

Contents

Foreword	xi
----------------	----

INTRODUCTION	xii
--------------------	-----

Who Is This Book For?	xiv
-----------------------------	-----

How to Navigate This Book	xiv
---------------------------------	-----

A Word Regarding Terminology	xv
------------------------------------	----

PART I

ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL PARK CLASSROOM	1
---	---

1 NATIONAL PARKS AND OUR LEARNING LANDSCAPE	3
--	----------

America's Largest Classrooms	4
------------------------------------	---

National Parks for Beginners	5
------------------------------------	---

Educators and Our National Parks	6
--	---

The National Park Classroom: An Overview	9
--	---

The NPC Model in Action	11
-------------------------------	----

Additional Reading	13
--------------------------	----

2 PROJECT DESIGN	15
-------------------------------	-----------

More Than “Just a Project”	16
----------------------------------	----

Looking for Your First Project	19
--------------------------------------	----

Forming Anchor Questions	20
--------------------------------	----

Additional Reading	21
--------------------------	----

3 INTERPRETIVE TEACHING	23
--------------------------------------	-----------

Why: Interpretation and Learning Theory	24
---	----

What: Audience Centered Experience (ACE) and Structuring Interpretive Teaching	28
--	----

How: Interpretive Teaching Techniques	30
---	----

Additional Reading	33
--------------------------	----

4 EXPLORATORY INQUIRY	35
------------------------------------	-----------

Setting the Stage for Effective Inquiry	36
---	----

Models of Inquiry from Our Parks	37
--	----

Diamonds for Dimes: Using Exploratory Inquiry to Build Knowledge	39
--	----

Additional Reading	42
--------------------------	----

5	PLACE CONSCIOUSNESS	43
	The Power of Place	44
	Place Attachment: Land of 10,000 Lakes	45
	Mighty Mountains, Meandering River: Two Models for Place Conscious Learning	47
	Out of Doors Learning	50
	Additional Readings	52
6	CAMPFIRE CULTURE	53
	Culture Eats Strategy: Supporting Learning Through Management	54
	Leave No Trace in the Classroom: Mindfulness the NPS Way	55
	Campfire Culture: Promoting Positive and Productive Collaboration	58
	Free-Choice Learning: Creating Learner-Centered Ecosystems	61
	If the Rails Are Polished: Aesthetic Responsiveness	62
	Additional Reading	65
7	EQUITY-FOCUSED	67
	Equity and Our National Parks	68
	Classroom Applications	70
	Awareness: Exploring <i>Your America</i>	71
	Inclusion: Parks and Our National Narrative	72
	Segregation to Invitation: Inclusive Interactions for Learners	75
	“We’re Here, He Isn’t”: Acknowledging Difficult Experiences	76
	Additional Reading	78
PART II		
HOW TO CREATE ENGAGING LEARNING EXPERIENCES		79
8	THE DESIGN TRAIL	81
	The Project Design Trail	82
	Additional Reading	92
9	SCIENCE IN THE PARKS	93
	Making Science Real	94
	Authentic Scientific Practices	95
	Out-of-Class Experiences	97
	Culturally Responsive Science	98
	Socio-Scientific Inquiry	99

Context-Based	101
Additional Reading	103
10 SOCIAL STUDIES IN THE PARKS	105
“A Republic, if You Can Keep It”: Addressing the Decline in Social Studies	106
Expanding and Interpreting Our Shared Past	108
Democratizing Our History	110
Students as Historiographers	111
History as a Story: Rediscovering Missing History	113
Additional Reading	114
11 MATHEMATICS IN THE PARKS	115
Addressing the Perils of Math Instruction	116
Connecting to Parks Through Mathematical Habits of Mind	117
Communicating Mathematically	119
Develop Connections	120
Question and Persist in Solving Problems	121
Reason and Justify	122
Search for Patterns	122
Use Tools Strategically	123
Additional Reading	124
12 LITERACY IN THE PARKS	125
Literary Inspiration: The Key to Lifelong Literacy	126
An Interpretive Structure for Literacy	128
Inspiring Learner Voice Through Poetry	129
Keep a Pluggin’ Away: Literary Inspiration Through Great Lives	131
Words with Purpose: Impactful Literacy	133
Additional Reading	134
13 ARTS IN THE PARKS	135
Better Living and Learning Through the Arts	136
Thinking Like an Artist: Studio Habits of Mind	138
Fostering Creative Expression	140
Cultural Awareness	143
Artist in Residence: Connecting Artists to Artists Through Parks	145
Additional Reading	146

PART III

EXPANDING THE REACH OF PROJECTS..... 147

14 GLOBAL LEARNING THROUGH OUR PARKS 149

The Importance of Global Competence.....	150
World Heritage Sites: Humanity's National Park System	151
Local to Global Learning Through a World Heritage Lens	154
Sustainable Development Goals: Solutions for All Mankind	156
Putting It All Together: The NPC Model Through a Global Lens	158
Additional Reading	159

15 NATIONAL PARKS FROM A DISTANCE 161

Distance Learning: From Necessity to Opportunity	162
Best Practices for Asynchronous Distance Learning.....	163
Best Practices for Live Distance Learning.....	167
Additional Reading	169

CONCLUSION 170

Additional Resources.....	172
Bibliography.....	172

INDEX 173