

From the Director – October 2021

Emma Vasicek. October 4, 2021 :



This past weekend, I had the privilege of attending the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) Annual Conference. The conference was held at Snow Mountain Ranch from 9/24-9/25, with an additional virtual conference day on Tuesday, 9/21. It was an incredible opportunity to simultaneously network with other Environmental Education (EE) professionals, attend a plethora of incredible sessions on advancing EE, and take in the breathtaking colors of the aspens in full turn.



While there was a wealth of knowledge shared at each session, one of the most impactful presentations I attended was centered around the topic of hope. In a world experiencing a pandemic, a changing climate, and increased societal stress, how do we remain hopeful? How do you define hope? I would encourage you to engage in some self-reflection and to think of a few things that provide you with hope.

I find hope in the constants of our natural world – despite the changing of our climate, nature persists. This nature-based hope exhibits itself in a number of ways; often it is the quiet moments of introspection while walking outside on my own, sometimes it is the spark of joy I see in program participants' eyes as they discover something new in nature, recently it was a conversation with two middle schoolers discussing the possibility of starting a green initiative at their school. The connection between hope and nature is not a new concept but was a needed reminder amidst the day-to-day stressors of life. I hope you remember to stay hopeful.