What do conference attendees want to learn?

Each year we ask conference attendees to fill out a survey about their experience. We use this information to help improve the conference experience as well as assist our presenters in choosing relevant and valuable topics for their workshops. While you are welcome to submit proposal topics that are not on this list, we have included a summary below of what our attendees would like to see in 2018. In addition to these topics, attendees indicated a clear desire to see more focused workshops for both advanced practitioners as well as emerging professionals. To that end, we encourage proposals that are designed specifically for beginner, intermediate, or advanced audiences in addition to those that are ‘open to all.’

Topics of interest:

- Adolescent development
- Advanced facilitation models and techniques
- Applying current research in experiential education
- Assessment, program evaluation, and outcomes measurement
- Administering a quality program (software, logistics, business operations, etc.)
- Behavior management
  - Motivating difficult students
  - Working with at-risk youth
- ‘Building a bigger boat’
- Career development
- Challenge course management
- Creativity
- Closing the achievement gap
- College credit integration (credit, FAFSA, 529, etc.)
- Cultural awareness
- Curriculum design
- Designing safe and impactful solos
- Designing awesome wilderness expeditions
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Environmental education
  - In urban settings
- Experience-based training and development
- Experiential education for social workers
- Experiential education for recreational therapists
- Experiential methods in recreational settings
- Exposing underserved groups to the outdoors (long-term illness, elderly, minorities, etc.)
- Facilitating difficult conversations
- Facilitation for elementary-aged children
- Facilitation for adult/corporate groups
- Games and activities
  - Adapting activities to specific groups/ability levels
  - New and innovative challenges and activities
  - From other countries/cultures
  - For LARGE groups (500+)
- Gap years
- Grants and funding
- How to teach empathy and compassion
- Insurance for outdoor and adventure education programs or outbound international programs
- International risk management
- Introduction to experiential education
- Land management, permitting, and policy
- Leadership development
- Mentorship
- Neurodiversity
- Neuroscience and experiential education.
- Outdoor and experiential education in K-12 schools
  - Project-based learning
- Experiential methods in recreational settings
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