

WORKSHOP BLOCK 1 (Saturday 9:20 – 10:20 am)

Build your team! (limit 20, max 2 per program please)

Emma Chapman - Foothill Horizons Outdoor School

Team challenge initiatives to help groups of all ages work together better. This workshop will include an introduction to group challenges, time to do the challenges, and a focus on the art of debriefing.

Endangered Species: through the eyes of the CA Condor (limit 30)

Jennifer Updyke - Ventana Wildlife Society

A look at Endangered Species: through the eyes of the CA Condor. My organization does work specifically with the CA Condors (historically with Bald Eagles as well) so we'll talk generally about endangered species but bring in specific examples regarding the Condor. Gear used to track CA Condors will be showcased.

Salamander Study (no limit)

Christopher Soriano - WOLF School

At WOLF School we have been conducting a salamander population study using data that students collect for almost 15 years. This is a wonderful way to get kids involved in doing actual science and introducing them to the amazing world of salamanders. I will demonstrate how to set up a study site and present our current results.

Project Learning Tree to ACTION (limit 20, max 2 per program please)

Sandra Derby - CA Project Learning Tree

Participants will explore - through hands on practice, collaborative idea sharing, and broader concept brainstorming - the three dimensions of Project Learning Tree (PLT) teaching and learning. You will walk away with the PLT Places We Live guide and some NEW ideas on how to go from PLT to ACTION.

Environmental Justice Lesson (limit 30)

Mariana Diaz - NatureBridge

Participants will learn how to carry out an environmental justice activity lesson designed for a class size of ~14 middle schoolers, but adaptable to almost any grade level. The workshop will begin by defining the term "environmental justice" and then going in to the activity. This lesson is a modified version of the activity known as "Dragonfly Pond" or "Everyone Lives Downstream" but with environmental justice components.

WORKSHOP BLOCK 2 (Saturday 11:00 am – 12:30 pm)

Birding to Awaken Wonder (limit 30)

Ian "Ibis" Gledhill - Shady Creek Outdoor School

Birds are nature's storytellers. As naturalists, we have the unique opportunity to help people create meaning from the birds that surround them every day. In this workshop, Ibis will walk you through the birding portion of the Shady Creek Outdoor School's birds class. During the activity, you will learn how to facilitate argument from evidence based on natural phenomena. You will be scaffolded in bird identification, tiered questioning, and general birding skills. Finally, you will set a Fall AEOE Northern Conference record for bird species seen. By the end of the activity, you will have discovered wonder where it has always lurked before. Bring binoculars if you have them, but if you do not have them, they will be provided.

The Quest (no limit)

Jymn "Scooby" Meier - Walden West Outdoor School

This workshop will give naturalists ideas on how to integrate self esteem building and team building into their field class in a residential outdoor school setting. Participants will receive lesson plans and a DVD to help map out ways to integrate challenges and other projects to help make their field class into a team. Be prepared to hear inspirational stories and share ideas to help strengthen the sometimes neglected but very powerful social experience of outdoor ed.

Activities for the Anthropocene (no limit)

Janice Carr - Foothill College

Combine history and environmental science in this hands-on session exploring how humans have shaped the earth and atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution. Discover how to build interdisciplinary lessons that bring human ecology concepts into the social studies, math and science classrooms.

Field Journaling With Students (no limit)

Emilie "Dipper" Lygren - BEETLES (Lawrence Hall of Science)

Come explore the transformative power of field journaling with Emilie Lygren, co-author of The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling. We'll model activities you can use right away with students, discuss how to help them be successful in journaling, and examine connections to the Next Generation Science Standards. Leave ready to help your students engage with nature on a deeper level and make meaning of their experiences.

DIY Science Tools: Learn how to make tools for field investigations (limit 15, max 2 per program please)

Katharine Monsma - Wondering Naturally

This workshop will provide participants the plans to make three field investigation tools and facilitate discussion on how to use those tools. Participants will leave with a science tool or two and lesson plans.

WORKSHOP BLOCK 3 (Saturday 3:30 – 4:30 pm)

“What are they thinking???” No, seriously.”: Unlocking the hidden resource of students’ preconceptions about science and nature (limit 30)

Kent Chapple - UC Santa Cruz

How many times have you heard the extraordinary tale of the Daddy Longlegs, and how it has the world’s most powerful venom but lacks fangs capable of piercing human skin? If not, you almost certainly will, and if so, how did you reply? As outdoor educators, we have precious little time to find out what our students already know about science and the world around them, so there isn’t a moment to lose! In this workshop we’ll explore ways to organically access students’ existing scientific knowledge right off the bus, and get busy:

- Identifying and anticipating students’ preconceptions for each topic/lesson/grade level (“anchoring conceptions”)
- Learning and practicing strategies to access students’ existing/original knowledge about the topic, and where it comes from.
- Modeling formative probes in a field setting (including discovering what the heck a “formative probe” is, and that it has very little to do with alien abductions)
- Discovering ways to adapt your lesson/approach to use students’ preconceptions as entry points to building understanding, validating and redirecting them instead of fighting against them.

We’ll be using a mix of modeling hands-on activities, discussion and collaborative resource creation to make sure that you are able to identify the scientist in each and every kid, and help them see it too.

Empowering Youth Through Gender Equality (limit 30)

Mary “Acorn” Hanrahan - Walden West Outdoor School

Learn about the history of gender in western, Anglo-Saxon society, gain an understanding of gender bias and discuss techniques to achieve a nonbiased approach to education.

Bag of Tricks - Working with Children with Special Needs (limit 30)

Leanna “Moonlight” Meier - Walden West Outdoor School

Every teacher needs their bag of tricks to help their students be successful. Come collaborate with other peers about empowering children with special needs in being successful in field class and helping them to connect with all students and cabin leaders.

Storytelling Forum (limit 15, max 2 per program please)

Eric Gerson - Foothill Horizons Outdoor School

At this collaborative forum, participants will have the chance to share their favorite stories – real or imagined. Storytellers are asked to share what makes their stories effective around the campfire or in the classroom. Please keep stories to around 5 minutes so many people can share.

Improv Games- Build Community and Spice Up Your Classes (no limit)

Shea “Huckleberry” Merrit - Walden West Outdoor School

Come play some games that will make you laugh and challenge your stage fright. At the same time, get some ideas for icebreakers, group builders and skit prep. These games will give your kids some arts exposure and win them over with fun.

WORKSHOP BLOCK 4 (Sunday 9:00 – 10:30 am)

Conscious Communication (no limit)

Brinn Langdale - Shady Creek Outdoor School

Communication is an inevitable part of life, and ultimately, the key to connecting with others. However, most of us aren’t often taught how to communicate appropriately and accurately. This workshop will incorporate a practical, successful communication model developed by The Authentic Leadership Center. You will walk away not only with practice using a hands-on model, but with a sense of what it means to fully express and empathically listen to others in the workplace, with family and with friends.

Wildlife Tracking for Beginners (limit 30)

Garth Harwood - Hidden Villa

Wildlife tracking is not just looking at footprints, cool as they are. You can also keep track of the wild things around you by way of the holes they dig, the ways they eat, and their territorial markings and scents. This is your chance to get started!

Clowning: Laugh to Learn (limit 20, max 2 per program please)

Marissa Gilmour - Foothill Horizons Outdoor School

Plan the most epic campfire of your season! Marissa Gilmour will teach basic clowning skills that every outdoor naturalist needs in their back pocket. This workshop of non-stop fun will include learning how to juggle, throw a diablo, spin poi and importantly, how to fail at all of these skills in a manner that is hilarious and encouraging for your students. In addition to circus skills, Marissa will facilitate a chance for each participant to create a clown character! Participants will have a chance to practice skills and develop ideas for how to add mini clowning routines to your regular campfire schedule. Marissa will provide the circus equipment and additional props.

Working with Diverse Students in Outdoor Spaces (limit 25)

Alejandro Granados – NatureBridge & Lan Ngô – Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Get WOKE on a Sunday morning as we explore and apply concepts of cultural code-shifting, privilege, and multicultural environmental education. Do you ever get confused about why your students are confused? Do you find yourself wondering why students don’t “follow directions” when you’ve given them “clear instructions”? Do you often find that you don’t understand where your students are coming from? In a discussion format, we will explore the ins and outs of adequately serving diverse youth in outdoors spaces. After our discussion, we will explore action items through a drawing activity. You will be able to walk away with a strong foundation in these ideas and with action items to apply to your work.