right) smiles for a picture during the Camp Abilities Color Powder Dance.



### Yellow Team Leader

This is **Lizzie Weaver's** 11th year at Camp Abilities Brockport! She has been a Group Leader, Specialist, and/or Co-Director at Camp Abilities Saratoga, Camp Abilities Long Island, Camp Abilities Delaware, and Camp Abilities Florida. Weaver is a ballroom dancer! When she isn't dancing, she loves to bake and cook for friends and family. Her favorite place to be is at Dewey Beach in Delaware or on top of a mountain.





### **Green Team Leader**

This is **Erin Scheno's** fifth year at Camp Abilities Brockport. She has been to Camp Abilities Pennsylvania, Tucson, Saratoga, Canada, Delaware, and Texas. Scheno has a blog on Instagram about Chicken Tenders @iTendtoGetTenders, and is currently in the process of moving to South Carolina. She has spent quarantine binge-watching Survivor, and learning how to golf!

### **Red Team Leader**

This is **Ali Weaver's** 11th year at Camp Abilities. She has been to Camp Abilities Brockport, Saratoga, Texas, Nebraska, Oregon, and Washington. Both her sister Lizzie and their mom help out with camp! Weaver loves to go hiking and knows how to play the drums.



### **Blue Team Leader**

**Sara Koppenhaver** is going into her seventh year at camp. She has done Camp Abilities Brockport, Saratoga, Delaware, and Oregon (Camp Spark). Koppenhaver has had her cat Fletcher since she was in 6th grade. She is a big history fan and loves checking out historical sites and museums. Koppenhaver also loves going to live sporting events; her favorite has been the 2015 Women's World Cup Quarterfinal match.

### **Assistant Blue Team Leader**

**Peter Rifenburg** has been to camp for four years. He has helped out at Camp Abilities Brockport and Saratoga. Rifenburg is a Brockport student and he is an Ironman triathlete. His favorite camp activity is goalball!



Rifenburg comes to Mirror Lake Drive at the end of the bike segment of Ironman Lake Placid as the Camp Abilities family cheer him on.



### Assistant Green Team Leader

This is **Rachel Sherman's** fourth year at camp. She has been to Camp Abilities Brockport, Long Island, Saratoga, Kosher Camp, and Camp Badger. Sherman is the Director of Camp Abilities at Lions Camp Badger! She was also a graduate assistant last year. Her favorite quote is, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

### Track & Field Specialist

**Jeffrey Hart** has been to camp for about seven years. He also helped at Camp Abilities Brockport, Texas, Washington, and Camp SPARK in Oregon. Hart is a huge Star Wars nerd and listens to all of the audiobooks. He only eats plants, no meat. "Always check your bike before riding," Hart says. "I rode 10 miles out and my pedal fell off. It was a long walk back home."



Track Specialist Hart is standing to the side of a long jump pit holding a reaching stick with a bells on the end. This helps the jumper have a target to jump at.



### Fitness Specialist

**Dorothy Niemira** has attended Camp Abilities Brockport for eight years. She has also been to Camp Abilities Finland, Saratoga, Long Island, and Delaware. She just started geocaching and loves it! "Check it out it's a worldwide treasure hunt!" She also loves the beach.

### Soccer Specialist

This is **Emily Gilbert's** ninth year at Camp Abilities Brockport! She has been a specialist ninth Camp Abilities Saratoga, Camp Abilities Delaware, and Camp Abilities Florida. Gilbert is left-handed! She also loves all of the Harry Potter books and movies, but "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone is my favorite because it was the beginning of them all!" Her favorite place to be is on Seneca Lake with her family!





### **Goalball Specialist**

This is **Jess Parfitt's** seventh year at camp. She has also been a part of Camp Abilities Utah for three years. Parfitt has an extra bone in her body! It's true! She has 2 navicular bones inside of her foot. Her favorite place is the mountains where she hikes and camps. Parfitt would love to go backpacking, both in the States and in Europe. Her dream is to see parts of Europe and learn more about it!

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# **A Loss of Sight, Never a Loss of Vision.**