

Adventure Education Methods for Teaching Ethics

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The purpose of this presentation is to teach instructional methods used in Adventure Education Programming for the teaching of Ethics and to correlate these methods with the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative.

Using the SPEC Model (Student-centered, Problem-based, Experiential, and Collaborative), and The Experiential Learning Cycle, The participants will be placed on a simulated expedition. The expedition members will be taken through an experiential process of creating their own “Mission Statement” to address the goals of the expedition and will create their own set of “norms” for the expedition (principle-based ethics). The “norms” serve as the “Principle-Based Ethics” that the participants are accountable for during the expedition. After the formation of the Principle-based Ethics, the participants will be split up into groups and given several ethically-based decisions to make regarding simulated events that occur on the mock expedition. They will present their scenarios, decisions and justification to the entire group. A facilitated discussion will follow.

Sample guided questions:

- 1) How can I integrate the teaching of ethics into my classes?
- 2) How should I facilitate their learning through the semester?
- 3) How can I assess the students’ application of ethics?
- 4) How do the ethics in my courses align themselves with DFEI Principles?

The presentation will use Action Research as a Mode of Inquiry. This method allows for the collaboration, reflection and change necessary to move through the dynamic nature of an expedition or the development of any organization.

After participating in this workshop the participants will have a greater understanding of how to identify ethical issues, teach ethics across the curriculum, reflect periodically on their students’ performance in ethics and assess the application of ethical decision-making of their students.

This presentation is based on my experiences instructing/course directing for the Colorado Outward Bound School, training teachers and in leading my own personal expeditions. I have used several academic resources in Adventure Education to support this presentation. The significance of this work is that it will aid in the development of resources to allow educators to address the topic of ethics.

Keywords: Adventure, Education, Methods