Take a few minutes to close any browsers, grab snacks, and make your space comfortable.

Introduce yourself in the chat!

Use the Annotate Feature to color or add to the drawing!

Welcome!
Celebrate #OutsideFor5 Week

Take the Pledge!

April 1-30th, 2024

Commit to spend 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week, or any meaningful amount of time learning outside!

Learn More at

www.outsidefor5.com
Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

We are a web of over 800 educators serving tens of thousands of learners across Colorado.

We inform, inspire and spread the benefits of EE through every region and community.

As a collective, we advance...

Our network is the key to taking EE to scale.

We are better together.

Equity in environmental learning

practice

policy
WE PAY OUR RESPECT TO THE ELDERS. BOTH PAST AND PRESENT. WHO HAVE STEWARDED THIS LAND THROUGHOUT GENERATIONS.
Ways of Being and Agreements

• **We are Present:**
  • Advancing EE is hard work, please take care of yourself.
  • Be willing to struggle and also celebrate the joy of our work.
  • We have different capacities to participate.
  • Respect place and space.

• **We are Imperfect:**
  • Know your intent and own impact.
  • Recognize the impact of learning on those with marginalized identities.

• **We are Transparent, Empathetic Communicators:**
  • We prioritize listening.
  • Make space for diverse voices.
  • Use respectful language, terms, and imagery

• **We actively engage and welcome meaningful participation:**
  • Provide space for all opinions, voices and ways of knowing, even if you don’t agree.
  • Work to recognize your privileges and remove power imbalances.
  • Recognize and counter group dynamics in which marginalized voices are sidelined.

• **We Value Process:**
  • Be willing to shift when needs arise.
  • Allow time for discussion and processing.
  • Expect non-closure.

• **We are Better Together:**
  • Create authentic relationships.
  • No one knows everything, together we know a lot.
  • We value all contributions to collective work.
Today’s Agenda

What to Expect

- Welcome and Background
- What we Learned
- Expert Panel
- Co-Creating Recommendations
## Expert Panel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Introducing Karina Branson
ConverSketch

• Graphic Recorder & Facilitator
• Live illustrations
• Process design
• Illustrated videos
Why is outdoor and environmental learning critical for Colorado?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transformative Environmental and Outdoor Learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All Colorado ecosystems are healthy, vibrant, &amp; valued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PreK-12 Education</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• EE supports and ensures all PreK-12 students are lifelong learners with successful school outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Positive Youth Development</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All Colorado children and youth grow into responsible, resilient, engaged citizens that care for themselves, the environment, and their communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Wellness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Through increased access, connection to, and comfort in the natural environment, all Coloradans are healthy and well- physically, mentally, and emotionally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Justice</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All Coloradans have access to and opportunity to experience the outdoors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Environmental and Outdoors Learning Providers

Charging Stations Powering Up….

- Learning
- Civic Engagement
- Environmental Responsibility
- Mental and Physical Health
- Connection

Some learners have access to lots of energizing experiences and others have very little to plug into.

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC
Environmental and Outdoor Learning Landscape Analysis

- a comprehensive look at organizational reach and program offerings,
- a better understanding of the staffing, structure, and funding of organizations and how that affects reach and sustainability,
- organizational strategies for scaling programs for broader, equitable reach,
- state-level initiatives for scaling programs for broader, equitable reach, and
- state and regional findings to inform future planning efforts.
Two Phase Process:

1. eeProviders
   - Nature Center
   - Government Agency
   - Zoo
   - Museum
   - Nonprofit
   - And More

2. Make your voice heard!
   PreK-12 Environmental and Outdoor Learning Survey
   Teachers and Administrators!
   [Link]

[Image: caee.png]
Shout Outs!

Regional Analysis: Brady Wolken and Dr. Sarah Jackson, Kansas State University

Colorado Analysis and Visualizations: Chris Peltz

Survey Platform and Mapping: ecoRise
What do we need to ensure all Coloradans have access to environmental and outdoor learning?
Who Participated?

In the Landscape Analysis

• Responses from **309** providers across six states

• **107** respondent organizations or 35% were from Colorado.
Strengths of the Network

Assets

Serving 547,394 participants in Colorado including:

- **469,510** Students out of 883,000
- **10,478** Educators out of 55,000
- **67,406** Other Participants
- Over 22% of environmental and outdoor learning providers in Colorado are working with a budget of under $250,000.
- 19% operate with a budget of over $2 million.
Understanding Organizational Capacity

Revenue Sources

- Taxes
- Membership Dues
- Sponsorship
- Fee for Service
- Donations
- Grant-Funding

# Organizations

# Organizations

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80
Understanding Organizational Capacity

Staffing

4,374 people employed as full-time, part-time, temporary/seasonal or contract staff.

Average full-time staff size is 18

Median is only 5 full-time staff

Almost half (48%) of all those employed are in seasonal or temporary positions.

Over 22,000 volunteers support outdoor learning programs.
Understanding Organizational Capacity

Staffing

• Almost 40% have no staff that identify as BIPOC
• Over 65% have no senior staff that identify as BIPOC
• 33% have no Board Members that identify as BIPOC.
• Few organizations indicated that they had over 20% of staff or board that identified as BIPOC.
Average starting salary for environmental and outdoor educators in Colorado was $19.29/hour.

A living wage for 1 adult and no children in Colorado is $24.83/hour (MIT Living Wage Calculator).

The Southeast Environmental Education Alliance’s eeGuidance for Equitable Pay and Hiring provides recommendations and best practices.
The majority of organizations (over 95%) reported one or more strategies. The most frequent strategy undertaken was internal training for staff and/or Board members. Fewer organizations have implemented JEDI into their strategic plan or formed affinity/identify group for staff of similar racial identities.
Geographic Access to Environmental and Outdoor Learning

Program Offerings
Types of Programming

- The primary offerings were direct teaching and field trips.
- Only 18% offered professional development for teachers.
- Fewer than 8% offered professional development for administrators.
Program Offerings

When Programming Occurs

- The majority of programs take place during the school day or summer.
- Approximately 13% of programs are taking place virtually.
Program Offerings

Audiences

- 5th grade has the highest overall coverage at 62.56%, followed closely by 4th and 3rd grade.
- Pre-K has the lowest overall coverage at 31.75%.
- Southwest Colorado has the highest coverage for 6th-12th grades.
- Northwest Colorado has the lowest coverage for Pre-K to 3rd grade (21.21% to 45.45%).
- There are a low number of programs serving educators except in SW Colorado.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row Labels</th>
<th>Pre-K/Early Childhood</th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>1st Grade</th>
<th>2nd Grade</th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
<th>4th Grade</th>
<th>5th Grade</th>
<th>6th Grade</th>
<th>7th Grade</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
<th>9th Grade</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>11th Grade</th>
<th>12th Grade</th>
<th>General Public/Family</th>
<th>Pre-Service Educators/College Students</th>
<th>Teachers/Administrators</th>
<th>Informal Educators</th>
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<td>68</td>
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<td>12</td>
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Program Offerings
Program Topics and Themes

- Conservation and Outdoor Learning are the top program themes across all regions.
- Water is a frequent program theme in Northwest (66.67%), Southeast (68.42%), and Southwest (60.00%), but less so in Northeast CO (39.57%).
- STEM has the lowest frequency in the Southwest region (15.00%).
- Climate Change programs occur with moderate frequency across all regions.
- More Food Systems/Nutrition programs were reported in Northwest (51.52%) and Southeast (47.37%).
- Environmental Justice, Energy, Waste, Workforce Development, and Air Quality programs were generally fewer across all regions.
- Topics around Transportation, Marine & Coastal, and Green Building reported the fewest programs across all regions, with percentages below 10%.
Program Offerings
Climate Change Education

- Over 94% of organizations reported that they incorporate climate change into their programming in some way.
Program Offerings
Aligning to Standards

- Programs report most frequently aligning their programs to Next Generation Science Standards.
- 39% of programming is not aligned with any standards.
- 30% of programs reported aligning with State Academic Standards.
## Program Offerings

### Depth of Engagement

The highest frequency of programs were less than 3 hours in length.

Over 30% of environmental and outdoor learning experiences are one day or less.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>(1) Less than 1 hour</th>
<th>(2) 1-3 hours</th>
<th>(3) Half day</th>
<th>(4) Full day</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Day</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 Days</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-7 Days</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-21 Days</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-31 Days</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32-90 Days</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91+ Days</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.1%</strong></td>
<td><strong>42.7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>28.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• 22% of programs reported that Title I Schools are their primary audience.

• 32% of programs reported that they do not track this data.

• Of the programs that are able to track this data, almost 44% report serving between 0-25% Title I Schools.
Program Offerings

Program Accessibility

- Almost 45% of programs answered Not Applicable
- 43% of programs reported providing accommodations for special education
- 36% reported providing mobility or wheelchair accommodations.
- Fewer programs reported providing accommodation for learners with limited sight or hearing.
- 23% of programs reported that they offer programs in Spanish.
Program Offerings

Evaluation

• Over 80% of Colorado programs are using some form of formal measures
• The majority of programs (46%) use post-program surveys
• 19% of programs reported using no evaluation or informal evaluation (gut feelings, observations, teacher impressions).

'Evaluation': Post-program survey only appears most often.

- Post-program survey only
- Pre/post-program survey
- No evaluation
- Qualitative data (focus groups | site visits | interviews | testimonials)
- External evaluation partner
- Informal evaluation (gut feeling | observations | teacher impressions)
- Rubrics for student projects/presentations
- Other
Professional Learning Needs
Opportunities in Colorado

Most commonly requested needs:
- Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- Best Practices and Trends in EE
- Partnership/Collaboration and Networking Opportunities
- Leadership Training
- Climate Education Strategies
- Management Training
- Child and Youth Development

• In person opportunities were most preferred, but not significantly more than virtual or online opportunities.
• The third highest preferred method of professional development was by email.
Using our Collective Wisdom

How can we create a stronger environmental and outdoor learning system?

What is the story behind the data? What do you know from your experience that might add context to the findings?

What stands out to you as key needs or opportunities for strengthening environmental and outdoor learning in Colorado?

What opportunities exist for collaboration and collective impact?
### Expert Panel

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Small Group Discussion

How can we create a stronger environmental and outdoor learning system?

What is the story behind the data? What do you know from your experience that might add context to the findings?

What stands out to you as key needs or opportunities for strengthening environmental and outdoor learning in Colorado?

What opportunities exist for collaboration and collective impact?
Small Group Discussion
15 minutes

Choose a reporter to share out 1 Key Idea or Strategy that you talk about

Record your Thoughts in the Notes Document

Note your Group Number
What are the key needs or opportunities for strengthening environmental and outdoor learning in Colorado?

Share Out
PreK-12 Outdoor and Environmental Learning Landscape Analysis

- Share with your Networks!
- Share CAEE’s Social Media Posts from Facebook or LinkedIn
- Teachers can win $25 Amazon Gift Cards
- https://Bit.ly/PreK-12OutdoorLearning
What’s up Next!

#Outsidefor5 Week
April 22nd-28th, 2024

eeCourse Registration Opens
May 1st, 2024

SAVE THE DATE
Colorado Advancing EE Conference: September 19-20th at CSU Spur
What is one key need or opportunity for strengthening environmental and outdoor learning in Colorado?
How to participate?

1. Go to wooclap.com
2. Enter the event code in the top banner
   Event code: AZZBIO

🔗 Copy participation link
What stands out to you as key needs or opportunities for strengthening environmental and outdoor learning in Colorado?
Thank you for joining us today!