

Andrew J. Bobilya

Professor, Program Director of Experiential and Outdoor Education at Western Carolina University

Cullowhee, NC, US

Andrew Bobilya's background includes serving as a field instructor and program manager for various summer outdoor adventure programs.

Biography

Andrew Bobilya currently serves as professor and program director of the Masters in Experiential and Outdoor Education (EOE) program while also continuing to teach in the undergraduate Parks and Recreation Management (PRM) program at WCU. Andrew's background includes serving as a field instructor, trainer and program manager for various summer camp, wilderness and outdoor adventure programs. He is a former instructor with the North Carolina Outward Bound School and continues to engage in research and evaluation projects connected with Outward Bound. Bobilya is also a Certified Outdoor Educator through the Wilderness Education Association (WEA) and continues to offer WEA courses through the EOE and PRM programs. He has served in various roles at industry associations and publications, including the Board of Directors of the Association for Experiential Education (AEE) (2005-2012) and as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Outdoor Recreation, Education and Leadership (2010-2018). Bobilya's current research interests include wilderness solitude, autonomous student experiences, the human nature relationship, spirituality and outdoor programming, and college student transition programs. Bobilya has received the Association for Experiential Education's Servant Leader Award (2013), the Western Carolina University College of Education and Allied Professions Legislative Teaching Award (2017) and Dean's Research Award (2017), the Wilderness Education Association's Outdoor Educator of the Year (2018). He also is a founder and director of training and education at 2nd Nature TREC (Training, Research, Education and Consulting) where they come alongside existing programs to help them become better at what they do. Bobilya enjoys spending time with his family and friends, moments of adventure, exploring natural landscapes and the related personal spiritual journey.

Industry Expertise

Leisure / Recreation, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Outdoor Programming, Human-Nature Relationship, Wilderness Solitude, Autonomous Student Experiences, Spirituality

Affiliations

Journal of Outdoor Recreation, Education and Leadership (JOREL) : Associate Editor, Journal of Experiential Education (JEE) : Editorial Board Member, American Camp Association : Member, American Canoe Association : Member, Association for Experiential Education : Member, Leave No Trace : Member, North Carolina Association for Environmental Educators : Member, The Academy of Leisure Sciences (TALS) : Member, Wilderness Education Association : Member

Event Appearances

The Psychology of Risk and 21st Century Wilderness Program Participants
International Conference on Outdoor Leadership

The Psychology of Risk and 21st Century Wilderness Program Participants
International Conference on Outdoor Leadership

10th annual trends and issues in outdoor education programs panel discussion
Association for Experiential Education International Conference

Publishing isn't just for academics
Association for Outdoor Recreation and Education Conference

Exploring perspectives on optimal challenge and risk
Association for Outdoor Recreation and Education Conference

Education

University of Minnesota
Ph.D. Education

Minnesota State University
M.S. Experiential Education

Montreat College
B.S. Outdoor Education

Accomplishments

Servant Leader Award
2013 Association for Experiential Education

Legislative Teaching Award
2017 Western Carolina University College of Education and Allied Professions

Dean's Research Award

2017 Western Carolina University College of Education and Allied Professions

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