Women’s Fears of Teaching in the Outdoors

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Imagine

- What would happen to our world if outdoor educators no longer existed?

- What would happen if female outdoor educators become an extinct species?

- How might this affect sustainability?
We need champions of the planet?
..the voices of female pre-service outdoor teachers resonated with me.. (like haunting me)

they shared their thoughts of fear to teach in the outdoors..

Is this why women drop out of the outdoors?
Experiential Learning Model

Program was delivered in three cycles

- Phase 1 – intro to theory on experiential learning theory and risk management plus 3 day workshop
- Phase 2 – Design own plan to teach outdoors. Implement lesson and evaluate teaching, applied more theory
- Phase 3 – Revised lesson plan and taught to year 8’s, assessed teaching and Ass 2 reflect on program

Summary of comments from females teachers

- Phase 1 – summary of voices “im not good at ropes, tying knots and all that stuff”... “this is not for me I am scared of outdoor activities, responsibility = think I will drop out of program”
- Phase 2 – “I don’t want the responsibility of harming someone while taking activities”
- Phase 3 – “felt unsure in the beginning of program but I feel I have had time to practice. Also support of peers and teachers was very important to feeling competent (mastered the skill)”
Model of teaching

- This is an example of one model that was based on Kolb’s Model but elaborated to give pre-service teachers real teaching experience in a semi-controlled outdoor environment.

- A point - the use of this model was effective on allowing learning to take place but it is also important to state that the support from the lecturer was as viewed as just as important to the learning process. This model allowed time to provide the extra support needed to effect change in their voice’s from fear (drop out) to one of proud achievement.

- Another important point is that female pre-service teachers had overcome their fears and felt more competent at teaching in the outdoors at the end of this program.
Foster strong support for our female pre-service outdoor educators

- “How can we better support and nurture more female Outdoor Education teachers, who are capable of changing the dominate discourses and start to change the human nature relationship?”

- Can this be achieved online or by using other teaching methods?
Eco - Fem - Warriors

WE ARE ALL WONDERWOMEN!