

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR
EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION
PRESENTS THE 2024**



CONVENER WELCOME



Welcome to the Northeast Regional Association for Experiential Education Conference!

After a short hiatus we are so excited to bring you the 2024 Northeast Conference for the Association for Experiential Education. **To everyone in the AEE community, welcome back!**

We are overjoyed that we are able to re-energize a much loved and long established tradition for many folks in our experiential education world. We hope that during this time together you are able to reconnect with friends, colleagues, and loved ones, as well as develop new and lasting relationships.

As conveners, we have had the task of picking up where others left off, with the chasm of COVID and a national lock down in between. We took on the task of keeping valued traditions alive, while meeting the new needs of the conference in 2024. We wanted to share some of the decision making behind the weekend's events, clearing away some of the unknowns.

Seeing how the world of Experiential Education is growing, the host committee strove to select a location that represented all of the places where experiential learning lives. We also needed to be flexible with the many shifts in venue accessibility over the last four years. The University of New Hampshire combines the academic, therapeutic, and challenge course venues, which we hope will make all folks feel welcome. We are grateful for the partnership with UNH and are looking forward to spending time on the campus.

In speaking with past committee members at the start of our planning, we were struck by the warmth and fondness folks had for the traditions embedded in Northeast AEE. The success of the Affinity Groups, the memories of yearly Olympics, and the impact of the Josh Miner Dialogue have impacted many over the years. Needless to say, many of the well loved traditions of the Northeast Conference are back for this year's conference community!

If this is your first Northeast AEE Conference, we are so excited for you to experience and lean into both the newness and the tradition. It is our hope you will find a community full of connection, excitement, and care for our work. If you are a returning participant, welcome back and we look forward to celebrating tradition and change together.

We wish everyone a joyful, playful experience with deep learning and long-lasting connection!

Warmly,

Elyse Norton & Christy Brodeur
2024 Conference Co-Conveners

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Host Committee

- Christy Brodeur:** Co-Convener, Website
- Elyse Norton:** Co-Convener, Workshops, Brochure
- Melissa Bettigole:** Service Crew
- Kendra Bostick:** Social Media & Marketing, Social Events
- Hutch Huchinson:** Workshop, Sharer of Wisdom
- Ladda 'Bug' Kosaketh:** DEIB, Social Media & Marketing
- Shannon McNamara:** Social Events & Community Building
- Rosanne Mistretta:** Silent Auction & Sponsorship
- Melissa Murphy:** Sponsorships
- Robert Siudzinski:** Career Connections, Social Events & Community Building
- Sarah Skoy:** Workshops Organizer, Brochure
- Jed Williamson:** Workshops
- Andrew Wood:** Registration, Venue



The AEE regional conferences are organized 100% by volunteers. If you are interested in sharing your passion for experiential education and joining next year's Host Committee, please email AEENortheast@AEE.org.



About the Association for Experiential Education

The Association for Experiential Education (AEE) is a nonprofit, international, professional organization whose mission is to develop and promote experiential education. AEE was formed in the early 1970s and now has close to 1,500 members in 32 countries worldwide.

Our diverse membership consists of individuals and organizations with affiliations in education, recreation, outdoor and adventure programming, the environment, mental health, youth development, programming for people with disabilities, service learning, and organizational development. AEE is committed to supporting professional development, theoretical advancement, and evaluation of experiential education worldwide. Our intent is to contribute to making a more just and compassionate world by transforming education.

Membership benefits include discounts on conferences, books, and other AEE products, pro deals on outdoors equipment, newsletters, the Journal of Experiential Education, and much more!

Land Acknowledgement

The Northeast Association for Experiential Education Host Committee recognizes that this conference takes place at the University of New Hampshire, located on **N'dakinna**, which is the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the **alnobak** (people) who have stewarded **N'dakinna** throughout the generations.

We recognize our participation in European settler colonialism, while some of these indigenous communities are currently lacking federal recognition and continue to endure hardships after the loss of their unceded homelands.

During this event, we encourage you to engage with the resources shared by Denise and Paul Pouliot, Head Speakers of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People and founding members of Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective (INHCC). By engaging in this opportunity, you will learn stories and lessons from indigenous leadership helping you to incorporate this work into your practice and share with your communities.

Ways to learn more and support indigenous communities:



<http://landacknowledgements.org>



<http://gedakina.org/>



<https://indigenousoh.com/>



<http://www.cowasuck.org/>

SOCIAL EVENTS



AEE Team Olympics

Saturday 3:00pm-4:00pm *Outside the Memorial Union Building*

Join us for an exhilarating afternoon of friendly competition and camaraderie at the Team Olympics, a highlight event of the Northeast Regional Association for Experiential Education Conference. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just looking for some fun, this is your chance to showcase your skills and team spirit!

What to Expect:

- **Classic Games, Endless Fun:** Our Team Olympics features a lineup of 6-10 exciting, old-school activities guaranteed to bring out your inner child and ignite your competitive spirit.
- **Team Bonding:** Gather your squad and strategize your way to victory, or sign up solo and make new friends as you join forces with fellow attendees. With teams formed on the spot, it's the perfect opportunity to connect with others who share your passion for play.
- **Prizes and Glory:** Compete for bragging rights and coveted prizes as you vie for the title of Team Olympics champion. Whether you're aiming for gold or simply out to have a blast, there's something for everyone at this unforgettable event.

How to Participate:

- **Team Registration:** Grab your friends and register as a team in advance to secure your spot in the games. Don't have a team? No problem! Sign up solo at the registration desk, and we'll match you with fellow players to form new squads on the day of the event.
- **Come Ready to Play:** Wear comfortable attire, athletic shoes and any AEE Costumes, and bring your A-game as you prepare to tackle each challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Whether you're racing, jumping, or cheering from the sidelines, your participation makes the Team Olympics a success!

Karaoke & Open Mic Evening

Saturday 8:30pm-10:00pm *Stillings Dining Hall*

Join Us for a Night of Music and Fun! Unleash your inner rockstar at our Karaoke/Open Mic Evening, a highlight of the Northeast Regional Association for Experiential Education Conference. Whether you're a seasoned performer or a first-time singer, this is your chance to take the stage and shine!

What to Expect:

- **Karaoke Extravaganza:** Belt out your favorite tunes solo or join forces with friends for unforgettable duets. Our extensive song catalog spans genres and eras, ensuring there's something for everyone.
- **Open Mic Showcase:** Are you a poet, comedian, musician, or storyteller? Step up to the mic and share your talents with a supportive audience. From heartfelt ballads to side-splitting jokes, all forms of expression are welcome.
- **Community Connection:** Forge new friendships and strengthen existing bonds as you cheer on fellow attendees. Our inclusive atmosphere encourages collaboration and celebration, fostering a sense of camaraderie that extends beyond the stage.

How to Participate:

- **Sign Up:** Reserve your spot in the spotlight by registering with Andrew Wood at the event. Slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't wait to secure your moment in the limelight.
- **Bring Your A-Game:** Whether you're channeling Freddie Mercury or putting your own twist on a classic, bring your energy and enthusiasm. This is your chance to shine, so let your talent shine through!

CAREER CONNECTIONS



Saturday 2:45pm-4:00pm Holloway Commons Piscataqua Room

Looking for your next career move or seeking talented individuals to join your organization? Look no further than Career Connections, a unique opportunity to network and explore potential opportunities at the Northeast Regional Association for Experiential Education Conference.

What to Expect:

- **Internship Opportunities:** Are you a student or recent graduate looking to gain valuable hands-on experience? Explore internship opportunities offered by leading organizations and programs in the field of experiential education.
- **Staffing Needs:** Are you an organization or program seeking skilled professionals to enhance your team? Connect with talented individuals eager to contribute their expertise to your projects and initiatives.
- **Fellowships and Research:** Discover fellowship opportunities and connect with research assistants interested in collaborating on projects that advance the field of experiential education.
- **Mentorship:** Are you an experienced professional looking to give back and support the next generation? Sign up to be a mentor and make a meaningful impact on the development of students and young professionals.

Meet-and-Greet Mini-Sessions:

Participate in brief meet-and-greet sessions to connect with potential employers, mentors, and collaborators. Whether you're offering internships, seeking staff, or interested in mentorship, these sessions provide a platform to network and explore opportunities in a relaxed setting.

How to Participate:

If you're interested in participating in the meet-and-greet mini-sessions or would like to learn more about Career Connections, please contact Robert Siudzinski at rsiudzinski@amherst.edu.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



Friday, April 19 <i>Locations in italics</i>	
9am-5pm	Outdoor Orientation Program Symposium (OOPS) <i>Browne Center</i>
3:00-6:00pm	Registration <i>Piscataqua</i> Exhibitors, Silent Auction Open
5:00-5:30pm	Ready, Set, Go! [for first timers] <i>Stillings</i>
5:30-8:30pm	Dinner <i>Stillings</i>
6:30-9pm	Registration <i>Stillings</i>
7:00pm	Welcome PICOUP Award <i>Stillings</i>
7:30pm	Keynote Anne Louise Wagner <i>Stillings</i>
8:30pm	Playnote Kikori <i>Stillings</i>

Saturday, April 20	
7:30-8:45am	Breakfast with Exhibitors Registration, Silent Auction <i>Piscataqua</i>
7:45am	Presenter Info <i>Piscataqua</i>
8:15am	Morning Welcome <i>Piscataqua</i>
8:45-10:15am	Workshops 1
10:30-12pm	Workshops 2
12-1pm	Lunch <i>HoCo Dining Hall</i>
1-2:30pm	Workshops 3
2:45-4pm	Social Hour <i>Piscataqua, Quad</i> Film Screening, Exhibit Hall, AEE Olympics, Career Connections
4:15-5:30pm	Affinity Groups
5:30-8:30pm	Dinner <i>Stillings</i>
6:45pm	Silent Auction Close
7:00pm	Josh Miner Dialogue Rick Curtis <i>Stillings</i>
8:30-10pm	Karaoke & Open Mic <i>Stillings</i>
Sunday, April 21	
7:30-8:45am	Breakfast with Exhibitors <i>Piscataqua</i>
8:45-10:15am	Workshops 4
10:30-12pm	Workshops 5
12:30pm	Closing Reflection <i>Piscataqua</i>
12:45-2pm	Lunch & Professional Groups <i>HoCo Dining Hall</i>
2pm	Goodbye! <i>On Your Own</i>

THE PICOUP AWARD



The Person in Charge of Unlocking Potential (PICOUP) Award has been named for Michael Gessford (1962-2011) who is remembered for his playful spirit, his dedication to the field of experiential education, kindness, generosity and unique way of empowering others to achieve their best. PICOUP is a phrase Mike himself came up with to describe his “job title.” The Award is given each year to someone in the NEAEE community who selflessly gives of themselves for the betterment of others & has the ability to empower others to achieve their best regardless of personal gain.

Past Honorees

2021 - Alison Jackson Frasier
2020 - Scott Catucci
2019 - Kirstin Lund
2018 - Anna Kay Vorsteg
2017 - Jim Grout

2016 - Kamora Herrington
2015 - Keith King
2014 - Brent Bell
2013 - Hutch Hutchinson
2012 - Beth Sayers
2011 - Mike Gessford

2024 PICOUP Award Winner



Andrew Jillings

Andrew Jillings (he/him) has been the director of outdoor leadership at Hamilton College since 1997, which is a long time. Prior to that he worked at Simon's Rock College, Zoar Outdoor, Project Adventure, and Her Britannic Majesty's Royal Marine Commandos. His potential was unlocked at all these places, in their own ways, but especially by Bob Ryan at Project Adventure who picked Andrew's resume at random from a pile of intern applicants.

He received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Wales and a Masters in exercise science from Michigan State University. As a first generation college graduate, he understands the importance of an effective transition to the higher education culture. He holds a number of professional qualifications in outdoorsy things and is also a New York certified licensed wilderness guide.

His first AEE conference was in 1993 in Vermont, where he discovered that there were other people who liked playing outside and then thinking about it, and AEE has been his clan ever since. In his leisure time he enjoys kayaking, dog walking, sailing and writing about himself in the third person.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Anne Louise Wagner



Anne Louise Wagner (she.they) is excited by learning through experience in her professional and personal communities, as well as supporting the learning process of those around her. Anne Louise was introduced to the experiential education field at Hartwick College in NY, where they studied Elementary Education while also working as a facilitator on Hartwick's nearby challenge course. She regularly wove team building initiatives into her lesson plans, fueling her enthusiasm of using adventure education in schools. In 2011, Anne Louise was sent to the Outdoor Orientation Symposium (OOPS) and that's when they first learned about AEE and the strength of the experiential learning community! Since then, Anne Louise has been a AEENE workshop presenter, host committee member, and Northeast Regional Advisory Committee member and chair. AEENE has been a hub for her learning and growth over the years related to a range of

Anne Louise's professional passions - including social justice, restorative practices, reflection, and making adventure learning accessible to those within schools.

These passions were deepened during her Masters Program within SIT Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, Vermont. Anne Louise remained in Brattleboro well beyond their studies as they made connections with local racial justice organizations, community members, and High 5 Adventure Learning Center. She formally joined the Edge of Leadership team at High 5 in 2015 and for her first seven years, she focused on facilitating students. Today, Anne Louise's primary focus is on leading long-term professional learning experiences for educators. Additionally, Anne Louise has been a key player in initiating High 5's A Time For Change & Action working group - a team committed to helping remove the barriers of racism, and other oppressive practices, to support the growth of stronger communities where everyone is valued.

Anne Louise is bringing their professional and personal experiences, along with their curiosity into their keynote presentation. By stringing together connections and reflections revolving around a simple phrase, she hopes to provide opportunities to explore the relevance of this phrase to yourself and those around you.

PLAYNOTE



Kikori is a social impact company that provides educators and facilitators with the tools needed to cultivate connections, community and a sense of belonging. Kikori combines its Hands-on, Minds-on, Hearts-on philosophy with a platform of 2000 (and growing!) crowd-sourced eSEL activities and Professional Development to support leaders in proactively facilitating activities where students practice real-world SEL skills. Kikori's goal is to holistically engage the whole person through purposeful play and intentional reflection. By combining skill-based eSEL lessons and trauma-informed strategies, participants become intrinsically motivated, more engaged, more connected with themselves and empathic with others, and better able to learn.



JOSH MINER INTERVIEWER



Brent Bell returned to UNH for his Ph.D. (2005) after a successful undergraduate experience in the Outdoor Education and Psychology programs ('87). Prior to joining the UNH faculty, Brent was the director of the First-Year Outdoor Program at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. Brent has numerous professional experiences including work with therapeutic adventure programs, camp director and program director for an adventure travel company. In 1991, Brent developed an outdoor leadership program at New England College in Henniker, N.H. He was a longtime member of the Northeast Advisory Board for the Association of Experiential Education (1996-2007) and has worked extensively with program accreditation (1996-present). He is co-author, along with Bob Baird and Drew Leemon, of the 'Guide to Managing Risks in Wilderness Education,' published by United Educators.' Brent's research focuses on outdoor orientation programs. He helped develop and coordinates the Outdoor Orientation Program Symposium (OOPS) and developed The Outdoor Orientation Benchmarking Survey (TOOBS).

RICK CURTIS



Rick Curtis has served as Director of the Outdoor Action Program at Princeton University for the past 43 years. As director of one of the largest college outdoor orientation programs he has developed many of the practices and protocols used by similar programs across the country. He is the author of *The Backpacker's Field Manual*, the founder of the OutdoorEd.com web site, and creator of IncidentAnalytix risk management software. Over the past forty years he has shared information and resources on outdoor orientation programs, risk management, outdoor leadership, and program development through his web site, and numerous conference presentations. In 2022 he received the AEE Michael Straton Practitioner Award for his many contributions to the field.

AFFINITY GROUPS



Saturday 4:15-5:30pm

These sessions strive to create safe and supportive spaces where people can engage their identities and backgrounds in the context of AEE. By convening groups where members can assume certain shared affinities, we can hopefully be more open in these conversations. Especially for people coming from marginalized backgrounds, this can be incredibly restorative and powerful. In these groups, we will reflect on the ways we see and interact with cultural bias, privilege, and power in this field of work and create goals and a plan of action.

Anyone who personally identifies with a given Affinity Group is warmly invited to join. All are welcome to participate in whatever ways are safe and relevant to them. Recognizing we hold many different identities, it's likely that several groups will be appropriate for you to join and we hope everyone can find a space that feels best. If you find yourself in the wrong group for you, please step out and find one that works for you.

Identity has always played a major role in how folks experience and navigate the world. It's critically important that we take steps to consider how this is true in Experiential Education, both historically and presently, so that we can transform our spaces to be more inclusive, representative, and indicative of the diversity that surrounds and fulfills the work. Education in America—including EE—has been shaped by particular populations, with their children, values, and norms in mind. Sessions like these Affinity Groups are happening around the country to surface, process, and address these cultural and structural biases by creating safe spaces for people to be real about things that are hard to share. This creates greater equity now, and will hopefully seed more equitable pathways moving forward. Thanks again for taking part!

Wondering which affinity group to join? Use the following questions to help you choose.

- Which of your own identities feels most absent or present in this field?
- Which of your identities do you feel most passionate about making change within AEE?
- Which of your identities do you want to understand more?

AFFINITY GROUPS



Saturday 4:15-5:30pm

LGBTQIA2S+ Affinity Space

MUB 338

This space is open to people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual or Agender and Two-Spirit. The terms used to describe gender identities and sexual orientations are constantly changing and being updated to better represent people.

White Affinity Space

MUB 332

This group is intended for people who identify as racially white and/or ethnically European.

Women's Affinity Space

MUB 334

This group is intended for people who identify as women, including transwomen.

Disability Affinity Space

MUB 302

This group is intended for people who identify as having a difference in ability.

Men's Affinity Space

MUB 330

This group is intended for those who identify as men, including transmen.

BIPOC Affinity Space

MUB 340

This group is intended for those who identify as Black, Indigenous or a Person of Color.

PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

Sunday 12:45pm-2:00pm (Lunch)

Professional Group meeting time is a chance for folks to gather based on the contexts that they use (or plan to use) experiential education methods. Connect with other educators doing work similar to your own. This lunch conversation is not an intentionally facilitated space, and is an informal gathering. Signs will be placed on tables to identify gatherings. The professional contexts that have been planned to be represented are:

- Wilderness / Outdoor Adventure Programs
- Experience-Based Training & Development (EBTD)
- K-12 Programs
- College & University Programs
- Therapeutic Adventure Professional Group (TAPG)

FILM SCREENINGS

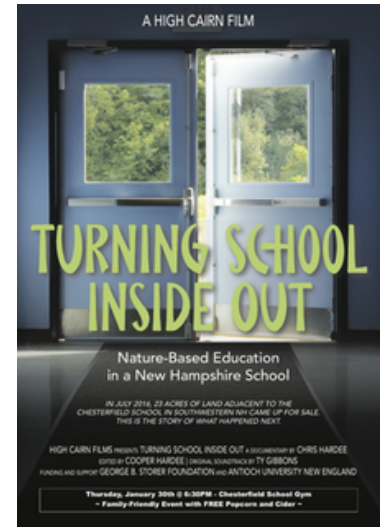


Saturday 8:00am - 5:00pm *Rockingham Lounge [without Sound]*

Saturday 2:40pm - 3:15pm *Rockingham Lounge [with Sound]*

“TURNING SCHOOL INSIDE OUT”

“Turning School Inside Out” showcases the transformation of a school’s curriculum and culture in a rural setting. This film portrays the inspiring story that unfolded after 23 acres of land adjacent to the Chesterfield Central School in Southwestern NH were put up for sale in July 2016 and how the school’s acquisition of this property altered the town’s education for the better. [20 minute run time].



Through captivating storytelling, “Turning School Inside Out” showcases how Chesterfield Central School, a K-8 public school, seamlessly integrates nature into its curriculum, fostering a deep connection between students and the world around them. From outdoor science classes to art lessons inspired by the beauty of the landscape, this approach nurtures academic excellence while promoting mental well-being and environmental stewardship.



“The Best Day Ever”

“The Best Day Ever” take you to two Upper Valley schools: Marion Cross (Norwich, VT) and Hartland Elementary (Hartland, VT). In the film, you hear from teachers, administrators, parents, and students, and get an intimate view of the hands-on learning happening in the forests beyond our local school playgrounds. See how dedicated teachers are changing the trajectory of public school Kindergarten by bringing joy and wonder back into education through the experience of playing in nature. [16 minute run time].

Both of these films were made possible with the support of the [George B. Storer Foundation](#) and [Antioch University New England](#). They were directed, written, and filmed by Chris Hardee and are a production of High Cairn Films.

THEMATIC STRANDS



Workshops are a core component of the NE AEE Conference. They provide attendees with opportunities to share information, learn skills and stimulate new thinking. AEE Conferences use the following workshop “strands” to categorize the range of content.

Adventure-Based Programming (ABP): Techniques and models used by practitioners to foster learning and growth in wilderness- and adventure-based programs, outdoor education, or organized camping. Topics include: challenge course building/design, universal programming/design, initiatives and trust building activities, climbing, boating, and expeditions.

Experience-Based Training and Development (EBTD): Techniques and theories to facilitate growth and development of and within organizations. Topics include: team building, leadership development, assessing clients’ needs, program design and evaluation, facilitating strategic planning, visioning, business transformation, and systems thinking.

Facilitation/Processing (F/P): Cross-disciplinary techniques, tools and models for exploring philosophy, practice, methodology, self-development and growth as a practitioner working with groups in a variety of settings. Topics include: challenge by choice, full-value contracts, group dynamics and development, framing, reflection, facilitating the experiential learning cycle, observation skills, technical skills, collaboration and co-facilitation, & developing professional skills.

Mind/ Body/ Spirit (M/B/S): Integrating all dimensions of the human being as an essential aspect of experiential education. Topics include: creativity, yoga, meditation, martial arts, personal wellness, prayer and other practices that involve a synthesis of spirituality, mindfulness & body work.

Program Administration (PA): Managing risk, responding to trends, promoting and marketing, maintaining client relations, fiscal management and staff development. Topics include: grant writing, strategic planning, capital campaigns, partnerships, accreditation, certification, insurance, internship programs, training, supervision, and site development.

Research and Evaluation (RE): Collecting, evaluating and sharing data in the experiential education world. Topics include: current qualitative and quantitative studies and findings, research methods, and research collaborations.

Schools and Colleges (S&C): Experiential education looks different in the classroom. Integrating EE into the structure of K-12 as well as post-secondary education and programming. Topics include: curriculum, social emotional learning, content integration, alternative classrooms, and theory and pedagogy.

Social Justice & Ethics (SJ&E): Social and ethical issues and questions as they relate to experiential education. Topics include: issues of ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability and multiculturalism. Also includes professional standards, ethics and integrity.

Therapeutic Adventure (TA): Engaging facilitators who work within the fields of health, mental health, corrections, education, and other human service fields. Topics include: information, techniques, and concerns regarding the therapeutic use of adventure.

WORKSHOPS BY TIME



Workshops #1 & #2

Saturday 8:45am - 12:00pm

Honor-Connect-Reflect: Trauma-Informed Sequencing to Optimize Impact with Diverse Populations

Anita R. Tucker & Bobbi Beale

In this workshop we will explore cultural humility and intersectional theory as the foundations of trauma informed responsive care. By deliberately creating an environment where participants can experience felt safety, we can adjust our facilitation to ensure inclusivity as we actively welcome and honor intersectionality, and intentionally engage our diverse clients. Through lecture and activities, participants will utilize tools and techniques to help them apply intersectional theory in experiential and adventure programming.

SJ&E, TA

@Browne Center

Metaphor-phosis: If an experience is worth 1000 pictures, then a metaphor is worth 1000 experiences

Kendra Bostick & Mackenzie (Kenzie) Keefe

We use experiential education to support participants through a change process. Kinesthetic metaphors have been proven to create more change in participants that lasts longer than other forms of interventions. Through this workshop, participants with beginner-intermediate levels of knowledge will experience a kinesthetic metaphor, learn the research backing why and how metaphors work, be guided through the seven-step metaphor creation process, and develop their own meaningful metaphoric experience based on their population's unique needs.

F/P, S&C

@Browne Center

Workshop #1

Saturday 8:45am -10:15am

Visual Note Taking: Engaging ALL Learning Modalities

Mellisa Heather Cain

Over 60% of people are visual learners. Yet we're constantly told to "pay attention!" and "don't doodle!" What if folks were able to put into images what they hear, see and think? To process their learnings using all their learning modalities? The ability to synthesize information, to reflect and so much more through visual notetaking is a tool that benefits everyone. And seriously... no artistic skills needed!

EBTD, F/P

@MUB 340

Building Welcoming and Affirming Learning Environments for LGBTQ+ Youth

Cassie Cooper

This workshop is designed for anyone who is looking for more information on assessing inclusivity and safety for LGBTQ+ youth participants in educational settings. During this training, participants will review: terminology and pronoun usage, applicable rights and laws, intervening in harmful behaviors, and how to implement the evidence-based pillars of a safer learning environment.

F/P, SJ&E

@MUB 334/336

This Ball Can Do It All!

Rich Keegan

If you have a low adventure budget, no budget or are just frugal this workshop for you. Tennis balls are cheap and, in many cases, can be had for free. Individual, pairs, small and large group adventure games and problem-solving initiatives will be experienced using this simple ball. Come and bounce, catch, kick, throw, drop and dribble tennis balls. No tennis skills or hand to eye coordination required.

ABP, F/P

@MUB 330/332

WORKSHOPS BY TIME



Workshop #1 continued

Engaging the Resistant Participant: Including everyone without losing progress with the team

Cam Miller

Participants come in a variety of mindsets and experience with outdoor education, if you are lucky everyone wants to be with you outdoors building their team. Occasionally you will have a participant or two who may hesitate or resist being a part of the experience. This session will go over types of participants we encounter who may need assistance achieving the most of their day and how we as facilitators can prepare participants for success.

EBDT, F/P

@MUB 338

ERP and Adventure- How to support growth through experiences

TJ Baumann & J'Amy Chamberlain

Experiential learning and exposure therapy are brought together at Mountain Valley Treatment Center. In this workshop we explore how the experiential learning model and the Emotional Response Prevention Therapy (ERP) meet to build better outcomes in Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder treatment and help our residents live their best lives. We will also practice one of the foundational steps in starting the ERP lifestyle.

ABP, AT

@MUB 302

Workshop #2

Saturday 10:30am - 12:00pm

Beyond the Challenge Course: How Your Space Can Do More

Sue Crumbaker

ABP, F/P

@MUB 332

Have you ever wondered how your facilities could serve participants in new ways? Community needs constantly change, and client goals evolve with them. At Hale Education, we see this as an opportunity to think creatively about how, when, and where we deliver programs. This session will explore all aspects of facility use. Learn how you can diversify your programs by converting single-use spaces into multi-use areas and overcoming barriers to expansion.

Workshop #2 continued

Bring Learning to Life with Meaningful Reflection: Inspire, Engage, Connect and Create Lasting Lessons

Jen Stanchfield

Join this interactive workshop to take advantage of teachable moments and bring learning to life. Use movement, metaphor, reflective games, art, and interactive dialogue to increase emotional connection, relevancy, and depth-of-understanding. Facilitate strong-beginnings and optimistic-endings that reach beyond the experience. Get inspired with new perspectives and practical tools for weaving meaningful reflection, connection, and ownership throughout experiences. Create lasting lessons and help participants become lifelong-reflective-learners. *F/P, TA*

@MUB 338

Advancing organizational development through a multicultural lens

Alison Jackson Frasier

Is your organization truly a Multicultural Organization? Utilizing the model of Multicultural Organizational Development, we will examine our organizations through a critical lens. We will engage with the MCOD systemic change process to determine strategic action steps we can take to move along the continuum. Who are the change agents in our organizations? Are we ready for this level of change? For those passionate about inclusion, we can utilize this theory to inform our Practice.

SJ&E, EBTD

@MUB 302

WORKSHOPS BY TIME



Workshop #2 continued

Healing Art Scars Through Boomwhackers

Greg Urban & Elyse Norton

"You will never be a musician" "You aren't good enough to be an artist" - has anyone ever told you this? Brene Brown calls these 'art scars', which can lead to a lifetime of avoiding the joy of group music making. We believe shared musical accomplishment can help re-map your relationship with music-making. Come experience a facilitated sequence of activities leading to a musical performance with Boomwhackers! *M/B/S, S&C @MUB 334/336*

The Three Keys to Success: Improving Social Emotional Learning Skills Through Experiential Activities

Scott I. Goldsmith & Devin R. Goldsmith

In this workshop, you will learn about emotional intelligence and how to intentionally use the Three Keys to Success to enhance social/emotional learning through highly engaging experiential activities. Using an experiential immersion approach, you will take on dual roles, experiencing the activities as a participant and examining the activities from the facilitation perspective. You will leave with several ready-to-go activities and an understanding of how to intentionally connect experiential activities to social/emotional learning. *S&C, TA @MUB 330*

Accidents in Outdoor Pursuits - Their Causes and Cures

Jed Williamson, M. Ed.

Accidents happen in outdoor pursuits and will continue to do so because risk is always involved. Learning how to prevent life-threatening or disabling injuries is a skill we all seek to hone. Through this workshop, participants will learn how to use a prevention matrix to examine case studies and to design staff training that will help reduce field incidents. *ABP, PA @MUB 340*

Workshop 3

Saturday 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Across Age Groups: Building confidence in facilitation for participants from age 5 to 95!

Andrea Weiss & Andrew Wood

Does the idea of facilitating 6th-graders have you running in the opposite direction? Or have you been working with the same age group for forever? Then this hands-on workshop is for you! We'll tackle reasons why we feel uncomfortable with certain age groups, collaborate with fellow practitioners to produce specific framing adaptations, and apply our new ideas to get valuable peer feedback. You'll even walk away with our assessment tool, to do more with LESS! *F/P @MUB 338*

Depth within the Fun: Building meaning into silly adventure games

Camille Oosterman

There are so many games up any facilitator's sleeve that we often get stuck seeing our favorites one way. Why can't a silly ice-melter provide as much meaning as a circle debrief? Come play some activities and explore ways to bring more meaning to them. Bring your favorite and allow the group to workshop it after exploring what gives an activity depth. *ABP, F/P @MUB 330*

Needle in a Haystack: The secrets of Adventure Therapy

Raelyn Viti

Adventure and wilderness Therapy Programs have been accused of abusive practices. This has forced numerous programs to close their doors to a practice that has proven valuable. This workshop explores how PureLife in Costa Rica has managed to avoid the bad press, remain transparent, and serve as a life-changing, beneficial experience for participants and their families. *EBTD, TA @MUB 302*

WORKSHOPS BY TIME



Workshop #3 continued

Exploring Adventure Therapy & SEL

Morgan Decker

Ever wondered what trauma informed practices and SEL competencies can look like in the context of adventure programming? What are the 5 SEL competencies? How does the brain/nervous system work and why does this matter in facilitation of adventure activities? Come explore and engage in an interactive experience to: assess your foundational knowledge of these concepts, advance your ability to intentionally meet participant needs, and create meaningful outcome driven programming.

F/P, TA

@MUB 334/336

Co-creating and revising group expectations

Jess Anderson

Are your group expectations inclusive? Are they actionable? This workshop will share strategies to scaffold expectation setting and model a sequence for developing agreements with participants of all ages. Leave with a deeper understanding of co-creating expectations.

F/P, S&C

@MUB 340

Orienteering in Schools and Outdoor Programs

Barbara Bryant

Orienteering is a physically active experience that develops map navigation skills. While orienteering is traditionally done in the forest or wilderness, in collaboration with school teachers in Massachusetts, Navigation Games has created orienteering-based curricula that can be used anywhere, for all ages. You will navigate outdoors in teams, reflect on your experience, and adapt the activities to work with your programs' spaces and communities. You will also walk away with activity plans and resources. ABP, S&C

@MUB 332

Outdoor Teaching Strategies – Part 2: Fun and Effective Ways to Teach Knowledge

Christian Bisson & Julie Bisson

The bread and butter of any outdoor educator is to teach outdoor-related knowledge, whether we define "knowledge" as facts, concepts, or theories. Outdoor educators are often challenged when teaching knowledge-based lessons without falling back to the old "lecture." This workshop is intended to be a celebration of many of the best pedagogical practices in outdoor education. As well as exploring new strategies and variations on classic teaching practices for the development of our students' knowledge.

S&C

@Quad

Workshops #4 & #5 **Sunday 8:45am - 12:00pm**

DEIB and Your Mission

Doug Sutherland

Like many organizations, a mission statement helps guide your decisions and programs. What is your personal mission and how does it relate to DEIB? This workshop will take you through some exercise to develop your mission statement and experience ways to have it be sustaining.

F/P, SJ&E

@Browne Center

Handing Over The Ropes: exploring participant centered belay techniques

Chris Damboise & Kyra Richardson

Come prepared to explore and learn about the use of different challenge course belay techniques and methods that focus on varying levels of participant engagement and readiness. We will present and then offer hands-on practice with 5 varied belay methods.

ABP, F/P

@Browne Center

WORKSHOPS BY TIME



Workshop #4 Sunday 8:45am - 10:15am

Can a pedicab change the world? An exploration of relationships and culture.

Dr. Brent Bell

How do you start a pay it forward campaign? What would your response be to a FREE pedicab ride? In the summer of 2023 Dr. Bell provided free pedicab rides to try to understand the theory of reciprocity. Reciprocity theory states that people are naturally inclined to reciprocate kindness when receiving gifts. If true, then pay it forward campaigns should be easy to start. Come hear about this reciprocity adventure.

RE

@MUB 302

Who Else Feels that Way? Activities for emotional awareness and management

Phil Brown & Chris Sanchez

Emotions and feelings are deeply integrated into the adventure experience. They are the driving force behind our own behavior both personal and social, and without the ability to recognize, communicate, and manage them effectively, working with others can become incredibly difficult. The workshop will provide attendees with engaging tools for doing all three and ways to integrate them into a stronger SEL-based adventure program.

ABP, F/P

@MUB 330/332

Making a Game Out of Course Content

Tracy Dow & Damelis Espinet

This workshop is designed to help participants design/create/improve the delivery of content through gamification methods. This will be accomplished through hands-on activities that can be replicated in their own classes. Participants should leave the workshop with methods for gamifying content in a way that makes both content and concepts memorable. No previous skills or knowledge related to gaming is required.

EBTD

@MUB 334/336

Boldness and Discomfort: Surprising New Tools for Building Intimacy & Vulnerability

Nathan Lyczak & Ezra Fradkin

Are you taking enough risk to building communities with healthy group dynamics? Thirty years of experience at Kroka Expeditions has taught us that fostering a healthy cohort of young adults requires going out on a limb to the edge of comfort – and sometimes beyond – to create a culture of intimacy, reverence, awe, and deep-rooted connection. During this experiential workshop we will share three of our most unique and effective practices.

ABP, TA

@MUB 340

Get Connected! Take a Forest Bath!

Susie Spikol & Marilyn Wyzga

Join naturalist Susie Spikol and certified yoga instructor/environmental educator Marilyn Wyzga for a dive into the meditative nature practices of Forest Bathing. Discover this immersive sensory experience and hear how Forest Bathing, or the practice of Shinrin Yoku, has been shown to have health and wellness benefits that lead to deepening connections to nature. This workshop will be primarily outdoors, with participants actively participating in Forest Bathing, including yoga and breathwork elements.

M/B/S, TA

@MUB 338

WORKSHOPS BY TIME



Workshop #5 Sunday 10:30am-12:00pm

Barriers to Meaningful Wilderness Experiences in a post-pandemic world.

Nicola Wood & Lauren Humphrey

In a post-pandemic world, there is mounting evidence that our youth are struggling with depression, anxiety, and isolation. Being open to additional challenges, taking them even further from their comfort zone, seems less appealing than ever. How do we reframe outdoor experiences for folks who don't initially feel safe in the outdoors? We will share strength-based tools or methods that build resilience by allowing post-pandemic youth to be called into the adventure.

ABP, F/P

@MUB 330/332

Culture Building by design: Organizational Development practices to build and maintain healthy culture in your school.

Josina Garnham & Jeff Frigon

In this interactive workshop we will define school culture together, explore strategies participants can employ to build a more positive culture, and begin to develop a tool kit to use with colleagues, staff, and students.

PA, S&C

@MUB 334/336

A Critical Lens on Core Concepts

Lisa Hunt

What are things that you were formally taught and implemented in your practice... and that you later questioned? Without time that is set aside for reflection on concepts that impact our programs & training in significant ways, it's natural for the critical eye to get blurry. In this very active and interactive workshop we'll take a deep dive into concepts such as Choice, Norms, Sequencing & Facilitation—and share our own reservations around these conceptual cornerstones.

ABP, F/P

@MUB 338

Crafting a Comprehensive Risk Management Policy and Procedure Manual for Outdoor Programs

Wesley LeFevre

Outdoor programs provide participants with unique opportunities for personal growth, challenge, and connection with nature. However, these programs also involve inherent risks that must be carefully managed to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants. A well-crafted risk management policy and procedure manual (PMPP) is an essential tool for program leaders. This workshop will guide participants through the process of developing a comprehensive PMPP that is tailored to the specific needs of their organization.

EBTD, S&C

@MUB 340

Activities for Engaging Participants: From Content Delivery to Program Evaluation

Kate Moscouver & Hannah Falcone

Join UNH's Recreation Management and Policy graduate students Hannah Falcone and Kate Moscouver for an experiential learning tour of engaging participants using modern tools! After conducting focus groups with over 120 students across the state of New Hampshire for their thesis work, Kate and Hannah learned the ins and outs of facilitating an engaging learning experience—and collecting valuable information! Participants will leave with a ready-to-use tool. No experience required. Internet-enabled device required.

PA, RE

@MUB 302

MEET THE PRESENTERS



Alison Jackson Frasier is a facilitator, educator, trainer, coach. Allie has a passion for bringing experiential education into all environments. As a certified Strengths Coach with advanced degrees in Higher Education Administration & Social Justice education, she has been in the field for 15+ years.

Andrea Weiss is passionate about helping people learn, primarily through experiential education and English as a second language. She loves being in the woods, learning about people and cultures, and spending time with her husband and 2-year-old daughter.

Andrew Wood, a seasoned educator at The Browne Center, blends his love for outdoors and people to foster growth through experiential learning and adventure. He's a mountain summit seeker, D&D enthusiast, and lifelong learner, all rolled into one!

Anita R. Tucker, PhD, LICSW is a Professor in Social Work at the University of New Hampshire in the Department of Social Work where she co-coordinates the Dual Degree Master's Program in adventure therapy and teaches on adventure therapy facilitation.

Barbara Bryant (Barb) has been working with teachers to bring orienteering-based education to schools since 2004. A former VP for Youth Development of Orienteering USA, Barbara currently leads the OUSA Youth Mapping Program and is active with the New England Orienteering Club.

Bobbi Beale, PsyD specializes in designing non-traditional therapy programs for youth populations that are at risk or have trauma histories. Her programs utilize adventure therapy to increase skills and resiliency for children, youth and families. Bobbi is expanding her trauma-informed lens to focus on increasing diversity, equity and inclusion everywhere.

Dr. Brent Bell is a professor at the University of New Hampshire. He researches student transition to college and is the leader of the Outdoor Orientation Program Symposium (OOPS).

Cam Miller has worked in the EE world for over a decade. Currently he helps facilitators learn to work with a diverse population ranging from toddlers, middle schoolers, lobstermen, and doctors. Don't be afraid to say hi!

Camille Oosterman works at Project Adventure, where she trains and coaches practitioners to facilitate students in kindergarten through college to help them build SEL skills through adventure. Her favorite activity is Sneak Attack because it's fun to facilitate and to play!

Cassie Cooper is OUT Maine's School Engagement Coordinator, coming from seven years of teaching elementary music. They have a Masters in Music Education from Florida State University and have been an advocate for teacher and student wellness through serving as a union

MEET THE PRESENTERS



representative, community school advisory board member, school leadership teams, and district curriculum development teams.

Chris Damboise is the Director of Training and Team Development at High 5. He brings over 40 years of experience in aerial adventure pursuits. Previously, he worked at Project Adventure for 18 years in challenge course design, installation and training.

Chris Sanchez works in the Edge of Leadership program at High 5 Facilitating and developing program for the Keene, NH School district. Chris has spent the past 9 years facilitating groups of varying demographics.

Christian Bisson (Ed.D.) teaches Adventure Education at Plymouth State University. He has worked in academia for 29 years and instructed in the outdoors for the past 37 years. His primary research foci are outdoor pedagogy and outdoor teacher training.

Damelis Espinet is a senior graphic design major at SNHU. Born in Dominican Republic and fluent in Spanish. She's inspired by the Bauhaus style, but she's also intrigued using natural form. Some current projects include working on a mural for the design thinking space in the annex. One of her favorite projects up to date is working with Art Nabe to create merchandise for an event that they held at SNHU in April 2023

Devin R. Goldsmith is a Partnerships Specialist for Playworks working with nine different elementary schools across Philadelphia. Through her work at Playworks, she transforms recess settings across the city into safe, healthy, and inclusive environments through adventure based games.

Doug Sutherland has been facilitator and director for over 20 years in a variety of camps in the New England. As DEIB Consultant, Doug's mission is "To Stand Up, Speak Up, and Do Something" for all those around him.

Elyse Norton (she/her) is a former music educator turned Project Adventure trainer and facilitator. She enjoys playing harp, community singing, and backpacking when not on the challenge course.

Ezra Fradkin studied and worked in Ecuador, Israel, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. Since, he has spent the past eight years creating and leading innovative programs at Kroka Expeditions – where he creatively unites his unique skills in theater, forestry, and spelunking.

Greg Urban (he/him) has been at Project Adventure as a trainer, facilitator, and calendar queen for the last 10 years. He enjoys board games and ringing handbells in his time away from PA.

MEET THE PRESENTERS



Hannah Falcone is a graduate student at UNH studying Recreation Management and Policy with a focus in parks and recreation administration. Her prior experience includes recreation program conceptualization and facilitation with groups of all ages.

J'Amy Chamberlain is a recreational therapist, working with teens who are in residential treatment for anxiety and OCD. J'Amy's role focuses on providing opportunity for movement and intrinsically motivated recreation for residents at Mountain Valley Treatment Center.

Jed Williamson, M.Ed. is the President Emeritus Sterling College - VT. Co-author of the AEE Accreditation Standards for Adventure Programs, editor for 40 years of "Accidents in North American Mountaineering", and co-designer of the "Live, Learn, and Teach" graduate program in experiential education at UNH.

Jeff Frigon is the Director of Youth & Student Programs for The Browne Center at UNH and facilitates SEL/experiential/adventure experiences with learners K-adult. Jeff is also Adjunct faculty in the Department of Recreation Management and Policy, UNH.

Jen Stanchfield inspires experiential educators worldwide with engaging workshops and books that blend the art of teaching and facilitation with neuroscience. Her creativity and depth-of-knowledge stem from three decades of diverse

experience as a teacher, mental health-clinician and adventure educator.

Jess Anderson is currently the director of a Maine non-profit focused on improving school attendance. She has a M.Ed from Plymouth State and spends her free time adventuring in the woods, buying used books, and drinking coffee.

Josina Garnham has spent 2 decades facilitating team and leadership development programs, managing custom-designed executive-level learning experiences, and supporting organizational development efforts within higher education. Josina holds a BS in Outdoor Education and an MA in Leadership Development both from UNH.

Julie Bisson (M.A.) is a certified K-8 teacher who integrates creative outdoor teaching strategies daily into her fourth-grade curriculum. She has worked as an outdoor expedition field instructor for over 35 years.

Kate Moscouver is a current graduate student at the University of New Hampshire studying Recreation Management and Policy and focusing on youth experiences in education and recreation spaces. Prior experience includes tall ships, thru-hiking, challenge courses, and therapeutic settings.

Kendra Bostick (LCSW) worked as a School Social Worker and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of New Hampshire. Kendra founded Kikori, an experiential Social Emotional Learning (eSEL) approach and community-driven platform for K-12 educators and facilitators.

MEET THE PRESENTERS



Kyra Richardson joined the High 5 Training team in 2022. She has worked in the Adventure Education field for nine years in addition to having degrees in Adventure Education and Wilderness Outdoor Therapy from Green Mountain College.

Lauren Humphrey has over two decades of working with youth with special needs, 10 of those being as a Special Education Teacher in a town-wide behavior program, and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She has combined her love for working with youth with her passion for the transformative power of the outdoors as the Community Outreach and Development Director at Outside Perspectives.

Lisa Hunt is a Manager, Team Development at High 5 Adventure and a 25 year veteran. Lisa has contributed to six publications and is a seasoned trainer and facilitator in all areas of adventure.

Mackenzie (Kenzie) Keefe is the Dean of Counseling at Oliverian School. Kenzie completed her MSW/MS at UNH and works with the Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare Center to advance the Adventure Therapy field through research, program evaluation, and teaching.

Marilyn Wyzga's early experiences in family camping shaped her professional path. She's connected people with nature as a wildlife educator, environmental theater director, yoga instructor, and landscape designer. Marilyn's accomplishments include creating an

award-winning schoolyard habitat program and co-founding NH Children in Nature.

Mellisa Heather Cain is an educator, artist and community organizer in Burlington, Vermont. With over 15 years of experience in experiential education and youth development, Mellisa has pivoted to visual learning as the primary focus of her business, Iceberg Consulting.

Morgan Decker is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at a high school in southern Maine with a background in Adventure Therapy. She is a CCAT and was a recent member and Chair of the TAPG Leadership Council.

Nathan Lyczak wandered the world as a farmer, classroom teacher, carpenter, and communications officer. Since, he has spent the past 15 years managing Kroka Expeditions: the one place that unites his passions for outdoor leadership, cartography, community building, and software development.

Nicola Wood has over two decades of experience working in the outdoors with youth. She is the co-founder and Executive Director of Outside Perspectives a non-profit that partners with youth development organizations and schools to get cohorts of youth outside.

MEET THE PRESENTERS



Phil Brown, Senior Trainer at High 5 Adventure Learning Center host of the Vertical Playpen podcast. Phil is a co-author of Tinker, loves connecting with fellow educators and is an enthusiastic teacher of adventure skills.

Raelyn Viti is an Experiential educator with classroom and backcountry experiences teaching people young and old about nature. Bringing the practice of experiential education into traditional classrooms has shaped her approach to a career in the field of education.

Rich Keegan is a Senior Trainer and Programing Designer for High 5 Adventure Learning Center. He is the author of “Global Games for Diversity Education.” Previously Rich spent 26 years teaching PE/ Adventure Education in Simsbury Public Schools.

Scott I. Goldsmith is a school psychologist with 30 years experience, author, director of the Manchester Ropes Challenge Course, owner of Outside the Box Experiential and adjunct professor of psychology Scott has presented internationally, nationally and at the state and local levels.

Sue Crumbaker has worked in this industry for over 35 years as a facilitator and running her own business. As the current Director of Teambuilding and Experiential learning at Hale, she creates programs for diverse groups that seek unique experiences.

Susie Spikol is an author and award-winning naturalist. She has devoted her 30+ year career to helping people of all ages find connections and experiences in this wild world. Susie works primarily in Northern New England as a teacher, presenter, and writer.

TJ Baumann is a residential staff member working with young adults and teens who are experiencing severe Anxiety and/or OCD related symptoms. TJ specializes in the use of Adventure Programming to create challenges that push residents to challenge themselves.

Tracy Dow joined SNHU in 2008 and is passionate about strong typography. Dow teaches several experiential-based classes and studios, Design and Color Theory, Typography, Branding, Designing with Data, Graphics and Layout Print Media, Advanced Digital Design, and Environmental Design.

Wesley LeFevre is currently a Graduate Assistant at the University of New Hampshire where he is developing the Outdoor Education Department’s risk management manual as well as researching retainment and recruitment for Search and Rescue teams in NH.

Thank you to everyone who shared their expertise, research, time, and skill during this year’s workshops! You are the heart of the Northeast AEE conference!



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