

“Environmental Education Research” Apply Now!

Online Course Announcement and Syllabus

March 3–30, 2014



Format: Online professional development course.

Audience: Environmental educators, leaders, and college students from the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Dates: March 3–March 30, 2014 (4 weeks). Estimated workload: 6 hours per week.

Course tuition: Free.

Registration: Registration is open for up to 30 educators, until the course is full.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/EER-2014> **Registration form:** <http://tinyurl.com/EER-2014-register>

Course facilitator: Alex Kudryavtsev, PhD (ak383@cornell.edu), Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University.

Requirements: To participate in the course discussions, you must have a Facebook account (or create a temporary acct.)

Technical questions: admin@eelearn.net

Version: February 17, 2014

Course Overview

Through this online course, you will increase your capacity to use environmental education (EE) research to improve your education program. Researchers are trying to address many questions useful for educators, such as: How can EE contribute to pro-environmental attitudes and behavior? What are other EE outcomes? What are the impacts of EE on communities and ecosystems? How can youth development be integrated in EE? Researchers write reports, books, and journal articles to advance our understanding of EE, and to increase its effectiveness. Designed for professional development of environmental educators, and of leaders and volunteers working with youth and communities, this 4-week online course will help you use EE research in your education programs. Course participants will exchange their view of EE teaching approaches and desired outcomes, and reflect on their EE experiences and assumptions. Through this course you will: (1) Clarify your practical theory, i.e., your understanding of how your EE activities lead to desired EE outcomes; (2) Review important recent EE research and understand how you can use it to improve your programs; (3) Update your knowledge about different EE outcomes; and (4) Expand your network of peers working on EE in other organizations throughout the country. This course may be useful, for example, when you conduct program planning, report program outcomes, communicate with parents and communities, write grant applications, and just want to improve your understanding of EE research results.

Course Format

This is a 4-week online course. Participation will require about 6 hours of work per week. The course online platform is powered by Google Apps for Education. Each week, participants will network with each other, read publications, watch short videos, and write reflections. Participants will have access to various EE research publications, research summaries, and overviews of relevant theories. The final assignment is creating a one-page mental map (we will use eeEcology Map <http://ecologymap.org>) that reflects your practical theory, along with your reflections on how research supports your practical theory. Upon completion of the final project, participants receive a certificate. We suggest that you take only one EECapacity online course at a time.

EECapacity

This course is offered by the Cornell University Civic Ecology Lab and partners through EECapacity (<http://eecapacity.net>), the EPA-funded national environmental education training program.

Syllabus

Due dates each week are Saturdays. The syllabus may change; watch for updates each week.

- Week 1: Introduction** 3/3–3/9 (1) Watch an introductory video, (2) Overview EE outcomes, (3) Post your introductory message that describes your EE activities, and desired program outcomes.
- Week 2: Summaries** 3/10–3/26 (1) Watch EEResearch videos, (2) Read selected EE research summaries published by EECapacity, NatureBridge, and Audubon, (3) Post reflections.
- Week 3: Publications** 3/17–3/23 (1) Review 2-3 publications related to behavior and other EE outcomes, (2) Post your reflections.
- Week 4: Final project** 3/24–3/30 (1) Submit your final project: eeEcology Map along with practical theory discussion.