

2019 WRAEE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 22-24TH, 2019

ROB HILL CAMPGROUND, PRESIDIO, SAN FRANCISCO

Western Region Association for Experiential Education

W R A E E

Presents

Making the Impossible...POSSIBLE

Making the impossible POSSIBLE is more than an approach- it's a mindset that creates results. From openness, exploration, conversation and intention we create community. Together we explore new possibilities that may have seemed unattainable or unrealistic. Our intention is to create a space for all participants to share their unique perspectives and experiences. We will come together and share these perspectives to manifest new paradigms. Often times our fears lead to inaction; fear can make circumstances seem insurmountable-- it can make the possible seem impossible!! The simple fact remains: the remedy for fear is action. All great journeys begin with the first step. Join us for an adventure with fellow trailblazers in a breathtaking location; the Rob Hill campground at the Presidio located on the edge of the San Francisco Bay. This unrivaled hidden sanctuary sits on the cusp of the wild city. Our home for two days provides an unparalleled panorama that will inspire boundless possibilities. We will convene together in this sanctuary to find respite and gain inspiration through sharing and friendship. From here we will gain fresh perspectives and ideas to propel new and exciting possibilities. We regenerate and begin again.

WHAT IS A WRAEE CONFERENCE?

This conference is geared toward educators, teachers, counselors, outdoor guides, environmental educators, camp leaders, group facilitators and anyone interested in experiential methodology. Experiential education is a philosophy and methodology in which educators purposefully engage with learners through direct experiences and reflection in order to increase self-knowledge, develop skills and clarify values.

What is AEE?

The Association for Experiential Education (AEE) is a nonprofit, professional membership organization that supports the highest caliber of professionals in the fields of experiential education. AEE has been transforming education since 1972 and currently has 1,500 members in 33 countries engaged in more than 15 areas of professional practice. Collectively, our members impact more than 2.8 million learners annually. For more information, check out www.aee.org/west.

The Location

The Presidio- Most people across the country have to travel for hours to get to a National Park. The Presidio is a National Park right in the city. It is a San Francisco treasure, full of stories, plants and animals, and historic buildings that represent the heritage of the place we call home. Transformation is the story of the Presidio. The Presidio has a rich history spanning back to the time of the native Ohlone people. Each year, Camping at the Presidio (CAP), welcomes two Ohlone groups for week-long spiritual gatherings and “Big Time” events. These groups also offer many prayers to the land which we now call Rob Hill. WRAEE is looking forward to welcoming one of the Ohlone groups to share their history and the historical and cultural significance of the Presidio.

The Ohlone - We are a band of Mission Indians with ancestry connected to Mission Dolores, as well as throughout the Bay Area. As a community, we are relocated out of our homeland, in Southern California. Every year we work with the parks to continue our way of life and hold two ceremonies that take place in Rob Hill. One is a private rite of

passage for the men and the other is a community and environmental "big time gathering" to celebrate the beauty of life. Thanks to this unique partnership we are able to thrive as a community in our ancestral homeland.

The Presidio is where San Francisco began. Founded at the Golden Gate in 1776, it served as a military fort under the flags of Spain, Mexico and the United States before it became a new kind of National Park in 1994. Where once there was an army base brimming with soldiers and military activities there is now a National Park staffed with interpretive Rangers and educational activities. Where once well-drilled troops defended concrete bunkers with weapons of war, there are now well-used and picturesque hiking trails overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the Golden Gate. Where once there were waste dumps and black topped surfaces there are now restored natural riparian areas and uncovered marshland. Where once there were guarded gates that limited access there are now wide open marked bicycle trails for cyclists, joggers, and people walking their pets. Better yet, there are still more massive plans for transformation in the Presidio's future. The "Post to Park" vision that began two decades ago is still being shaped.

Camping at the Presidio- The Camping at the Presidio Program (CAP) is searching for an Educational Intern for our upcoming season. The CAP Program provides youth who traditionally have not visited national parks with meaningful overnight camping experiences. Designed for community organizations and schools, CAP provides a dynamic and affordable way to enrich the lives of young people. Since 2007, CAP has met the need for thousands of Bay Area youth to get access to overnight camping in the Presidio, while providing a gateway experience to explore the Golden Gate National Parks and public lands far beyond our urban center. Camping at the Presidio is a Crissy Field Center program, run in partnership with Bay Area Wilderness Training, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service.

SCHEDULE

Friday, Feb 22	Descriptions
8:30 – 9:30	Registration (Check out Camping Gear)
9:30 – 9:45	Presenters Meeting
10:00 – 10:45	Welcome & Opening
11:00 - 12:30	Workshops Session A
12:30 - 2:00	Lunch and Break
2:00 - 3:30	Workshops Session B
3:30 – 3:45	Break
4:00 - 5:30	Workshop Session C
5:30 - 6:30	Set Up Camps (tents if needed)
6:30 - 7:30	Community BBQ Rob Hill
7:30 - 9:00	Playnote
Saturday 2/23	Descriptions
8:00 - 9:00	Registration (Check out Camping Gear)
8:30 - 8:45	Presenters Meeting
9:00 – 9:20	Welcome & Opening
9:20 – 9:30	Break
9:30 – 11:00	Workshop Session A
11:00 – 11:15	Break (Snacks Available)
11:15 - 12:45	Workshop Session B
12:45 - 1:30	Lunch (Walk to Keynote)
1:30 - 2:15	Keynote
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 - 4:00	Workshop Session C
4:00 - 4:15	Break
4:15 - 5:45	Workshop Session D
5:45 - 6:30	Break and Set-up Tents
6:30 - 7:30	Catered Dinner & Awards
7:30 to 10:00	Community Led Campfire

Sunday 2/24	Descriptions
9:00 - 10:30	Workshop Session A
10:45 - 12:15	Workshop Session B
12:30 – 1:00	Closing back at Rob Hill Campground Sailing with Blue Water Foundation
1:00 - 4:30	

REGISTRATION

Member Registration Fees/ Non-Member Fees

- Full Registration - \$125/ \$140
- Student Full Registration - \$75/ \$105
- One Day Registration - \$110/ \$110
- Service Crew - \$75/\$105
- Presenters –

Free Optional Meal Plan - \$50

Saturday Dinner Only - \$20

Limited Scholarships Available- for more info: Contact wraeeconference@gmail.com

LODGING

Your registration fee includes camping at the Rob Hill Campground. The campground sits atop the highest point in the Presidio and overlooks Baker Beach and the beautiful Pacific Ocean. If you choose to camp at Rob Hill bring all your camping essentials and know that there are no shower facilities at the campground. If you prefer, you may arrange your own off-site lodging accommodations. The local area has plenty of lodging options. ([See attachment](#))

MEALS

Optional Meal Plan - \$50: In addition to continental style breakfast and lunch, this meal plan includes a community BBQ Friday night and catered dinner by local restaurant Sunrise Deli. Each morning and evening there will be a coffee & tea and snack station available. If you do not wish to purchase the full meal plan, you can still join us for dinner Saturday night for \$20, catered by Slugs In The Kitchen.

Slugs In the Kitchen:

Slugs In the Kitchen (SLK) is a program at UCSC to support a peer based student cooking and health engagement effort providing free and low-cost workshops to the UCSC community each academic quarter. The SLK student team is part of the UCSC Food Systems Working Group which seeks to advance a more just and sustainable food system through education, policy, and student empowerment.

Menu:

- (Appetizer) Bruschetta (toasted sourdough baguette) with hummus/Kalamata olives and chevre and roasted garlic and mushrooms
- (Soup) Organic winter squash curry soup with toasted pepitas
- (Salad) Organic dino kale massaged greens with sunflowers, cranberries, and fresh pressed citrus jus
- (Entree): Organic Vegan roasted veggies and marina over a baked herb polenta OR organic devils gulch pork marina and veggies over a baked herb polenta
- (Dessert) Vegan cookies and brownies
- Sparkling and flat water with herbs/lemon (beverages)

SATURDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE

Join us for a Community Led Campfire

After a wonderful evening spent eating a lovely catered dinner with new friends, we will gather for a traditional campfire led by our own community! Our campfire program will feature a roaring fire, a multitude of games and campfire songs, and skits all led by your fellow conference participants! Grab a friend or two and check out the great room to sign up for a slot to step into the spotlight!

AWARDS!!!

Each year, the region gives out three special awards:

- The Rising Star Award – Given to an emerging leader within the field of EE.
- The Exemplary Practices Award – Given to a person or an organization demonstrating exemplary practices within the field of EE. Areas of practice include, but are not limited to: leadership, service, positive impact, ingenuity, legacy or other contributions to the field of EE.
- Servant Leader Award-Given to an individual who demonstrates active, excellent leadership and exhibits the highest level of ethical practices.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Rohan Shahani for receiving the Exemplary Practitioners Award, Anya Diamond and Jen O'Brien-Rojo for both receiving this year's Rising Star Award, Jani Jackson for receiving the Servant Leader Award and the Pacific Leadership Institute for receiving the Organizational Award. Make sure to get to know these incredible people!

FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

Workshop Locations will be posted at the conference site

Workshop **SESSION A - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm**

What's Your Value Proposition?

Are you ready to walk into a client's office and explain the value your program will bring to their organization? Are you able to give a concise description of your program in a way that grabs a potential client's interest so they want to know more about you? Or do you sometimes feel like you and your client are speaking different languages? Learn how to talk about the value of your organization and its programs with confidence. In this interactive workshop, you'll create an elevator pitch that gets attention, and begin to develop your own unique value proposition.

Presenter: Jani Jackson

Strand: Experience Based Training and Development

Multiple Modality Memory Making

Learn how to "OM", our signature method for designing educational experiences by clarifying Outcomes before Methods. Is there an "impossible" challenge lurking in your To Do list you'd love to solve? It could be a lesson plan, training workshop, video, or grant proposal. Bring that challenge to this workshop and we will help you move it from impossible to inspired. You'll start with radical empathy and end up with a completed outline for success. Along the way, you will have fun and learn how Multiple Modality Memory Making engages Perception, Processing and Projection to enhance comprehension and recall.

Presenter: Robin Parvin & Ken Kramarz

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Making Land Stewardship Relevant - From Being an "Outsider" to becoming an "Insider" in the Land Stewardship Movement of the 21st Century

This workshop will give participants an opportunity to explore their relationship with land stewardship through story sharing. You will first hear a story about being an outsider who migrated from India, to feeling like an insider in the Golden Gate National Parks. Through this example and others, participants will learn what it took for us to create culturally relevant, intentional and welcoming community programs. We hope to empower participants with tools that will help them navigate through difficult conversations about land stewardship, and find new ways to engage in meaningful stewardship programs within their own communities.

Presenter: Yakuta Poonwalla & Jamie Baxter

Strand: Social Justice & Ethics

Workshop SESSION B - 2:00 pm - 3:30pm

Telling our Story Through Writing and Photography

As experiential educators, we have countless hidden stories that could help shape the future of experiential education. Smart phones have amazing cameras that can capture these moments. Rich and descriptive language has the power to transform. When combining the foundational principles of photography and descriptive writing, we can make the seemingly impossible, possible. Learn some basic, yet effective techniques to tell your story. Make sure to bring your cell phone and get ready to take some amazing photos and write your unique story.

Presenter: Chad Thatcher

Strand: Experience-Based Training & Development

In this fun and interactive workshop, participants will learn, discuss and play through the 7 factors of Integrative Youth Development to gain tools to intentionally promote youth thriving by developing the personal and community capacity to create and sustain thick and vibrant webs of support for all youth that protect them from harm and launch them into their greatness.

Presenter: Jen O'Brien-Rojo & Nicole Polen-Petit PhD

Strand: Art & Science of Teaching

Mental Health and Physical Wellness Through Experiential Learning: Utilizing Nature as a Platform for Healing and Growth

Inundated by social media and constant distractions through screens that promise a false sense of connection and belonging, our communities of today need a new form of treatment. When we create space for others to be truly present in the moment, our participants can begin to focus on what things look like at the speed of life. Join River for a 90 min adventure to learn about the tools that he is using, populations that he is working with, participate in an experiential learning activities and hear how he is working from a collaborative and community building model to do more with less.

Presenter: River Krimmer

Strand: Therapeutic Adventure/Adventure Therapy

Workshop SESSION C - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Resilience Vs. Resistance

Has the word RESIST caught your attention in the media or on T-shirts lately?

Have you ever heard of the saying “what you resist persists”?

With all that is going on in the world right now, there is plenty to resist. Many are speaking and acting as if things just shouldn’t be this way.

With no peaceable solutions in sight, what is the force that could actually solve the problem?

Is it really a problem?

Come explore what it means to build resilience in the face of those things personal and global that feel threatening and overwhelming.

Presenter: Bernadine Rosso

Strand: Art & Science of Teaching

Creating Invincible Youth - What Every Teen Needs to Thrive (Part 2 of 2)

In this fun and interactive workshop, participants will learn, discuss and play through the 7 factors of Integrative Youth Development to gain tools to intentionally promote youth thriving by developing the personal and community capacity to create and sustain thick and vibrant webs of support for all youth that protect them from harm and launch them into their greatness.

Presenter: Jen O'Brien-Rojo & Nicole Polen-Petit PhD

Strand: Art & Science of Teaching

**SATURDAY KEYNOTE: A SUMMONS TOWARDS WHOLENESS 1:30-2:15
PM**



This year's conference theme summarizes the process of experiential education and seeks to engage a vibrant community of educators and learners with diverse backgrounds and perspectives with one common goal: "to bring our whole selves to the table" as we play and engage with one another. In her talk, Dr. Christine Norton will invoke the wisdom of Wendell Berry to discuss what it means to move toward wholeness and thriving by forming deeper connections with ourselves, each other and the natural world.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. CHRISTINE LYNN NORTON PH.D

Dr. Christine Lynn Norton received her Ph.D. in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago. She has a Master of Arts in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago and a Master of Science in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University-Mankato. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Board Approved Supervisor in the State of Texas. She has over 20 years of experience working with youth and young adults in a variety of settings including therapeutic wilderness programs, juvenile justice, schools, mentoring and campus support programs. She has taught as adjunct faculty at The University of Denver, Prescott College, and Naropa University. Her areas of practice and research interest and expertise are in positive youth development; innovative interventions in child and adolescent mental health; adventure therapy; outdoor behavioral healthcare; experiential education; foster care support in higher education; and international social work. Dr. Norton is a Research Scientist with the Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare Center and she helped launch Foster Care Alumni Creating Educational Success (FACES) at Texas State. She is the Foster Care Liaison Officer to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and is the founder of the Foster Care Adventure Therapy Network, an international group of programs and practitioners who utilize adventure therapy with current and former foster care youth and young adults.

Dr. Norton has over 25 peer-reviewed journal articles, has edited three books, and has authored over ten book chapters, and is a leading social work scholar who has presented her research nationally and internationally. Dr. Norton is active in international education and is also a Fulbright Scholar, having taught adventure therapy in the Department of Civic Education and Leadership at National Taiwan Normal University.

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

Workshop Locations will be posted at the conference site

Workshop SESSION A - 9:30 am-11:00 am

LGBTQIA: Deconstructing the Acronym in Consideration of Youth

For years, in research, policy and practice, anyone who identifies as a sexual minority has been collectively placed under the acronym of LGBTQ+. In reality, the identities represented in this group are incredibly unique and diverse. This presentation will deconstruct the LGBTQ+ acronym and take a deeper dive into each category in consideration of youth in order to increase understanding of the nuances of each group represented. In gaining a better understanding of youth who identify as LGBTQ+, we are then better equipped to connect with and serve them and their families.

Presenter: Nicole Polen-Petit PhD & Jen O'Brien-Rojo

Strand: Social Justice & Ethics

Put More Power Play Purpose Into Your Life

An outdoor setting where participants can relax and be themselves. No skills required other than openness and willingness to explore their life's purpose and interact with others in exercises that help them to tap into their own personal power, purpose and the importance of play between the two.

Presenter: Janet Jannsen

Strand: Program Administration

Workshop SESSION B - 11:15 am-12:45 pm

What Happened to You? Living a Trauma Informed Life

Trauma is prevalent in our world and has an impact on many of the people we interact with, including our clients, students and colleagues. Compassionate trauma-informed care (TIC) is essential to providing effective support, building connections and increasing resiliency. We will review TIC principles and look at the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACES) study. We will cover key components of basic brain science as it relates to trauma and healing. Lastly, we will ground with mind body based medicine breath work, which will help support you leading a trauma informed life full of curiosity and compassion.

Presenter: Sky Gray & Christine Norton

Strand: Therapeutic Adventure/Adventure Therapy

Seeing Team-Building Activities Through A Social Emotional Learning Lens

Everything adults do with young people can be framed through a social and emotional learning lens. Participants will experience and create new ways to embed social and emotional learning into their current practices and programs. Join us for a fun time of playing and creating together new ways in which we grow individuals - and the group - through their strengths.

Presenter: David Pavish & Amy McDonald

Strand: Schools & Colleges

Using A New Model of Transformation to Guide Debriefing and Post-Experience Programming

Recall your biggest life-changing experience. This is the beginning of transformation, the first cycle of a larger process that requires a second cycle upon return home. According to this research, the second journey is inherently difficult. Learn the 13 phases of transformation and discover where you are located in the process and how you can better help your clients once the transformative adventure is over. Use the 13-phases as a guide to create post-intervention programming designed to help your client complete her transformation and become a new self and also learn psychosocial/spiritual struggles unique to each phase for debriefing.

Presenter: Susan Ross

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Workshop SESSION C - 2:30 pm-4:00 pm

Resiliency in Your Own Personal Ecology

Don't let compassion fatigue and burnout diminish your passion for work and life. Do your job for as long as you want instead of as long as you can. Discover and engage your own personal support systems, both at work and home, in order to amplify your strengths, resiliency, and passions. Develop strategies to increase retention and job satisfaction within your organization. Join us for fun, meaningful, and personal activities that take you from where you are to where you want to be

Presenter: David Pavish & Amy McDonald

Strand: Schools & Colleges

From The Field to the Fork: Hands-On Student Leadership & Learning

This session will explore a student empowerment and engagement model in higher education that provides experiential education from the farm field to the fork. Come learn about new innovations and strategies of mentorship and student leadership through sharing best practices, undertaking exercises, and joining in hands-on play.

Presenter: Tim Galarneau & UCSC Students

Strand: Schools & Colleges

Sound Off!

Music is a universal language! Whether your participants are of different racial or ethnic backgrounds, learning styles, or personalities, music is an instructional medium that can help engage their feelings and emotions. Sound is a medium that all people can interact with - even those with different hearing abilities. In this workshop we will explore how sound, song, tone, and rhythm can be integrated into your presentations, and how it engages your participant's thoughts, emotions, actions, and feelings.

Presenter: Rohan Shahani

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Workshop SESSION D - 4:15 pm-5:45 pm

RhythmALLogy: Using Rhythm to Build Community and Connection

RhythmALLogy is a playshop open to anyone who wants to share their rhythmic spirit, no previous experience is necessary. Using drums, percussion, creativity, humor, and connection, Aaron will lead participants through facilitated rhythm games and ice-breakers, exploring rhythms from around the world and from our own backyard. A warning: participants may experience a temporary relief from cynicism and self-judgement, unexplainable eruptions of dancing and laughter, and a peculiar sensation of being connected to others.

Presenter: Aaron Kierbel

Strand: Mind/Body/Spirit

Become a Diversity Change Agent, Be the Change You Want to See in the World!

Genuine change comes from the individual, not from imposed change. What can we do as individual outdoor educators, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity and social class, to work towards creating a more inclusive environment for future generations of our richly diverse population? Let us think of the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion as the building blocks of an organization, rather than qualifiers to be part of the current social justice “trend.”

Join us for an interactive, motivational goal-setting exercise to discover your inner strengths and become a change agent in your community and your organization. Everyone is welcome!

Presenter: Tanya Rao & Susie Barr-Wilson

Strand: Social Justice & Ethics

Beyond The Initiative...Adapting Activities For Deeper Learning

This workshop will introduce several classic initiative activities and deconstruct ways to adapt for all types of groups and goals. By design this workshop will be less of a lecture format and more co-creative. The intention is to set the stage for discussion amongst participants of our successes and challenges facilitating initiative team-building. New leaders, seasoned leaders and all in between are invited to come!

Presenter: Rosy Woodruff

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

Workshop Locations will be posted at the conference site

Workshop SESSION A - 9:00 am-10:30 am

Growing Bigger Than Yourself - Youth & Adult Resiliency Through Connection

When you do things by yourself, you are only as big as yourself. In today's world, many adults view themselves as onlookers unless they are asked to do otherwise by youth. However, youth grow faster and stronger when adults are growing with them. Be engaged, get inspired, and learn strategies to engage adults alongside youth in their group and individual development.

Presenter: David Pavish & Amy McDonald

Strand: Mind/Body/Spirit

Workshop SESSION B - 10:45 am - 12:15 pm

How Can You Engage-Collaborate-Thrive in an Academic Setting? (And Meet Curriculum Standards)

Sometimes an impossible number of objectives are held over our heads, as educators. Want to check out how to meet multiple objectives in one experience? Let's make this possible! In teams of 3-4, attendees will participate in a mini goosechase- a scavenger hunt like activity-which involves collaboration, teamwork, creative problem solving, completing actions together, role-playing, fun!, and a little exploration of local surroundings. The whole group will then discuss, examine and explore ideas organically about how to effectively apply EE strategies to achieve content specific outcomes (using this and/or other examples). Participants will leave with a virtual tool-kit of ideas for their own applications of content. Digital access with cell device a big plus, but not 100% necessary.

Presenter: Kimberly Anne DeWit

Strand: Schools & Colleges

Mindful Health and Outdoor Recreation For At-Risk Youth Through Restorative Practices

Bringing restorative practices into the school along with adventure based approaches to support community and problem solving can benefit students and classrooms. Creating a culture of openness, exploration, conversation, and intention will be supported throughout this workshop. Conversation and exploration of the self will be addressed and hands on practice of a community circle and an adventure based activity will be implemented throughout the workshop. 90% of the workshop will be experiential and interactive. Ideas surrounding challenges participants are experiencing relating to bullying in schools will be discussed to provide an effort to change the way conflicts are addressed with youth.

Presenter: Jessie Koltz

Strand: Schools & Colleges

PRESENTER BIOS

Kimberly Anne DeWit

Kimberly Anne DeWit is a lifelong educator and world traveler, Kim (M.Ed.) has worked in various fields of education -environmental ed, earth science, Spanish, and more. She currently combines EE practices within the academic setting as an instructor of Intensive English to international students at Boise State.

Tim Galarneau

Tim Galarneau supports efforts that intersect with food, equity, and society. He co-chair's a statewide project supporting student basic needs. In addition, he is a co-founder and advisor to the national Real Food Challenge and the Central Coast lead for the CA Farm to School network.

Sky Gray, M.S.

Sky Gray, M.S. is the Program Manager at the Valley of the Moon Children's Center, a shelter for abused, neglected and abandoned children. Prior to her life-reimagined moment, she served as the Executive Director of the Santa Fe Mountain Center for 16 years.

Jani Jackson

Jani Jackson is the founder of Develop Your Team, a company devoted to creating highly-effective, top-performing teams. Jani creates customized, participant-centered programs using experiential learning methods to help others grow and excel. She's been a successful and dynamic corporate leader for over 25 years.

Jessie Koltz

Jessie Koltz grew up in upstate New York, graduating from SUNY Buffalo in 2011 where I swam competitively for four years, continued on to Penn State University where I started my professional triathlon career. I am a certified school counselor in Nevada.

Ken Kramarz

Ken Kramarz is a Fearless 101 Partner and Director of Tawonga Institute, the professional training arm of Camp Tawonga. Ken served for three decades as Executive Director of Tawonga, the largest user of Yosemite's backcountry and a nationally known innovator in experiential education and outdoor programming.

River Krimmer

River Krimmer is both a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice as well as Executive Director and Founder of Living Evolution. He has facilitated experiential learning programs with adolescents, fathers, families, and children. Lover of life and father of two. He has a son Skye and daughter Luna. Rooting his stand in compassion, equity and joy for himself and others, his love of the outdoors combined with the understanding between mind/body has created a unique and therapeutic approach in the various populations that he works with.

Amy McDonald

Amy McDonald has more than two decades of experience in K-12 education, classroom teaching, Lead Teacher, and School Counselor. Amy provides a fresh look at youth development as she continues to work in multiple school districts and youth and tribal organizations throughout Alaska and North America.

Jen O'Brien-Rojo

Jen O'Brien-Rojo, founder of the California Institute for Invincible Youth, coaches teens, families and communities to ensure they have a web of support that protects and launches teens into their greatness.

Robin Parvin

Robin Parvin is a Fearless 101 Partner and Legal Services director. She has 10 years' experience as program coordinator and facilitator for Four Winds Ropes Course, is a professional dance instructor and musician. She specializes in team building through tone setting, meaningful debriefs and fun!

David Pavish

David Pavish is a presenter/trainer to youth and adults with over 20 years of experience in youth development and experiential education. Specializing in youth developmental ecology, he has created and written outdoor leadership educational programs and curriculum that have been used in Alaska, Canada and Mexico.

Nicole Polen-Petit PhD

Dr. Polen-Petit is an Associate Professor and Academic Program Director for the BA Psychology Program at National University where she teaches a variety of courses to a diverse student body. Her current scholarship interests center around sexual identity and orientation, sexual fluidity in women.

Yakuta Poonwalla

Yakuta Poonwalla was born and raised in India, and her love affair with nature began during her first trek in the Himalayas in 1999. Since then, she has worked with various organizations to educate, inspire, and cultivate deep love and respect for the environment.

Tanya Rao

Tanya Rao is passionate about bringing life-changing outdoor experiences to people from diverse backgrounds. Tanya has over 8 years of experience as a youth mentor, outdoor educator and adventure planner, and offers a unique perspective as a women of color outdoor leader and researcher.

Susan Ross, PhD

Susan Ross is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Science and Recreation at San José State University. Her primary research examines personal transformation and is the subject of her forthcoming book, *The Map to Wholeness: Finding Yourself through Crisis, Change, and Reinvention*.

Bernadine Rosso

Bernadine Rosso incorporates experiential education including outdoor and healing arts activities to reliably encourage personal growth and sustainable life practices. As a coach and mentor for over two decades, she has programs for teen girls, online and in person coaching. See womensevolution.com

Rohan Shahani

Rohan Shahani is a consultant and trainer dedicated to increasing the physical and emotional well-being of students and clients. He is passionate about communication, risk management, and human awareness.

Dr. Chad Thatcher

Dr. Chad Thatcher is a professor at Southern Oregon University in the Outdoor Adventure Leadership department and Coordinator of the Master of Outdoor Adventure and Expedition Leadership program. He has guided, taught and administered outdoor, experiential, international, and adventure education for over 25 years.

Mike Wagner

Mike Wagner is a career outdoor educator, and has paid his dues as a field staff and guide. Now stepping into a more administrative role, Mike teaches Adventure Education as a field assistant at Fort Lewis College, and recruits young professionals for Deer Hill Expeditions.

Rosy Woodruff

Rosy Woodruff has been a team building facilitator for over a decade. Her experience ranges from challenge courses to intentional team building programs for groups of all ages. Currently she is completing a Master's degree in Transformative Leadership.

OUR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the conference committee members for all the effort, work and love put into putting this conference together.

Terry Williams, Ph.D.

Rosy Woodruff

Jani Jackson

Jen O'Brien-Rojo

Kymberly Lacrosse

Daniel Guzman

Anya Diamond

Tara Schmidt

Claire Liu

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!!



Pacific Leadership Institute (PLI):



Children Are Our Future



Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy



The Presidio Trust



Bay Area Wilderness Training



Develop Your Team



**The California Institute For
Invincible Youth**

For more info about the conference contact Rosy Woodruff: 707-310-5977 rosy@pliprograms.org