

Geoeducation

Geoeducation is outdoor activity that connects participants to the character of a place, its environment, biodiversity, culture, and heritage, while promoting the wellbeing of participants and nurturing in them a desire to care for that place.

Geoeducation relies on physical activity, environmental education, natural history interpretation and nature journaling to connect people to a bioregion's unique sense of place, in the process emphasizing the distinctiveness and delicate balance of the bioregion.

These elements are synergistic, all working together to create an experience that is greater than the sum of its parts. It relies on leadership and mentorship through educators or family, and involves the community. Geoeducation educates participants while investing economically in the landscapes and livelihoods of those who call the bioregion home. Participants discover their own heritage by learning more about things they take for granted, and they develop a sense of pride in, and ownership of their locale.

Geoeducation not only relies on integrity of place, but it supports that integrity, seeking out local businesses who can outfit and train participants because they are personally invested in the bioregion, themselves realizing the character of the locale. In return, local stakeholders who benefit from those economic returns appreciate and protect the value of those assets.

Geoeducation directs participants to the range of local organizations invested in the integrity of place and committed in their own way to environmental education, outdoor recreation, art, preservation, conservation and restoration.

Geoeducation means great educational adventures. Capturing the spirit of a Lewis and Clark expedition—in our backyard, excited participants bring home enthusiastic tails of wildlife encounters, and of extraordinary landscapes experienced. They bring home new knowledge and their stories tell of connections made with nature and memories made with family and friends. This encourages others to experience the same.

Geoeducation supports the concept of sustainable life—that landscapes should remain unspoiled for future generations and that human activity should generate revenue that supports conservation. Geoeducation focuses not only on the environment but also on the human wellbeing of those exploring the environment, and on the diversity of the cultural, historic, and scenic assets of the bioregion. It encourages citizens to get involved in sustaining the bioregional character of the bioregion—its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the wellbeing of its residents. Geoeducation further enhances the bioregional character by developing and improving it in ways distinctive to the locale, reflective of its natural and cultural heritage, so as to encourage market differentiation and cultural pride.