

AEE HEARTLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2024



MARCH 28-30

Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, 3/28

5:00PM-9:00PM	Registration Open	Freeberg Hall
7:00PM-9:30PM	Evening Social	Burke Lounge

FRIDAY, 3/29

8:00AM-8:45AM	Breakfast	Freeberg Hall
9:00AM-9:45AM	Opening	Friends Room
10:00AM-10:45AM	Workshop 1	Friends Room
11:00AM-11:45AM	Workshop 2	Friends Room
12:00PM-12:45PM	Lunch	Freeberg Hall
1:00PM-1:45PM	Keynote	Friends Room
2:00PM-2:45PM	Workshop 3	Friends Room
3:00PM-5:00PM	Open Play/Free Time	Friends Room
5:30PM-6:15PM	Dinner	Freeberg Hall
6:30PM-7:30PM	ActivatEE - What's Your Story	Friends Room
7:00PM-9:30PM	Evening Social	Freeberg Hall

SATURDAY, 3/30

8:00AM-8:45AM	Continental Breakfast	Freeberg Hall
9:00AM-10:00AM	Get Connected! Learn More About Getting Involved in the AEE Heartland Region	Freeberg Hall
9:00AM-10:00AM	Check-Out	Freeberg Hall

LUCINDA MARTINELLI

Facilitator or Teacher: Which are You, and When

River Radio Room

In experiential education, it can be difficult to sort out when we need to be a teacher and when to be a facilitator. And what's the difference anyway? In this presentation, we'll sort out the similarities and differences and decide when the experiential educator needs each role. The implications for staff training will also be discussed.

DANA JOHNSON

Discovery Activities: Facilitating for Enhanced Participant Understanding of Themselves and Their Team

Friends Room

Join a hands on conversation focused on team building activities designed to bring about participant conversation to discover new understandings of their team members, roles within their team and a clearer understanding of themselves. A team building program progression has many elements, from the welcome all the way to the final debrief. Problem solving initiatives are the prize jewel getting all the attention. Let's take time to analyze and perfect our facilitation of discovery activities which bring about deeper conversations.

JAKOB PASDERTZ

Choices and Decisions: The Intersection of Intentional Facilitation and Experiential Pedagogy

Lions Pavilion

This workshop challenges the notion that participants are truly offered choice. More often than not they are offered the opportunity to make a decision. The facilitators' ability to recognize and create opportunities for participants to be active in their own experience can vastly improve quality on all ends. Attendees can expect to engage in examination of the concept of choice, the dissection of heuristics as they apply to decision making, and conversation around the employment of facilitation tools to intentionally offer choice and decision in a program.

JODY M. MILES

Keeping Interpretation REAL: Fundamental Bedrocks for Outdoor Educators

Friends Room

This workshop will have participants practice, out loud, skills of communication while holding REAL natural resources in hand, which will provide a view of the "art of interpretation" or the "art in communication". This workshop will go over the 9 different "fundamental bedrocks" which I, Jody Miles, have learned through 30 years of professional experience in experiential education. The workshop will cover the silly and embarrassing mistakes I've made to the times of profound impact in the experiential learning environmental of our natural and cultural resources. It is also designed to bring up controversy in experiential education and provoke discussion on how we, educators, can do better to make a bigger impact.

MARK FELDMAN

Incorporating Competition to Strengthen Teams and Community

River Radio Room

We will start with a look at the problem that caused a change in our HHOOTS programming: lack of engagement and motivation. We will play an OWLS cooperation activity. Then, look at the creative process of developing the program. We will play another OWLS cooperation activity. We will discuss successful creative programming stories. Play a last competition game. Winners will be announced, and the class will be dismissed.

SYDNEY POGUE

Play Matters: Cultivating Creativity, Connection, and Resilience

Lions Pavilion

At the core of our work is the essence of play— it's what drives us and defines our purpose. Play is a key factor in shaping both children and adults into well-rounded individuals, impacting them physically, mentally, and socially. Recent research highlights the significant role play plays in social-emotional learning and overall well-being, contributing to the holistic development of individuals. In this introductory training, our main focus is on embracing play in a manner that's not only safe but also promotes good health. We aim to spark conversations about the advantages and obstacles tied to play, discussing the best approaches to incorporate safe and healthy play in various settings. Let's delve into the world of play and explore how it can enhance our lives!

TIFFANY SCHULZ

Rejuvenating the Self: A Brainstorming Session

River Radio Room

Education is one of the greatest professions, but it can also be one of the hardest. Yoga and work pizza parties only fill our cups so much. This session will focus on sharing and discovering ideas to bring rejuvenation to our spirits. Whether we have 5 minutes or 5 days, how do we get the most out of our off time to make sure that we are able to give our best to our students/clients and to ourselves. Participants should come ready to share how they relax and unwind. This workshop is appropriate for all levels. The goal is to share and develop ways of self-care for the educator that if wanted, could also be shared with our students/clients.

GRANT MILLER

Bumps, Bruises, Scrapes & Smiles

Friends Room

Utilizing the Teton Science School's 6 Principles of Place-Based Education, this workshop emphasizes lessons learned from over 15 years of projects the School of Education at Southern Illinois University has developed with local rural schools. Highlights include an earn-a-bike curriculum for elementary students, a "Makernauts" design-thinking curriculum for middle school students, and the recently formed Coalition for Outdoor Recreation and Education (CORE) program for high schoolers. Throughout all of these (and more) examples, the central strategies to map assets, identify allies, and utilize partnerships are emphasized to help attendees discuss and create their own opportunities to help rural schools impact students' affective and academic learning.

EMILY PEFFER

Adapted Paddling Opportunities

Meet at Freeberg Hall -- Workshop will be at Camp 2 Beach

We plan to bring 1-2 outfitted kayaks, transfer board, kayak chariot and paddle adaptations so people can see the equipment and possibly even try it, depending on conditions. This would ideally be a lakeside session, with opportunities to get on the water. We plan to discuss how MSCR has used this equipment to support a variety of participants, including populations such as youth, 50+, and participants with both physical, emotional and cognitive disabilities. **MAX 15 PARTICIPANTS**

ABOUT THE KEYNOTE

EVAN COULSON

Experiences of Awe and their Impact on Our Mental Health and Wellbeing



Evan Coulson currently holds the Kenneth Bro Endowed Professorship of Sustainable Regional Development at Northland College in Ashland, WI where he is an Associate Professor of Outdoor Education and directs campus outdoor recreation, orientation and service-learning programs for Northland's Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. For over two decades, he's utilized experiential, place-based, and service-oriented approaches to bring learning to life for students of all ages. Both intentionally and unintentionally, he's worked at the intersection of wonder and awe as he's pursued the growth, development, and wellbeing of the whole learner.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

LUCINDA MARTINELLI

Lucinda Martinelli is a facilitator for University of Michigan Adventure Leadership, a trainer for Experiential Systems, Inc, and the creator and director of Whole Planet Consulting, an education consulting company in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She works with educators in schools and outdoor centers who want to build a collaborative culture, empower students to learn and rekindle their joy of teaching.

DANA JOHNSON

Dana Johnson is the Team Building and Events Manager for Lake Geneva Ziplines & Adventures. She has worked in the field of facilitation for 15 years in a variety of settings including challenge courses, nature centers, wilderness tripping and formal classrooms. An avid adventurer, Dana specializes in creating spaces for others to access, enjoy and learn from risk opportunities.

JAKOB PASDERTZ

Jakob Pasdertz (Paz-Dirts) Received his undergraduate degree in Adventure Education from Prescott College. He has over 10 years of experience in outdoor leadership, group facilitation, and staff development. Currently Jake holds the position of Program Assistant of Campus Recreation while pursuing a graduate degree with SIU. His areas of expertise are intentional inter/intrapersonal development, challenge course administration, and technical skill refinement. As a mind he enjoys, displays of passion, experiential pedagogy and well-placed questions. As a mammal he enjoys walks in the woods, basking in the sun, and wildflowers.

JODY M. MILES

Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Earth's Classroom, a non-profit outdoor learning center that has worked with nearly 76,000 participants since 1999. BS in Natural History OE. Researcher and Naturalist for MO State Parks and MN State Parks. Keynote Speaker to: MO Natural Resource Conference; MO Ass. of Interpretation Conference; and Region VI of National Association of Interpretation Conference. Has conducted/assisted/and trained in research areas of: Wolf Research Team (WI and MN), orchid research, NASA and NOAA Climate Science training, deer browse surveys, tarantula research, freshwater mussel research, pine bark beetle and Japanese beetle research, and federally trained fire crew boss. All this experience has been used to create experiential, outdoor learning programs to bridge the gap between hard sciences and the general public gaining deeper awareness, understanding, and finally appreciation for our natural and cultural resources. Finally, author to Keeping Interpretation REAL: Fundamental Bedrocks for Outdoor Educators and General Public Speaking.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

MARK FELDMAN

Mark Feldman is the Associate Director for the Outdoor Wisconsin Leadership School at Holiday Home Camp. This year he begins his tenth year working in Adventure Education.

SYDNEY POGUE

Sydney Pogue is the Associate Director of Programs at Touch of Nature in Makanda, IL. Sydney holds a Master of Science in Education at Southern Illinois University and a Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Human Ecology from Indiana University. In her role at Touch of Nature, Sydney spearheads diverse outdoor education initiatives and manages a dynamic team. Beyond her professional life, Sydney enjoys outdoor activities like running and camping, often accompanied by her furry friend. With a rich background in outdoor programs, education, and leadership, Sydney is a dedicated professional fostering connections between the community and the great outdoors.

TIFFANY SCHULZ

Physical Education & Adventure Education at New London High School. Tiffany has worked in education for 15 years. Next to her family, the outdoors is her largest passion. When she's not teaching others, she's usually out on her own adventures with her two daughters and husband.

GRANT MILLER

Dr. Grant Miller is an Associate Professor in the School of Education at Southern Illinois University whose research and teaching focuses on curriculum studies as well as history and place-based education.

EMILY PEFFER

Emily Peffer oversees outdoor recreational programming for the Madison community in WI including two outdoor challenge courses, three pontoon boats, and a fleet of canoes and kayaks. Originally from North Carolina, Emily has been working in experiential education for the past 20 years in a variety of settings including camps, schools, universities, abroad and corporate clients. Her goal is always to make programs as accessible and inclusive to as many as possible.