

Nature Based Education Institute

May 19, 2018

Sponsored by University of Maine at Farmington

[Back to Conference Homepage](#)

Session Title: Take a Walk on the Wild Side

Session L 2:00 - 3:15

Location: North Dining Hall A

Presenter

- Dr. Kathryn Will-Dubyak (kathryn.willdubyak@maine.edu)
- Alicia Hilton (alicia.hilton@maine.edu)
- Emily Hartford (emily.hartford@maine.edu)

Who will benefit most from this session?

- Upper elementary educators (Grade 4-6)

Who else may benefit:

- Middle grade educators (Grades 7-8)

Session Description: The goal: Participants will be able to consider how various content areas can be integrated through the exploration of archaeology in the environment outside their school. This session will give participants a better understanding of how they can immerse students in nature through active learning while maintaining curricular rigor. Through this workshop, participants will experience activities that integrate content areas. Facilitated discussions among participants will occur for consideration of their own learning environments and how they might design similar learning opportunities for their own students.

Session Learning Outcome: Participants will take away interactive strategies to get their students outside and learning in various content areas through the study of archaeology.

How will participants engage in nature during your session? Participants will participate in a scavenger hunt in Abbott Park on campus. In doing so, they will be focused on exploration and data collection related to archaeology, but using math, history, science, and language arts. They will create written descriptions of their findings, along with specific measurements and illustrations. They will explore Abbott Park in its current state and explore evidence of its previous existence. This will give the participants a better understanding on how they can immerse students into nature through active learning. They will collaboratively build connections throughout social studies, math, science, art, and literacy.

Presenter Biographies

- Alicia Hilton and Emily Hartford are juniors in the Elementary Education program at the University of Maine Farmington. They have served as teaching assistants in the Literacy Clinic, and can often be found volunteering at the local elementary school in kindergarten classrooms.
- Dr. Kathryn Will-Dubyak is an Assistant Professor of Literacy in the Division of Elementary, Early

Childhood, and Early Childhood Special Education at the University of Maine Farmington. Her work centers on working with pre-service teachers in situated communities of practice as they develop their pedagogical understandings of literacy related to teaching and learning.