Our journey continues, and what a journey it has been. We have had many challenges since getting out of the backcountry. We spent last semester planning and scheduling visits to many National Parks including Yosemite, Badlands, and Yellowstone. We were blessed to be able to see the landscape of the pristine Badlands and Yellowstone. However, on October 1st the government shut down which caused us to change all the previous plans we have made; national parks are closed. We were all a little bummed about the closures, but are adapting to the change and challenge well. We stayed at state parks and visited other outdoor education facilities to help aid in our learning experience. As we persevere through the struggles, we grow closer as a group.

By the time you read this, we will start our backpacking expedition in the Ansel Adams Wilderness of Sierra Nevada. We are all very excited to experience a new mode of travel with our 100 liter packs that will weigh about 70lbs. Not only is mountaineering a new mode of travel, but also the environmental conditions are unlike any we are use to. We will be up in elevation as high as 13,000 feet! Either way, we do not want to tell you too much of our adventure to come . . . Enjoy reading about what we have learned and our experiences in the front country as we traveled west.

~ Publications & Promotions Committee

The following articles are written by the students of ECOEE 2013. The Publications and Promotions Committee compiles the entries; how they are written and any errors are at the fault of the writer.

### An Excerpt From Our Journal

**“A Poem of Chaos”**

Written 10/4/13

The government shut down, oh no what to do? Should we pack up and leave to Kadama-zoo?

Our plants that we make almost always go wrong, But that is okay because we are all so strong.

The LOW’s made a plan by making a call, To Ogden Nature Center this very cold fall.

We woke up at 7 to be there by 9, And discovered this place to be mighty fine.

Bird houses covered the path of our first walk, And we met with Susan to have a great talk.

A “tee-tee” a “tee-tee” a kindergartener let out a yell, A tee pee he mean which Susan did tell.

Edible and medicinal plants were taught on the walk, As the center's ravens and hawks let out a squawk.

Chi-ca-go Chi-ca-go said the the California Quail, As it sang its song and let out a wail.

An eagles nest which is 8 feet long, Fit 26 children as they wallowed along.

As our education came to an end, We all gathered around in a circular bend.

Mary the director told us how things are ran, And then we began our way back to the van.

Tyler's 24th birthday is on this October 4th day, So let’s all shout out hip-hip-hooray!

A book was given by Jeff and Shane, That may or may not have given him fame.

**“On the day you were born”**

The book was called, which Tyler read aloud and never stalled.

We packed in the vans and continued along. On this journey of life that makes us strong.

A city called Cedar we are adventuring too, And to our surprise Kevin never even let out a “moo”.

6 hours later we unpacked our tent, and ate out until we all were spent.

Goodnight to all, goodnight we all say, Until we meet tomorrow during the day.

~ Liz Flesher
ECOEE 2013 is back on the road and visiting National Parks that are located in the Western part of the United States. The parks that we have stopped and seen up to now are the Badlands, Yellowstone, and Grand Tetons. While we have been visiting each national park it has given us the chance of teaching one another about our topics that we have been studying for the past months before and on ECOEE. One of the members of our group, Andrew has been filling us with knowledge of his outdoor education topic, geology. He has a lot about the rock formation and the way it layered at Badlands National Park. He also taught many things when we were at Yellowstone National Park by telling us about rocks, hotspots, geysers, and more. Another opportunity that we had for learning was the numerous visitor centers that were available for us. For example, when we visited Badlands National Park there were few members from the group that would teach the rest of the group the importance of visitor centers and their exhibits and why we go to them. When going into the importance of the exhibit we went into the lay-out of them and how significant that can be to the tourist when looking at it. It was nice for us to have a better understanding when we went to Yellowstone National Park as it provided us the opportunity to know what to critique. As well we had the chance to have multiple talks from park rangers that would fill us with knowledge of the topic they were talking about, such as; wolves, bears, and hot springs. While seeing and visiting the National Parks it goes along and reflects back on our course class RPTA 346: Perspectives of Outdoor Recreation. Within this course I would like to discuss and tell you about how I felt when our group went to Artist Point and saw Canyon Color at Yellowstone National Park. My reaction was the amount of people that were there taking pictures and how crowded it was to even see the Canyon. It was something that was so beautiful with all the colors that were shown through the rocks and the river and waterfall that flowed through it. Within the Canyon Color it was not only hard for myself to capture pictures of the canyon but also just to read the signs that the national park had provided for the visitors to read and learn from. It was also hard to enjoy because of the people who were disrespectful and rude, which made it hard to not only take pictures but to enjoy everything around us. I had put thought into how the tourists feel and I have realized that everyone wants the same experience and that is why it is overcrowded, which leads to my experience being dimmed. Overall, this course has given me and the other members of ECOEE 2013 understanding of how national parks are very touristry places and not everyone can appreciate and see the beauty of parks and the importance of coming to each one.

~ Emily Chathas

Expect the Unexpected

This portion of our trip has really thrown this year’s ECOEE for a loop. Like most ECOEE’s, the original plan for our trip was to visit many different national parks as we headed towards Baja California. Visiting these parks would allow us to further our education in not only the topics we had chosen at the beginning of last spring semester but would also allow us to learn about the different parks, what’s a good visitor center compared to a bad one, and what does a good interpretation of a subject look like. However, with the recent government shut down our group was forced to make some quick changes so we could continue our expedition. The LOW’s of this week were hard pressed to figure out what we could do in order to further our education as we continued on. In one night the three LOW’s with the help of Jeff and Shane planned out ideas and routes that we could take so we could get in the visits that we needed too with visitor centers, outdoor education programs, as well as adventure recreation programs. The three LOW’s did this while we were staying just outside of the Teton National Park and with all of these plans being made for the group; you could really see the stress that was sitting on the shoulders of the LOW’s as well as Jeff and Shane. With everything that has happened with the government and us being limited to what we could and could not do, it shows that you should never expect that things will always go as planned. Many past ECOEE’s will say that this is true in the sense that things will not go as planned during a couple of the days you are a leader in a week. You must learn to adapt and think quickly so to make sure that things do go smoothly as they possibly can. With recent events our LOW’s were able to plan out our new week and our new places to visit very smoothly. Although it was stressful for them at times, they did not let the stress affect the group and they focused on getting the plans set up so we could have places to visit and learn from.

“Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education; in the elder, a part of experience.” - Francis Bacon

~ Kyle Pickett
What a Long Strange Trip It’s Been...

As we spend our days traveling from Canada through the United States and into Baja California most of our ECOEE 2013 group tells the stories of the amazing things we have seen, accomplished, and gone through. Many of us have relayed the stories of the brick wall rapids, the long portages, the hours spent in the car, the beautiful sunsets and sunrises, the paddling, and the national parks. We tell the stories of our failures, our triumphs, sometimes our triumphs which lead to our failures (Ro, Tyler, Dustin, and Norris), and our adventures; everything that people want to hear. Most of you reading these articles have heard our stories, but you might not have heard too much about what goes on behind the scenes. You might be wondering what our group does when we are not battling white caps, paddling through storms, driving through mountains, touching clouds, learning about national parks and their histories, and experiencing things that most can only dream of. Well the answer to this would have to be homework, chores, practicing decision making, leadership, and experiencing new cultures. ECOEE 2013 is not just a trip, it is an expedition; one that has certain classes, including RPTA 450 which is our travel workshop portion. As much as I would love to say that our expedition is all fun and games, which some of it is, it is also a way that all 12 of us can learn to take responsibilities, how to make decisions, to adhere to new cultures, and to start the process of becoming the leaders we hope to one day be. This is done through a variety of ways including: chores, journals, committee binders, participation, and lesson plans. Each of us have assigned chores for the day ranging from cooking to cleaning to setting up tarps, although most of the time everybody pitches in for each chore. Each day we pass around our group journal, one article written at a time which tells the writers feelings about the day’s events; which can be viewed on our ECOEE blog. To many who hear our stories this expedition seems like a cross country travel trip, but in reality it is much more than it. It is a chance for us to be held accountable for our decisions or lack thereof, to experience new cultures, to see the nation’s wonders, to know our responsibilities and carry them out, but mostly it is a chance for each of us to grow as individuals. ECOEE 2013 will always be a once of a life time experience, and with our classes added in it will also be a once in a lifetime chance to grow as individuals.

~ Cassandra Roy

From Troubling Times in the Nevada Desert to A Wonderful Day in The Yellow Stone National Park

As a new comer to the world of recreation parks and tourism administration, I’ve been dumb founded not only by the sheer amount of the fields within this large spectrum of work. Along with the enormous verity of what gets incorporated in each one of them. Just this last week I learned in this field the term adventure is not so cut and dry. To one class of society adventure can mean never leaving the safety of the van while some person guides you along Yellow Stone Nation Park in hopes to see the wolves, bison, elk (which if you’ve ever been it’s as simple as going to the town Mammoth), or even a bear or two. Other groups of people aint so lucky. These people are typically force into wandering the Utah highland desert while receiving therapy in the form of hiking, primitive living skill and of course a weekly visit from one of their in house therapist. As you can see adventure recreation drastically varies from place to place.

Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris is a guide founded and run by Jason Williams. Jason manages a fleet of vans that all together provide a guide service to those who want to see the wildlife found in the Grand Teton and Yellow Stone National parks. As a for profit he had no help building from the ground up with no help. He started with just one van that mentioned if worse came to worse he could always live out of. He now has a fleet of seven vans that can be quite costly to ride around in for the day. He couldn't tress enough to know your clientele and never forget to the carnal rule they scratch your back you scratch their backs. O yea make sure to date an artist graphic design work is pretty expensive.

Seven vans though has nothing on trying to micro manage sixty at risk teen agers roaming the highlands of the Utah desert. While weekly shift changes are taking place. Red Cliff Accent is and at risk youth outdoor therapy clinic. Like those horrible Indian service call centers, twenty four hour support staff is crucial. You never know when you might have a runner. Having an award system not just for the patients but for the staff is always a great moral booster. One thing is for sure, both of these businesses share the never ending need for new staff. Although Red Cliff promotes contracts they do not require their staff to sign them. They do give bonuses at the end of each contract such as great pro deals in hopes to get them to stay on or as a job well done. All you can really do is hope for the best, plan for the worst, and expect for somewhere in between(Clyde Jeff Tindall).

~ Dustin Granat

Guess Who...

1. Fell asleep when he was a navigator and when Jeff woke him up, he replied “I was just thinking.”
2. Received the nickname “TyEm”
3. Took over 15 stickers from NOLS
4. Jeff found asleep on the bathroom floor
5. Took a cow skull as a souvenir
6. Wore a cow butt as a mask
7. Found and kept the cow butt
8. Was kicked out of a visitor center
9. Likes to take funny photos behind Jeff’s back (Hint: there are two people)
10. Wore a jacket too small for him one night
11. Hasn’t done anything embarrassing yet

Answers on Last Page
Working in the Outdoors

Perspectives in Outdoor Recreation is a course designed to introduce us students the aspects of outdoor recreation and resource management. We learn about the major land management agencies of the United States, their missions, philosophies, policies, and organizational structures. We are supposed to get the opportunity to meet and interact with professionals from various land management agencies like the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. We are expected to be aware of topics and issues specific to the areas and agencies that we visit.

Due to the government being shut down we are not able to do or go to a lot of places that we had planned on going to. So far the only National Park we haven’t been able to go see that we had planned on going to is Yosemite. There will be plenty others along the way if nothing changes soon. We will miss out on Joshua Tree, the Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, and Arches too, those are a few examples. In order to still get our learning experience we go visit other programs that are similar.

We all have a checklist that is in our ECOEE manual, this is to be completed throughout the semester. The answers to all the questions and items on the checklist can be found in readings, interviews and the interactions with professionals, student and instructor lessons, and other resources as we visit different agencies and places. We have lessons that we teach each other about our topics that we chose in the spring semester. Jeff and Shane also teach us lessons along the way. This checklist is basically the final exam for this specific course.

These newsletter articles that we write are also a part of this course. The articles describe and explain the course content and activities. We publish different articles on the courses in each of the four newsletters that get sent to our supporters. In these articles we also have to include a photograph of our choosing. Once they are completed they are then given to the Publications and Promotions committee to be put into the newsletter.

~ Shayla Hill

“Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer.”

Unknown

Just Getting Our Bearings

As our group moves from the front country with all of its luxury and easy living, certain skills that had been developed during our time in Manitoba will start to slip, and possibly even be forgotten. While I sincerely hope this situation is not the norm, most of the skills acquired specifically for the back country simply are not a daily necessity out here with the rest of society in normal civilization.

As we move into the final days approaching our ascent of the mountains in Ansel Adams, Sierra Nevada, certain skills must be mulled over and refreshed in our minds. While hygiene and kitchen setup/repair will come in handy, and serve to some degree as important; there is one skill that will severely outweigh the rest as we make our ascent and attempt a 36 hour solo. That skill is being able to set a field bearing and then following that bearing to a predetermined point.

We as voyagers of the Grass River had a tremendous opportunity to gain experience in this skill as we traveled from lake systems, navigated rivers, and then back into lake systems. Plotting our way from island to island, we had the opportunity to develop and hone these skills to a level of expertise that can only be acquired through a month of practice.

While we do not have our maps for the Ansel Adams Wilderness yet, I am hopeful that the group can convert the skills they have thus far acquired and use them reliably. It would be a shame if somebody got lost. . . . That will not happen though! We have ECOEE instructor and coordinator Jeff Tindall at our side. We have all been instructed on the use of the emergency whistle system, and when we do our solo, there are scheduled checkups every 12 hours or so; so there is no need to worry.

As of today the high for Mammoth Peak in Ansel Adams is 71 degrees with a low of 20 degrees overnight. Our group was beyond blessed with weather conditions throughout our first back country experience in Northern Manitoba, and I hope that the case will remain the same as we backpack up the rugged trails of Sierra Nevada.

~ Tyler Schrapf

Jeff Tindall on Candid Camera

Photos Provided by Kyle Pickett
Nature Could Teach You Everything About Life!

After returning to the front-country to focus on networking and obtaining various views of programs that use the outdoors to educate the populous. Similar to how we all have outdoor education topics we must teach throughout the course, these outdoor education centers employ the same principles. So far we have gone to visit the Teton Science School Science School outside of Jackson, Wyoming and the Ogden Nature Center in Ogden, Utah. These two programs have shared similarities but they had some major differences as well. Teton Science School began in 1967 by a teacher who was interested in teaching high school science in the outdoors, they have exponentially grown since the creation around an original class of 2 year old to all ages, their programs include field trips, week-long summer camp programs, after-school programs, self-guided visits, teacher workshops, single-day programs, and more. It is a 152-acre plot of land in Northern Utah, with trails and beautiful mountainous terrain surrounding it.

Ogden Nature Center was founded and established around the same time period as the first nature center in Utah. It serves a similar age group ranging from 2 years old to all ages, their programs include field trips, week-long summer camp programs, after-school programs, self-guided visits, teacher workshops, single-day programs, and more. It is a 152-acre plot of land in Northern Utah, with trails and beautiful mountainous terrain surrounding it.

The Ogden Nature Center has troubles with their finances similar to their community, so they take care of the locals by subsidizing the price for admission even letting some get in for free. The are primarily focused on a hands on, outdoor education experience that will unite people with the natural world to nurture the appreciation and stewardship towards the environment. After visiting these two outdoor education centers, I was excited to see the way the had put their environment into play to educate people and teach lesson outside of nature using some of the principles of physical skills development, ecological and interpersonal relationships. Teton Science School in my opinion had more attractive qualities for possibly working there in the future, but both were great institutions. The power of nature’s knowledge is so immense it can teach us about the universe.

“Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher” - William Wordsworth
~ Norris Andriuskevicius

Survivor, How About Leadership Instead?

When I told some of my friends about the ECOEE program they looked at me, and asked “so you’re going to spend an entire semester learning how to survive in the woods?” I remember thinking to myself, is the environmental conservation and outdoor education expedition sound like survivor? Thankfully it’s not because if it was I don’t like the idea of a fake experience. When you think of ECOEE do you think leadership would be a part of that mouthful of words? Leadership is an underlying requirement of this program.

While I have taken a leadership course before I can honestly say, I had no idea that leadership in a wilderness setting would be similar but different at the same time. Wow writing this newsletter really makes me look like I know nothing at all! Anyways back to wilderness leadership. Leading people is difficult itself but put the group in a foreign setting, wow you have a whole new ball game. Leading in the ECOEE program requires you to work with two other group members and lead the rest of the group including Jeff on a weekly basis. When my team and I first lead the group at Horn Field, it was one of the hardest things I have ever done. What was most difficult, besides being the first up and last to bed, was having to tell other group members how to do certain tasks, when I didn’t know how to do them myself. That was very interesting indeed.

My next leader of the week time was in the backcountry of Canada. While I had preconceptions of how difficult it might be, I was surprised at how it seemed to be less hectic. Besides making the decisions about the group’s day we have to meet with Jeff and hear his feedback daily. Talk about negative feedback! Of course the feedback we get as leaders of the week is necessary for us to learn from, but it doesn’t make our decisions any easier. As the semester moves on and I go through more of my leadership weeks I look forward to improving my leadership style and decision making abilities, and of course take what feedback Jeff gives me and apply it, to help strengthen myself as a leader.

~ Quinn Moore

Quotes from Our Journey

“Sometimes you have to watch someone love something before you can love it yourself.”
~ Donald Miller

“One small crack does not mean that you are broken, it means that you were put to the test and you didn’t fall apart.”
~ Linda Paindexter
Cooking by the Book

In the eyes of the hard-core expedition member Front country cooking is “camping lite”. But to the ECOEE expedition member, that so-called wimp factor of Front country is what drives the ECOEE heart of cooking. Because we don’t have to worry about dragging all of our equipment on our backs as we pack to our next locations. We can afford to bring along luxuries items that make life a lot more pleasant. Think of ice, a few skillets, and great food. That beats the lack of taste and ingredients in the backcountry.

But, even with a van to transport gear and equipment we had to pack efficiently to keep us on the road and free time to enjoy the great outdoors. Cooking on the road is tough work, but the satisfaction of cooking a great meal is the best complement any chef in training can receive from a hard-hitting crowd of cowboys. Here’s a few things that I picked up on our travels...

Plan ahead, create a tentative meal plan for each day and having ingredient ready and accordingly. Many times, a few cooks would not anticipate their cooking time of their meals. Emily an okay chef, took over 3 hour to cook a few simple meals. I try to remember what I am planning to make a day before, in order to be a master chef during my cooking time.

Go for the hot breakfast, when we’re spending night after night outdoors having a hot breakfast is a great treat to have. Cereal, bagels, and cold meals are a no in the front country. Not only would Jeff dislike the meal, he wouldn’t even take a bite. After the transition to the front country, most of the meals were cold and distasteful to ECOEE members.

Having hot meals would make each expedition member content.

Conserve dishes, the biggest Front country hassle is washing dishes, luging water from the spigot, heating it over the stove. Washing in big wash buckets- these are no one’s favorite activities. In order to minimize time and labor for the cleaners, the chefs have to keep in mind what pots and pans their using to cook there great meals.

While there is surely more advise for each Expedition member, one thing is for sure. To be a great chef on ECOEE, you need to have the patients like Jeff, the knowledge and directive as Gordon Ramsay, and the heart of a master chef ready to cook for a hungry group.

~ Rogelio Hernandez

A Primitive Lifestyle

When we visited Redcliff Ascent, we were shown around by Kelly Bauer, an ECOEE alum from last year. As we camped with her for a couple days, we saw how wilderness leadership worked in action outside of ECOEE. There are things done at Redcliff Ascent that are quite a bit different than our wilderness living during this semester.

For one, the groups at Redcliff Ascent camp a lot more primitive than we do. The primitive lifestyle helps the at-risk youth become more self-reliant and develop skills that they recognize as hard work. They are taught different ways to make a fire, like using a bow drill, hand drill, and other methods, plus use that fire to cook their food, provide light at night, and use it as a source for heat. On ECOEE we are fortunate enough to use lighters for our stoves and our lanterns in the front country and matches for stoves in the backcountry. We hardly ever had fires in the backcountry, where at Redcliff Ascent they give awards to people who have started a certain number of fires and awards to people who are able to start fires using their five different methods.

On ECOEE, we are also fortunate to have a variety of utensils to use in order to prepare our food and to eat that food. We have a box just for knives, forks, and spoons in the trailer plus another box for cookware. The groups at Redcliff Ascent embrace the minimalistic lifestyle by having each person carve a spoon out of wood to use for their meals. Even in the backcountry we have our own set of cooking utensils that make us seem like kings compared to what the at-risk youth have to go through.

As we soon go into the backcountry and enjoy several days of backpacking, we should be thankful that we use our stoves, our matches, our utensils to create our meals, because we could be camping way more primitive than we do.

~ Andrew Busker

Quotes from Our Journey

“There is more in us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to and settle for less .”

~ Kurt Hahn

“Let yourself be silently drawn by the strange pull of what you really love. It will not lead you astray.”

~ Rumi

“Judging a person does not define who they are. It defines who you are.”

Anonymous
Feeling Smarter About a Conversation

Did you know your dog licking your face is an evolutionary trait that is traced back to wolf pups? Wolf pups lick their parents face in order to have food regurgitated for them to eat from a kill their parents made earlier that day with the pack! We were lucky enough to have ranger Rick, yes that was really his name, from Yellowstone National Park talk to us about the wolf population at Yellowstone that he follows and records. Casually talking to us, after he was nice enough to share his scope in order for us to clearly see one of Yellowstone’s wolf packs feeding on a carcass, he taught us many things about wolves. Comparing wolf packs to mafia families in New York and using the analogy of Romeo and Juliet to tell us the story of how two wolf packs had finally came together after many years of fighting with one another, we were all intrigued, engaged, and attentively listening to every-thing Rick had to share. Rick was able to present all this information to us in a relevant casual manner that allowed to walk away knowing many things about wolves. The day before we had met Rick, another ranger talked to us about safety precautions to take with wildlife in Yellowstone National Park, mostly bear safety. The lady ranger did a good job at telling us appropriate information but I found myself yawning and feeling like I was in a classroom thinking to myself, “I haven’t even seen a bear yet, why does this matter.” Fading in and out, a little kid caught my attention. He was about 4-5 years old and began telling a story about a baby bear he seen along his way to the center until the lady ranger rudely interrupted him. I was more interested in what the little boy had to say than the information she was spewing out at us. Unlike Rick who was patient with us and able to have an educated conversation, this lady ranger was only able to lecture education which didn’t hold my attention as near as well as Rick. With that said we all have learned the best way to connect and teach others from Rick which will help us along the rest of our travels when we teach our topics.

~ Kevin Williams

“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”

John Muir

Education Through Passion

Coming on I thought educating others was something that came naturally after spending enough time in your desired field. In the art program back at Western I treated me as a student instructor even in the classes I am not. The few that I have asked why they typically respond “well you spend enough time here I guess you know what you are doing” or “I’ve seen how you break it down for other students so I figured you do a good job at it.” It’s funny to me that I can find more bad examples than good ones. One from a man who set educating aside for administrating, another from a Yellow Stone Park ranger who we just happen to stumble upon. I can’t help but wonder how much they must love their field.

With time spent comes perfection. You hear this all the time but it takes a man by the name of Ranger Rick to really demonstrate it. Surrounded by countless enthusiast Rick made it a point to come up to the Ecoee crew. He provided us with a scope a to see and an unplanned interpretation about the wolves we all would have sold our soul for. The man was brilliant within five minutes of gagging our crew, he knew just how to sell the plea of the wolves. Every explanation, connection, or example resonated within the heart to invoke the raw emotions it takes to make anyone into an activist.

The glorious thing about teaching is how the best moments in teaching are never planned. When it flows from the soul it never misses the mark. It comes from the undying passion people have to pass on their knowledge to those who desire it. Josh one of the admins at Teton science school showed me what it meant to have that passion. You could see it spilling out in every action he made every word he spoke he even owned up to the regret he had when it came to the decision to give up teaching and become an administrator. The best part about the our visit circled the fact he taught as much as he talked. I didn't realize a tour about the administration process of a school could teach you as much about science as it did. Oddly enough I saw what the school was about more through his teachable moments on the quaking aspen and the geology of the surrounding Teton valley. He showed us not only interacting with your audience, but getting them excited while getting excited yourself is unbelievably key. There was a point where he would look at his watch and say I only have five more minutes and fifteen minutes later he would repeat the same statement. I just can’t stop thinking how much love and passion truly play into become a great educator.

~ Dustin Grant

Quotes from Our Journey

“Roses are red, violets are blue. I don’t miss Roxanne and neither should you.”

~ Quinn Moore

“Your present circumstances don’t determine where you go, they merely determine where you start.”

~ Nido Quebin

“If the purpose for learning is to score well on a test, we’ve lost sight of the real reason for learning.”

~ Jeannie Fulbright
ECOEE visits many adventure recreation programs to gain knowledge on their administrative practices, their organization mission, philosophies, marketing, programming, clients, logistics, and budgets. NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), Redcliff Ascent, Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris, Teton Science School, and Camp Confidence are just a few programs that we have been able to visit so far. Each program is unique in its own way and no program is the same. Some are for students, some are for at-risk children, and some are for vacationers.

In our visit with Jason at Jackson Hole Wildlife Safaris we learned a lot about starting and running a business. His program does guided tours for vacationers and it’s not cheap. The kind of cliental his program attracts is people who know what they want and are experienced. Since he started this program he was very knowledgeable on what to do and what not to do when starting a business. He gave us so much advice, some things he said was ok to make mistakes because that’s how you learn, try and try again, and if you want to do something then do it.

From all of these visits at different programs we write up program critiques after the visit and compare them to other programs. We are required to complete two of these critiques. This helps us learn what works in one program and what works in another. All this information also goes towards our final project, which is preparing a ten day trip plan for a list of seven clients that is assigned to us. Our plan must include all aspects of the ten day course from the mission of the organization to the end evaluations and follow-up.

This assignment for this course is our chance as students to show that we understand the different organizations and the adventure recreation field. When we visit the programs we have questions ready to ask them that are beneficial for our trip plan. Notebooks and pens always come along on tours to take notes. Many pictures are also taken when it’s allowed. So we do way more than just canoe and camp on our expedition!

~ Shayla Hill

### Outdoor What?

Outdoor education is something new that has come to my attention over the last few months. Before I started to partake in ECOEE preparations I never heard the words “outdoor education” before so when I had to choose a topic to teach my classmates, I went with a topic that I thought would be easy to teach. Boy was I wrong! I chose weather as my topic, and I have been scrambling to get a hold of it ever since. Part of the required course work for ECOEE has to deal with teaching my classmates about the weather that we all deal with on a daily basis. Reading books about teaching in the outdoors is effective enough, but for me I need to been shown how to successfully teach first. Since the only way myself, and others can learn is by first-hand experience, Jeff brought that into consideration. Part of the course work requires the group to visit agencies that specialize in outdoor education. One of our stops put us in Jackson-Hole Wyoming, at Teton Science School.

At Teton Science School the group gained first-hand knowledge from professionals in this field. Josh a staff administrator took the group on a tour of the school. While the group was touring the school, Josh proceeded to show us how to use a form of outdoor education, called a teachable moment. These moments come randomly and the teacher must have a lot of prior knowledge, and enthusiasm to effectively portray the information to students. Josh stopped the group suddenly at a tree outside one of the buildings. He proceeded to teach us about this Quaking Aspen, and how it produces a form of sun block that protects its bark throughout the winter. Everyone was intrigued and excited to learn from him because he taught us with such charisma and enthusiasm that the whole group learned from him. Josh seemed to gage the prior knowledge of the group and asked us several question, attempting to force us to come up with our own knowledge. Watching, and observing how Josh taught the group, I was able to pick up a few pointers about these teachable moments. I learned that I should not get the groups attention with the words “I have a teachable moment for you guys.” Second I should actually know my topic before I start to speak, and expect to answer random questions about my topic as well. Finally I learned that I know nothing at all! Of course it is okay that I don’t have a lot of prior knowledge about teaching, because that is exactly what ECOEE is about, experimental education, and learning by doing. How awesome is that!

~ Quinn Moore

### Quotes from Our Journey

“Only by contending with challenges that seem to be beyond your strength to handle at the moment you can grow more surely toward the starts.”

~ Brain Tracy

“Oh but everybody thinks that everybody knows, about everybody else. Nobody knows, anything about themselves, cause their all worried about everybody else.”

~ Jack Johnson
Different Methods, Same Goal

What’s the difference between a good interpretation and a mediocre interpretation? During our travels, driving through the mountain range and viewing the beautiful landscape of Yellowstone national park, we were able to visit many of the visitor centers around Yellowstone. While visiting the centers, we were able to view the numerous interpretation talks from many of the park rangers. On site, the park rangers open the eyes of each visitor to a world they have never seen before.

The rangers, were able to link the visitor to the site. By having the knowledge of the natural and cultural history they could use to build a universal concept. One thing a good interpreter does is involve the visitor. As we listened to the rangers, each ranger is aware of the general sense of where people are coming from; the background, interest and the experience from each person. In that case interpreters walk the line, between the balanced and knowing the scientific facts. Good interpreters can combine both ideas and emotions to blend a program that would satisfy visitors of their senses, their knowledge and a story that would engage the visitor to the resource. One good interpretation that stood out during our trip to Yellowstone was ranger rick. Ranger rick worked with the wolf population at Yellowstone. He was able to relate the wolf pack to many of the human and social traits each individual person does on a daily basis. By doing this he was able to heighten awareness and understanding of the wolf packs around Yellowstone. What each interpreter needs to engage the audience are a few key components. They need to have sensory involvement, using the five senses to build a bridge to the visitor. Humor, during ranger rick talk he was able to use jokes to involve the visitors.

Interpretation is a unique art.
~ Rogelio Hernandez

“Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.”

Dr. Seuss

Through our travels from North Dakota to Nevada, we have learned a great deal about the realm of outdoor education. We visited two outdoor education centers so far on our travels: Teton Science School in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Ogden Nature Center in Ogden, Utah. Both aim to develop one’s relationship with nature, but each organization goes about it in a different way.

Teton Science School is a nonprofit outdoor education organization nestled in the Greater Yellowstone Area with a mission to connect people, nature, and place through science, education, and stewardship. Since its founding in 1967, Teton Science School has grown to offer many programs from multiple campuses. At the Jackson Campus, the staff facilitates groups from visiting schools and the Journeys School provides independent schooling from K-12th grade. At the Kelly Campus, which lies within Grand Teton National Park, people can participate in residential education programs. Teton Science School also runs a program called Wildlife Expeditions, which takes groups through Yellowstone or Grand Teton National Park to learn and view up close the popular animals in the area, like wolves and bison. With 120 full time staff and an operating budget around $12 million, Teton Science School is an example of what an organization can accomplish when it focuses on its mission and is in the perfect area to fulfill its mission. When we toured the Jackson Campus, I observed that every building and program supports their mission in noticeable way, from the Ply-wood looking walls and solar panels to the equipment room and new high ropes course.

Ogden Nature Center functions a bit differently. With 16 full time staff and an operating budget around $587,000 that receives no government funding, this nonprofit organization has to approach outdoor education in a much different way. Ogden Nature Center focuses its programming specifically toward teaching youth who visit on field trips or youth and families who attend their summer and special programs in order to accomplish their mission to unite people with nature and nurture appreciation and stewardship of the environment. Even though Ogden Nature Center does not, and cannot afford to, offer as many programs as Teton Science School, their strength is in their volunteers. Each year volunteers rack up around 16,000 hours spent at Ogden Nature Center and a volunteer coordinator is employed full time to ensure that volunteers are best utilized and thanked for their efforts. When we visited Ogden Nature Center, we all enjoyed the multitude of unique bird houses that we passed to reach the visitor center. The bird houses were a great way for the organization to easily follow their mission by nurturing our appreciation of the environment.

Both Teton Science School and Ogden Nature Center offer a variety of programs for youth to learn about the environment and drive their organization to foster stewardship for the outdoors. Even though the organizations have different programs, different budgets, and different methods, both use their mission to bring people closer to the outdoors.

~ Andrew Busker
Managing Adventure in the Outdoors

Adventure for some people may sound exciting and fun, while for others it may sound scary and unsafe, but regardless of how you view it, we on ECOEE love adventure. Along our travels we have had the opportunities to meet administrators of programs whose jobs are to provide adventure experiences. From meeting Doc Lupton at Camp Confidence, Alease from NOLS, and Jason from Jackson Hole Wildlife Safari, we have learned a great deal about what it takes to run adventure programs. A few of us on ECOEE, including myself, hope to one day open our own adventure programs for either people’s enjoyment or for therapeutic means. Visiting NOLS, the National Outdoor Leadership School, we met with Alease who taught us of the school’s philosophies and their missions of their nonprofit program which was basically that the best way to learn, grow, and develop as a person or a leader was through experiences through the outdoors. She went on to also discuss marketing strategies, what type of people they typically serve, how the budget is distributed, and how they go about managing risks involved or liabilities involved with outdoor adventure programs. Another adventurer we met, named Jason, had started his own business which was providing guided tours to clients in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Taking a turn from learning about a nonprofit adventure program, we got to hear Jason’s rags to riches story about how he got his for-profit business going. We learned the differences in clientele from each program and how Jason evaluated and hired employees. He hired employees who had knowledge, experience, passion, and motivation in the area that his program was associated with. We discovered that most administrators hire employees by the same standards when it comes to outdoor adventure programs and passion was a big thing. So overall, meeting with these folks not only helped us gain an understanding of how these programs are ran, but also we learned how to gain an upper edge in obtaining a job in this field and it is to work on the qualities that these employers are looking for.

“The most effective executive is one who hires good people and then has the good sense to stand back and watch them do their work.” - Teddy Roosevelt

~ Kevin Williams

Eye of the Wolf

“I woke up this morning to the beautiful land of Yellowstone. This is my home; this is where I spend every day. My family and I roam these pristine lands and like to keep to ourselves. We don’t bother others of our kind unless they come into our territory. It’s just my family and I, and that is the way we like it. Oh and by the way my name is Skye, I am a wolf.

I was born to a family of 8. My family and I have always been close... Well, most of us. My sister, Kylie isn’t too fond of my sister Luna and myself. Kylie picks on us and likes to beat us up. I don’t know why she hates us so much. We work hard to provide for each other; we hunt, play, sleep, and nourish one another. One of these days I am going to stand up to her and show her who is boss.”

During our stay at Yellowstone we ran into a park ranger, Ranger Rick, who graciously gave us an interpretation about wolves. He related them well to us and made me feel like they are a species worth protecting.

There use to be 35,000 wolves in the Greater Yellowstone area, however now there are only 100-200 remaining. In 1926 the wolf population was completely wiped out of Yellowstone! Wolves were seen as a threat to humans, so few of us on ECOEE, including myself, hope to one day open our own adventure programs for either people’s enjoyment or for therapeutic means. Visiting NOLS, the National Outdoor Leadership School, we met with Alease who taught us of the school’s philosophies and their missions of their nonprofit program which was basically that the best way to learn, grow, and develop as a person or a leader was through experiences through the outdoors. She went on to also discuss marketing strategies, what type of people they typically serve, how the budget is distributed, and how they go about managing risks involved or liabilities involved with outdoor adventure programs. Another adventurer we met, named Jason, had started his own business which was providing guided tours to clients in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Taking a turn from learning about a nonprofit adventure program, we got to hear Jason’s rags to riches story about how he got his for-profit business going. We learned the differences in clientele from each program and how Jason evaluated and hired employees. He hired employees who had knowledge, experience, passion, and motivation in the area that his program was associated with. We discovered that most administrators hire employees by the same standards when it comes to outdoor adventure programs and passion was a big thing. So overall, meeting with these folks not only helped us gain an understanding of how these programs are ran, but also we learned how to gain an upper edge in obtaining a job in this field and it is to work on the qualities that these employers are looking for.

“We all die. The goal isn’t to live forever. The goal is to create something that will.”
Chuck Paluchniuk
Until Next Time...

Our next newsletter will include our adventures at:

Summit Adventure

Ansel Adams Wilderness Area

LA County Outdoor Science School

and more!

Guess Who Answers… The ECOEE Crew

- **Tyler** was “just thinking”
- **Dustin**’s nickname is a combination of “Tyler” and “Emily”
- **Kyle** really, really likes his stickers
- **Norris** fell asleep doing homework in the bathroom
- **Kevin** now has proof of wild cows
- **Andrew** felt like a ancient warrior… before he knew it was a cow butt
- **Rogelio** wants to decorate the cow butt into a mask
- **Emily** had to drink her hot chocolate outside the Old Faithful Visitor Center
- **Liz & Cassie** like to take pictures behind Jeff
- **Quinn** tried to wear Shane’s jacket
- **Shayla** is playing it smart