Engaging Children in Nature
Monday, July 22, 2019 | 2:30pm
PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

For CPRE/CPRP licensure - Please submit your CEU tracking form to the room monitor prior to the start of the session and pick it up at the end of the session.

For all credits (CEU, PDH and CM) - To receive credits for this session, you must complete the Session Survey in the mobile app.

• From the home page, select schedule
• Go to today’s date and find the title of this session and tap
• In the middle of the page, tap General Session Survey
• Fill out the Session Survey

Your responses will be shared with the accrediting agency.
ENGAGING CHILDREN IN NATURE

Innovation Round
C&NN is leading a global movement to increase equitable access to nature so that children and natural places can thrive.
Cities Connecting Children to Nature
The **Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN)** initiative helps city leaders and their partners ensure that all children have the opportunity to play, learn and grow in nature, from urban parks and community gardens to the great outdoors.
SPEAKERS

CJ Goulding, Manager, Community Leadership Development, Children & Nature Network
Jackie Miller, Director of Programs, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
Maria Durana, Children and Nature Network Coordinator, San Francisco Children & Nature/SF Rec & Parks
Garrett Dempsey, Program Director, Sierra Club Detroit Outdoors

MODERATOR

Jaime Zaplatosch, Director of Green Schoolyards, Children & Nature Network
YOUTH-LED IMPACT USING NATURE to FACILITATE COMMUNITY IMPACT
Our Natural Leaders initiative is breaking barriers by building a network of diverse young leaders working to increase equitable access to nature in their communities. We provide training, ongoing support and spaces for peer-to-peer mentoring in this growing network.

There are currently over 380 Natural Leaders working in 192 communities in 47 states, and NL-inspired programs operating in 5 countries.
CULTURAL AWARENESS AND CONNECTION

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CAPACITY BUILDING:
INTERNSHIPS, JOB OPPORTUNITIES, COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS
LIFELONG PEER-TO-PEER MENTORING AND NETWORK
Great Outdoors Colorado

To help the people of Colorado preserve, protect, enhance, and manage the state’s wildlife, park, river, trails, and open space heritage.
Generation Wild
$29 million investment in advancing equitable access to the outdoors in CO

85,029 Youth served

1,144 Youth jobs created

308 Community jobs created
The Flexible Framework

Places

Programs

Pathways

Capacity

Cherry Creek State Park, Aurora
Successes to Date

Statewide network made of local champions

Culture of learning and reciprocity

Reach to underrepresented youth

Programs at capacity
Challenges to Date

Collaborative work is hard

Measurement & evaluation

Overwhelming potential

Program sustainability
Fueling & Sharing the Movement

Natural Leaders trainings

Local and National Conferences
SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN & NATURE

A City-Wide Collaborative, A National Initiative
A NATIONAL INITIATIVE

How can cities **address the disparities** in nature access along socioeconomic and racial lines?
SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN & NATURE

A CITY-WIDE COLLABORATIVE
A CITY-WIDE COLLABORATIVE
San Francisco:

- Exceptional Natural Resources & Biodiversity
- Every resident within a 10 minute walk of a park
- Top 5 cities for providing access to public parks and recreation. (Trust for Public Lands)
Proportion of Open Space that is a Natural Area

- Some neighborhoods have easier access and greater quantity of natural areas and open space.
Poverty Rate

San Francisco:

- One of the highest GDPs in the country
- 3rd in the US for income inequality
- Children at greater risk for:
  - poor health
  - impaired learning
  - disrupted cognitive, emotional, and physical development.
  - chronic stress
- Kids in low-income communities face significantly more adverse experiences than children from a higher socioeconomic status.
Together we have a social responsibility to ensure equitable nature resources for children in schools, early care and neighborhoods.

Addressing equity in nature connection is an opportunity to address toxic stress, trauma, obesity and mental health all of which disproportionately affect low-income populations and children of color.
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**Align Action Among Our Partners**

**Advance Institutional & Public Support**

**Design and Increase Nature Experiences**

**Engage Youth & Community**

**Use Data**
STRATEGY: IF WE...

Align Action Among Our Partners

Advance Institutional & Public Support

Design and Increase Nature Experiences

Engage Youth & Community

Use Data

...we will equitably improve nature connection for children and youth in San Francisco.
COMMON AGENDA

VISION

NATURE CONNECTION
FOR EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY

CORE VALUES

EQUITY
NEARBY NATURE
CHILDREN’S NEEDS
Based on CalEnviroScreen 3.0. Sensitive Population Indicators rates of various factors that together define “disadvantaged” residents. 10 characteristics equally weighted.

**Health Factors**
1. Asthma
2. Cardiovascular Disease
3. Low Birth Weight
4. Age (youth and seniors)
5. Non-White

**Socioeconomic Factors**
1. Linguistic Isolation
2. Poverty
3. Unemployment
4. Educational Attainment
5. Housing Burden
Green Schoolyards Assessment tool
Developed and Implemented, through Education Outside, a Green Schoolyards Assessment tool for Early Childhood Education (ECE) Sites. **Piloted in 33 ECE sites** across the city through a grant from Kaiser Foundation.

Youth Nature Survey
Survey of 660 San Francisco youth to establish snapshot of youth nature connection, create space for youth to share their narrative, understand barriers and opportunities and influence decision makers.

NEA Assessment tool
Developed by USF Students to identify parks that comply with Nature Exploration Area criteria.

Baseline Measurement
Member organization baseline data collection of FY18 nature connection stats.
DATA DRIVES CHANGE
● Developed a set criteria for NEAs:

  **Mandatory**
  a. Welcoming signage
  b. Designated area boundaries
  c. Loose natural parts
  d. Beneficial risk elements
  e. Ecological elements
  f. Sensory and immersive experiences
  g. Public involvement
  h. Management plan

  **Optional**
  a. Climbable trees
  b. Gardening area
  c. Sense of place interpretation
DESIGN PLAYBOOK: NATURE EXPLORATION AREAS

Design Playbook

Signage
PLACEMAKING | NATURE EXPLORATION AREAS

DESIGN PLAYBOOK: NATURE EXPLORATION AREAS

Design Playbook

Signage

Evaluation
play spaces enhanced for nature connection (Since 2017, through First 5 SF and OECE Design Collaborative Nature Action Projects.)

38

+1,348 Kids impacted over 3 years
● 318 wooden stumps and natural loose parts repurposed through SF Rec & Park & Presidio Trust
244 educators trained in nature-based education
(Since 2017, through First 5 SF, OECE, SFUSD, SF Children & Nature)
COMMUNITY & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Create with Nature
COMMUNITY & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
COMMUNITY & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

4/28 | Dia de los Niños
Nature + Literacy

5/4 | Access to Adventure
For Families of Children with Disabilities

5/10 | Accessible Nature Play
Day at Rolph Nicol
Explored tools to make Nature Exploration Areas more accessible to all.
Detroit Outdoors - A Campfire Story

Leveraging Collaborative Networks to Connect Youth to Nature in the City
Detroit Context

- Traditional lands of the Anishanbeg “People of the Three Fires” along with a number of other tribes
- Detroit established in 1701 by France along one of the most narrow stretches of water in the Great Lakes basin
- A final station on the Underground Railroad before freedom in Canada. Station name was **Midnight**
1,200 Acre Rouge Park in Northwest Detroit
A Collaborative Born

- 3 Core Organizations: Detroit Parks and Recreation, Sierra Club, YMCA of Metro Detroit
- Early Grant Funding from The Kresge Foundation, Sierra Club Nearby Nature, & REI
- Gear Library and Training Program Added for Teachers and Youth Workers
- Kresge Foundation Renewed Support, & New Gift from Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation
Just Add Nature
And a few s’mores couldn’t hurt...
SPEAKER CONTACT

CJ Goulding, cj@childrenandnature.org
Jackie Miller, jmiller@goco.org
Maria Durana, maria.durana@sfgov.org
Garrett Dempsey, garrett.dempsey@sierraclub.org
Moderator: Jaime Zaplatosch, jaime@childrenandnature.org
Your connection to information and expertise on new urban park models, practices, and innovative partnerships.

Members have access to a suite of highly-curated resources specifically designed for the parks community including:

- Webinars
- Online resource library
- Urban park study tours
- Advocacy tools
- Discounted registration to Greater & Greener

Join City Parks Alliance today! To learn more, visit our membership table in the exhibition hall or go to cityparksalliance.org/membership.

#greatergreener