

NATALIE LIVINGSTON

THE WAVE WATERPARK

VISTA, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

Natalie Livingston's dream growing up was to be an elementary school teacher. She taught backyard swim lessons as an early teen and then started her first "official job" as a lifeguard at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Los Angeles. Livingston continued her education at Biola University for Elementary Studies, but was quickly sucked into the waterpark world full-time.

"I had no intention of being a waterpark operator, but sometimes the right position just finds you," said Livingston. "What is awesome about the waterpark world is that it has the business side, but also has been a great place for my teaching background and passion."

In 2000, Livingston helped to open Knott's Soak City in Buena Park, California. Livingston spent many years with Cedar Fair undertaking not only a management position in the waterpark, but additional theme park projects in her role as Manager of Corporate Training and Development. She worked to create effective customer service training programs for over 5,000 employees annually, opened restaurants and created an internal auditing and motivation program for the theme park and waterpark.

For the last 10 years Livingston has taken the lead as the General Manager of The Wave Waterpark in Vista, California. Currently, she is a Program Leader for IAM / StarGuard Elite and is a 5 Star Instructor. She previously was an Instructor Trainer and Associate for Ellis & Associates. Livingston has earned certifications as an AFO, CPO and ServeSafe Food Manager. She also is a Certified Park & Recreation Professional (CPRP). In addition, Livingston was recognized with the Manager of the Year award in 2012 from the City of Vista.

During her 20+ year career in waterparks, Livingston has trained tens of thousands of lifeguards and thousands of instructors. She is proud of the work culture she has created through the use of fun employee themes each year that have earned her and her team many awards including the 2014 Best of Aquatics award for Lifeguard Management from "Aquatics International Magazine." Livingston has worked hard to give back to the waterpark and aquatics industries and has been a regular speaker at many conferences and has created several platforms for sharing her vault of ideas and resources in the aquatics community. In addition, Livingston has worked hard to create a progressive leadership training program and dispatch training program that has trained and benefited many aquatics leadership staff across the country and internationally.

For the last 3 years, Livingston has continued to expand her knowledge by working as a consultant with Oostman Aquatic Safety Consulting and has taken on accident and drowning investigations, expert witness work, litigation support and aquatic safety consulting. She currently serves on the WWA's Education Committee and loves to connect to her teaching roots while focusing on training and development for the aquatics community. Livingston is passionate about continuing to spread her mission and belief that "everyone is important."

Livingston lives in Murrieta, California with her husband of 10 years, Jeff and their two children, daughter Sailor, age 6, and son Maxton, age 3.

