

Nature Based Education Institute

May 19, 2018

Sponsored by University of Maine at Farmington

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Session Title: Teaching Science through Art-Based Activities

Session D 10:30-11:45

Location: North Dining Hall C

Presenter

- Dawn Gooch (d.gooch@raider4life.org)

Who will benefit most from this session?

- Any age/grade Educator

Session Description: The essence of art and science is discovery and both are intrinsically linked. Integrating science and visual art provides students with the ability to think critically, make discoveries and meaningful connections all while developing a student's scientific understanding. In this session participants will be part of an activity that will discuss plant diversity and explain how plants fit into the global/local ecological system and why they are essential for life on Earth. Once identified participants will create a colorful plant profile providing information such as Latin/Scientific/Common name, habitat, interesting facts and any economical and or medicinal value. This activity can be adapted for various ages. Integrating visual art and science is one way to meet the needs of all students. The profiles help students retain information through the combination of the hands on activity, research and connecting them with their local ecosystem through the use of art.

How will participants engage in nature during your session? Participants will engage in a nature walk to collect plant samples and then return to the classroom to learn how to identify their samples using a dichotomous key.

Presenter Biography

Dawn Gooch began her teaching career as an adult education educator teaching Biology and Chemistry. For the last five years she has been teaching STEM based science in the AOS 96 school district. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science and a minor in Chemistry from the University of Maine. She is also a 4H teacher leading STEM and STEAM based activities in her community.