



# Innovations in Environmental Programming

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March 7, 9:30-10:15





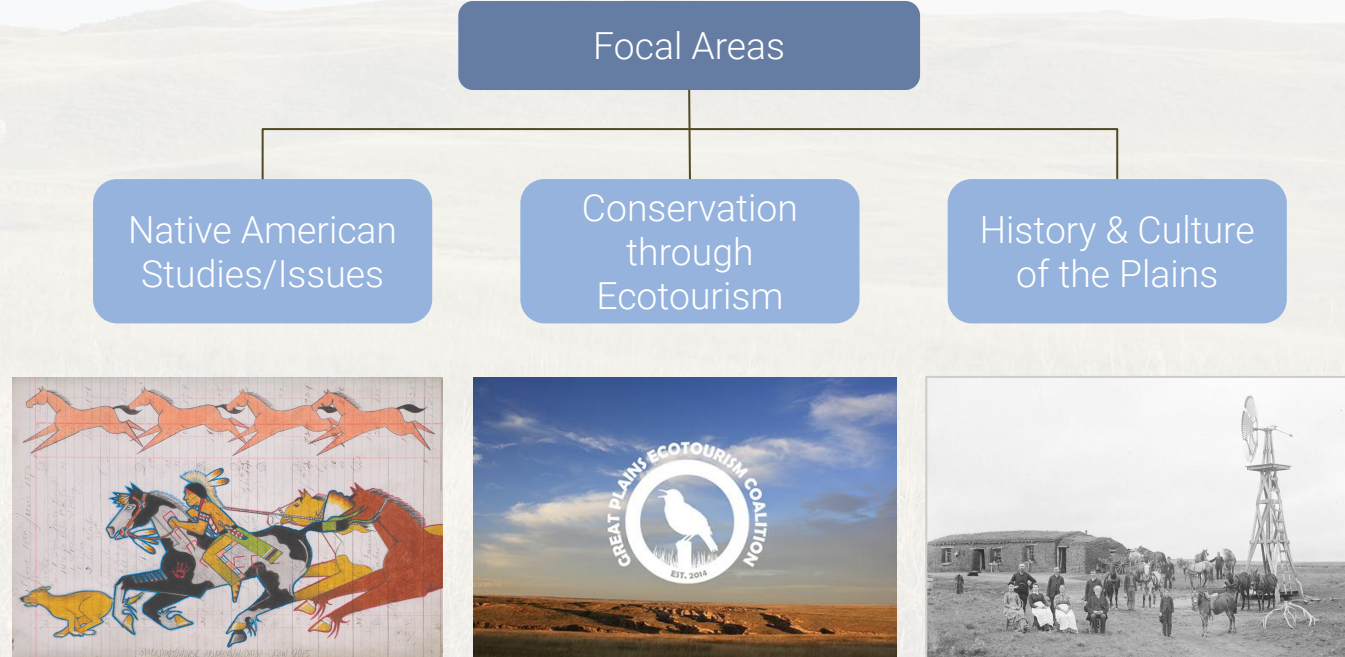
*great plains*  
ART MUSEUM

**Great Plains,  
Great Brains  
Youth Programming**

The Center for Great Plains Studies, with its Great Plains Art Museum, is an interdisciplinary educational and cultural hub that cultivates awareness of and engagement with the diverse people, cultures, and natural environments of the Great Plains.

## CGPS at a Glance

- Est. 1976
- Over 8,500 artworks
- 6 exhibitions every year
- 16 artists-in-residence since 2006
- 49 annual Great Plains conferences
- 71 lectures since 2013
- 288 fellows across UNL, UNK, UNMC, and UNO
- 64 issues of GPR
- 168 issues of GPQ





# What does this look like for expanded learning opportunities?

1



*Relative Position*, 2013  
Mixed media

2

## Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)

- What's going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can we find?

3

## Choose Your Own Adventure

Environment and Conservation

Design a wildlife-friendly habitat in your community

Art

Bird/plant/habitat collage project

Geography

Mapping bird migration

People and Culture

Indigenous knowledge and stewardship of small ecosystems



# GO BEYOND

LEADERSHIP THROUGH NATURE

NE  
ELO  
INNOVATIONAL  
INVITATIONAL  
2023

Ian Kimmer, Executive Director

[gobeyondne.org](http://gobeyondne.org)



## VISION

Go Beyond's extraordinary outdoor adventures bring diverse groups of young people together to facilitate self-discovery and build community.

## MISSION

Go Beyond provides year-round outdoor experiences, featuring life-changing Mountain West adventures.

## VALUES

**COURAGE**      **COMPASSION**  
**DEVELOPMENT**      **INCLUSION**

## FOCUS

Trauma-impacted. Youth who would never otherwise have access.

Based in Omaha, 13-15 year old campers from across the region come together through Go Beyond.

## YEAR ONE: 366

366 hours programing.

Through local partnerships we hike, rock-climb, and connect to nature, science, service, and each other.

**+ the world-class mountain expedition of a lifetime!**

## NATURAL LEADERS

Campers continue growing towards future leadership, gaining self-management, group leadership and job skills + paid roles.

**ALL PROGRAMS FREE OF CHARGE.**

**ALL GEAR PROVIDED.**

**TRANSPORTATION ALWAYS AVAILABLE.**





[gobeyondne.org](http://gobeyondne.org)



## discussion:

- **WATER.** We are at the forefront of critical water resource management at our Wyoming sites. We want to develop places and ways to connect in Nebraska to water questions that will face our participants, and all, in the future.
- **NATURE-BASED HUMAN SERVICES.** We are exploring a state-wide version of our program. What would a nature-based human-services program look like in our diverse communities?
- **BIODIVERSITY.** We host a Wetland Reserve Program site primarily focused on the recovery of the most endangered amphibian in North America, the Wyoming Toad, in partnership with US Fish & Wildlife and scientists around the country. We want to develop places and ways to connect in Nebraska to biodiversity conservation AND find ways to provide access to this incredible opportunity to partners.
- **SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY.** Our Natural Leaders, coming from the communities we serve, are ready to use their experience to connect young people across the state to nature and outdoor adventure. How could we serve other communities and efforts?



# Civic Nebraska's Environmental Playground





# Civic NE

**Center of Excellence: Environmental Playground:** This project is a partnership between Beyond School Bells and Civic Nebraska, earlier version with NET

**Program Goals:** using geographically diverse Nebraska after school sites, programs will collect and record environmental data and observations

**Student Goals:** 1)Students will practice gathering environmental data 2)Students will gain experience in environmentalism 3)Students will see a relationship between the environment and their city/town/farm

**Outcomes:** 1)New training videos 2)Publishable data 3)A positive experience in the science of environmentalism

**Method:** 3 Sets of Activities; programs choose from each set of activities and can add or make changes. We asked that programs do a minimum of one activity per set.

# Environmental Civics

## 1. BioBlitz

- a. What is your habitat?
- b. Weather “Weather Channel” app
- c. Soil testing “Rapitest”
- d. Air quality EPA “AirNow”

## 2. Campus Field Work

- a. Plants around your school “Picture This” app
- b. Bugs around your school “Picture Insect” app
- c. What is the human footprint?
- d. Trees – tape measure; apps
  - i. Tree Rings Explained
  - ii. Tree Rings Explained for lower grades
  - iii. Tree Rings Explained for lower grades includes interpreting rings for more than age





# Discussion 1

# Discussion 2



Thanks for  
coming

Presenter contact info