

Fostering Environmental Literacy

A Professional Development Experience in Environmental Education

Purpose

This course was created in response to the need for professional development that builds practitioner confidence in facilitating environmental literacy concepts using field-based environmental education as a catalyst.



Target Audience

1. Preservice and in-service teachers, recreation facilitators, and environmental education instructors who work primarily with elementary aged students.
2. Facilitators that apply their knowledge in both formal and informal settings.



Using field-based methods, this course introduces strategies that help bring environmental education concepts to life.

Participants learn to facilitate environmental experiences in an urban setting, and to foster environmental literacy, by learning how to link existing environmental curriculum, educational standards, and knowledge of place with the skills of an environmental interpreter.

Hands-on exploration draws on real-world experiences which builds relevance into what is being learned. Highly interactive sessions combine classroom engagement with outdoor campus explorations.



Outcomes

1. To arm facilitators with a variety of methods to engage learners in environmental education explorations.
2. To provide modules that enhance teacher efficacy in facilitating effective, engaging environmental education experiences.



Overarching Goals

1. Provide a professional development experience that embraces field-based methods that inspire curiosity and expert learning.
2. Empower practitioners to engage their students in environmental explorations as co-researchers striving toward expert learning.

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Rosanna Ruiz
Department of
Recreation Administration

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