



COUNCIL OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

A DAY OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION SESSIONS

2019 Outdoor Learning Symposium

October 26

Chattahoochee Hills Charter School

9670 Rivertown Road, Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30213

SCHEDULE

8:00 - 9:00	Registration, Coffee & Pastries with Exhibits
9:00 - 9:45	Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:00 - 11:55	AM Concurrent Sessions Short sessions 10:00 - 10:55 & 11:00 - 11:55 Long Sessions 10:00 - 11:55
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch, Exhibits, Networking
1:15 - 3:10	PM Concurrent Sessions Long Sessions Only
3:15 - 3:30	Closing Remarks

Choose ONE AM Early Session and ONE AM Late Session - OR - Attend the AM Long Session only.

- AND -

Choose ONE PM Long Session.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

The Council of Outdoor Learning (COOL), an initiative of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia (EEA), is a coalition of organizations and individuals who share an interest in the design, development, maintenance, use, and longevity of outdoor classrooms. COOL serves teachers, parents, principals, and community volunteers as a resource link, providing up-to-date training and information to those interested in building and using outdoor classrooms.

ABOUT THE SESSIONS

This program outlines the session times and locations. Sessions are either 55 or 115 minutes long. You may attend two AM sessions or one long AM session, and one long PM session. Please attend a session of your choice. If all seats are full when you arrive, kindly attend another session. To limit distractions to the presenters, please refrain from session-hopping. The Council of Outdoor Learning is extremely grateful for the presenters who are volunteering their time to present at the symposium.



THE COUNCIL OF OUTDOOR LEARNING IS A COMMITTEE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE OF GEORGIA



MORNING EARLY CONCURRENT SESSIONS

DESCRIPTIONS

10:00 to 10:55 **THE INTERDISCIPLINARY GARDEN: EE IN CONTEXT**

Franke Smith, Watson-Brown Foundation

In this session we will discuss ways to incorporate history, engineering, math, economics, and even music into your life science and environmental science curriculum. From the cotton gin to the dust bowl, history is ripe with opportunities for taking a cross curricular approach to lesson planning. We will look at three examples of this type of lesson and then explore the state standards so participants can brainstorm building their own lesson plans.

10:00 to 10:55 **KEEPING A CLASSROOM PET 101**

Charlee Martin, Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program

Thinking of adding a live animal teaching tool to your curriculum? Don't know where to start, what to get, what you'll need or just have questions you want answers to? Join Environmental Educator, Charlee Martin as she goes over the basics of native and exotic reptilian, amphibian, mammalian, avian, fishy and invertebrate classroom pet care. With over 8 years of experience caring for and presenting with program animals of all classifications, she will provide valuable insight and realistic advice on working with and caring for your classroom pet. At the end of the presentation, interested participants will learn how to safely handle a live program snake and participate.

10:00 to 10:55 **CAMPUS PLANT SAFARI**

Steve Bowling, Botanist & Wetlands Ecologist

Enjoy learning some of the common campus plants as you walk around the CHCS campus with Steve. He will offer tips for identification, tell their often fascinating stories, and give you facts about plant uses for dyes, medicine, and more. Steve is an extraordinary wealth of information and his programs are just plain fun.

MORNING LONG SESSION

DESCRIPTION

10:00 to 11:55 **TREES ARE TERRIFIC**

Penny Hightower, National Park Service, Volunteer Master Naturalist

Discover great activities that use trees as an exciting vehicle and catalyst for learning. Drawing on curriculum activities from Project Learning Tree and National Wildlife Federation's NatureScope; this fun and informative session will introduce you to ways to use the trees on your campus as great educational resources. Trees are amazing. Join us and discover just how amazing. Participants will embellish tee shirts with prints of leaves made from leaves. They will make recycled paper that can be used to create works of art, notecards, or more all the while leaning about the process of recycling. All participants will discover new and fascinating facts about the benefits of trees in our everyday lives.

MORNING LATE CONCURRENT SESSIONS

DESCRIPTIONS

11:00 to 11:55 **GET "AGCITED" ABOUT AG IN THE CLASSROOM!**

Lauren Goble, Georgia Farm Bureau

Are you curious about how to integrate Georgia's largest industry, agriculture, into your classroom? Georgia Farm Bureau has a program called Ag in the Classroom that can help you! In this workshop you will learn about free resources available to you and have some fun with hands on activities! Join me as we get "agcited" about agriculture!

11:00 to 11:55 **GEORGIA'S BIODIVERSITY PORTAL - DISCOVERING RARE SPECIES NEAR YOU!**

Linda May, GA DNR - Wildlife Resources Division

Georgia is home to a rich variety of wildlife and plants, including over 80 species that are considered threatened or endangered, as well as hundreds of other species of concern. Using GA DNR's Biodiversity Portal, find out if any rare species live near your school, and how you and your students can help them survive! Also learn habitat restoration tips to keep common species common on your school grounds, at home and in your community.

MORNING LATE CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONTINUED) DESCRIPTIONS

11:00
to
11:55

AMPHIBIANS OF METRO ATLANTA

Shaundon Moore, Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program

Come explore the amphibians which call metro-Atlanta their home, and learn how, where, and when to find them. Attendees will also receive resources to help integrate amphibians biology in their environmental curriculum.

11:00
to
11:55

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE – HOW TO HARNESS THE POWER OF THE INATURALIST APP TO ENGAGE CITIZEN SCIENTISTS IN AN ANNUAL CITY WIDE BIOBLITZ

Eli Dickerson, Ecologist, Fernbank Museum of Natural History

Alex LoCastro, interpretive Ranger, Fernbank Museum of Natural History

Join two Education staff members from Fernbank Museum to learn about how to incorporate technology in a citizen science program designed to engage children and adults in the outdoors. iNaturalist is the app we will focus on and the ways it can be utilized in a bioblitz of your local park, schoolyard, nature center, or backyard. iNaturalist is used in the annual City Nature Challenge where Atlanta competes with cities around the globe. We finished in the top 30 out of 150 cities globally in species diversity in 2019 and are looking to climb higher in 2020. To do this, we need your help! Not only will you learn about how to participate in City Nature Challenge (scheduled for the last weekend in April), but you will also learn how iNaturalist can be a teaching and research tool for your school or organization throughout the year. This free app is an incredibly robust tool and can help provide usable data to scientists around the world as we learn how to adapt to an ever-changing climate and landscape. For this session, participants will be asked to download iNaturalist in advance so we can venture outside and practice making observations in the wild!

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

DESCRIPTIONS

1:15
to
3:10

GREAT PROJECT PATHWAYS: TOOLS, RESOURCES AND A MODEL FOR SCHOOLYARD STEM INVESTIGATIONS AND PROJECTS

Karan Wood, CPF Institute / Captain Planet Foundation

Discover easy hacks for connecting kids with nature; making STEM relevant for everyone, including traditionally underrepresented groups; and empowering students to make a difference in the world. In an age when learning about environmental problems can distress young people so deeply that they disengage, check out ways to flip the focus from negative human impacts to positive student-directed projects. Participants will go outdoors to explore the "GREAT Project Pathways" model and then learn how to access its free tools and resources.

1:15
to
3:10

GROWING UP WILD

Kim Morris-Zarneke, Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center

Children ages 3-7 are natural investigators, curious about the world around them. Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. This session will explore a few of the activities from this guide and how you can develop positive impressions about the natural world through hands on activities.

1:15
to
3:10

WATER WE WAITING FOR? LET'S LEARN OUTSIDE!

Monica Kilpatrick, Georgia Project WET/Envtl Protection Division

Water is essential for all life and is a fantastic tool for learning! Participants in this session will experience classroom ready, water-focused activities from Project WET and River of Words. We'll take a journey through the water cycle, explore the watershed from a bird's eye view and simulate the effects of environmental stressors on aquatic life. Learn tips on how to design a STEM/STEAM learning unit for your students using Project WET and receive resources on how to engage your students in the River of Words program.

1:15
to
3:10**A FOREST FOR EVERY CLASSROOM**

Judy Toppins, U.S. Forest Service

Learn more about A Forest For Every Classroom (FFEC) – a place-based service learning program that enables educators to transform traditional classroom teaching into highly effective and exciting learning opportunities in the outdoors, using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach content across multiple subject areas. FFEC emphasizes hands-on real world learning experiences. We'll be sharing successful project designs, and also some hands-on, simple activities to foster student awareness of outdoor spaces in their communities.

1:15
to
3:10**GEORGIA ADOPT A STREAM FOR SCHOOLS**

Michael Kahle, Cobb County Watershed Stewardship Program

Collecting and analyzing data in the outdoors made easy! Any body of water can be used as a science lab. The Georgia Adopt A Stream water quality monitoring methods make a great way for students to explore and learn the basics of a water ecosystem. In this introductory session we'll overview the Georgia Adopt A Stream program and the many ways classroom teachers have utilized it, and participate in hands-on experiments testing water from a local stream. (Note: This is not a certification workshop).

1:15
to
3:10**CREATING, IMPROVING, AND UTILIZING CAMPUS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY OUTDOOR STEM LEARNING AREAS**

Jerry Hightower, National Park Service, Environmental Education Coordinator

Join nationally recognized naturalist and environmental educator, Jerry Hightower, for a fun, informative, and exciting workshop that will assist schools in creating, improving, and utilizing Campus Wildlife Sanctuary Outdoor STEM Learning Areas. A campus wildlife sanctuary is a "magic garden" that nurtures discovery, learning, and stewardship. These gardens require little money, but produce big harvests of interdisciplinary curriculum enhancement.

1:15
to
3:10**FROM APPLES TO ZUCCHINI: CREATING A CONTEXT FOR TEACHING STEM IN THE GARDEN**

Karen Garland, Clark Creek Elementary School

Have you struggled to teach STEM in your school garden? Join us to discover how to incorporate 3-D learning through STEM content to explain real-world phenomenon or solve authentic problems. Through a variety of hands-on activities and strategies we hope to motivate, encourage, and support K - 5 teachers who want to explore ways of changing how they teach outdoors.

1:15
to
3:10**YOUR LOCAL ROCKS AND HOW THEY FIT THE BIG PICTURE**Bill Witherspoon, Ph.D, geogiarocks.us, retired geologist and coauthor of *Roadside Geology of Georgia*

Can you identify the most common stones of Atlanta and the surrounding Piedmont and Blue Ridge? Can you explain how they fit into the plate tectonic history that made them, and the weathering and erosion history that exposed them? Use a Kids Rock!™ game to improve your identification skills, see a slide show with animations to grasp the movement of plates and emergence of landscapes in Georgia, and step outside to apply your knowledge..

OUR SUPPORTERS

A special note of gratitude to the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School for hosting the 2019 Outdoor Learning Symposium and providing an exemplary campus and educational philosophy for using the outdoors as a the ideal classroom for providing experiential learning.



For information about Chatahoochee Hills Charter School visit Chatthillscharter.org or call 678.466.7300



The National Park Service, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; is a continuing supporter and sponsor of the Outdoor Learning Symposium.