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

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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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.
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.

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!

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.

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.

WATER WE WAITING FOR? LET’S LEARN OUTSIDE!
Monica Kilpatrick, Georgia Project WET/Envl 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.
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.