



# Darlene Kotteles Center Director



*I hire and manage teachers who work with kids on how to code in a variety of computer languages such as Scratch, JavaScript, Lua, and C# through the development of video games.*

### **How long have you been a center director?**

I have been a center director for Code Ninjas for 2 years.

### **Where do you currently work?**

I work at Code Ninjas Coding School for kids ages 5-14.

### **How do you spend most of your time at work?**

- 1) Contacting new customers to sign up for tours
- 2) Explaining Code Ninjas' program and how it works to potential customers
- 3) Hiring and managing Senseis (teachers)
- 4) Making sure our technology is working
- 5) Developing programs for our Ninjas and their parents

### **Why did you choose this career?**

This career chose me! Being the center director requires me to utilize all of the experience I have gained over the years.

### **What did you do to prepare for this career?**

I started my career path directly out of high school and obtained my Cosmetology license through vocational school. By the age of 16, I started working as a salon assistant, and after high school worked as a cosmetologist for 5 years doing what I loved. I studied my craft, continuously took classes to better myself and was one of the first hairdressers to offer hair extensions! Unfortunately, my allergies to the chemicals caused me to pursue a new direction utilizing the skills I learned in customer service, taking care of people and making them feel great. Although I was devastated to change career paths because being a hairdresser was the only thing I ever wanted to do, I am now able to use my experiences as a center director.

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

The thing I enjoy most about my career is working with kids. The program enhances problem solving skills and allows Ninjas to be as creative as they can be. The Ninjas who attend are all amazing and have a variety of strengths. It is the most wonderful feeling in the world to see a Ninja struggle with a concept, work through it with a Sensei, and with hard work and problem solving they accomplish their task and advance through our program. I use my teaching skills every day — I even teach Senseis how to teach!

### **What do you find most challenging about your job?**

Managing Senseis who are often teenagers.

### **What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?**

No matter what field you are in, work hard, persevere through tough times and be the best YOU that you can be.

### **DARLENE'S FUN FACTS**

#### **Favorite Book:**

The Hunger Games Series

#### **Favorite Song:**

We Weren't Born to Follow  
Bon Jovi

#### **Favorite TV Show:**

Friends



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