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As an experiential educator, co-operative learning is the teaching style that I have a propensity to incorporate into my lessons most often. As an instructor at your institute, not only will your students be cultivating knowledge and learning from one another, they will be teaching one another. I believe that life should be experienced to its fullest, and that first-hand experiences are what enable information to be understood, and knowledge to be truly retained. The Yosemite Institute seems akin to these values.

My volunteer experience in an inner city kindergarten classroom in Minneapolis laid a solid foundation for my future teaching experiences. This opportunity led to me accepting a job at the YMCA of the Rockies, in Estes Park, as an Outdoor Educator. Quickly, I was able to transfer the knowledge that I gained from my volunteer work in the classroom and apply it to my outdoor education classes at the YMCA. In continuing my quest to teach, I obtained a teaching certificate at the University of Colorado. Through my experiences teaching at such diverse schools with an adverse population of students, I have learned that everyday in the classroom is singular; some days might have better flow with freedom and hands-on learning, while other days may require lecture and more structure.

My true passion is in working with people in the out-of-doors. I currently work for an adventure and life-building school (Kent Mountain Adventure Center, Estes Park, Colorado) in which I am fortunate enough to be involved in enhancing educational and outdoor experiences for both children and adults. The created growth experiences, for both myself and the students, bring about changes towards our outlook of the future and the self. Youth specifically, in my opinion, are in need of more experientially based/outdoor environmental based activity, as opposed to the structured audio/visual based indoor programs we see so often. Specifically, the pace at which learning occurs and is retained is exponential at KMAC. Co-operative learning lends itself to higher rates of learning and retention.

My passion for wilderness adventure and conservation is infectious, and I hope to have the opportunity to share it with the the Yosemite Institute and students. I welcome the opportunity to further discuss my teaching and wilderness experiences, and look forward to hearing from you soon.