

Women in Outdoor Careers

Experiential Field Day



October 4 | Calgary
October 19 | Whitecourt

Two experiential learning events for female and non-binary students to connect with female professionals in natural resource and environmental sectors.

Thank you to our partners:



**CALGARY
FOUNDATION**
FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER



Overview

In October, Inside Education piloted “**Women in Outdoor Careers**”, a series of one-day events aimed to connect female and non-binary students with outdoor professionals. The goal of this program was to give youth the opportunity to meet women who work as environmental professionals. Through activities and networking we demonstrated some of the unique opportunities for young women in outdoor careers, and inspired them to think ahead to academic and career options they may not have considered. By inviting female experts as mentors to demonstrate equipment or tasks they do in their day-to-day work, students were engaged in hands-on exploration of careers in forestry, agriculture, wildlife conservation and much more.

The project reached was attended by **111 students** and teachers across the two events from **6 schools**, and we had **24 female experts** who attended to share their career story and experiences with the students.



“All the experts had a very strong passion for what they do in their job...and they were excited to share their work.”

- Students from Calgary Girls Charter School

CALGARY PROGRAM

The program was held at the Three Herons Conservation Area near Black Diamond. We welcomed **69 students** from:

- *Calgary Girls Charter School,*
- *Members of the Girls Exploring Tech and Trades club from Rundle College*
- *Students in the Building Futures program of Rocky View Schools*

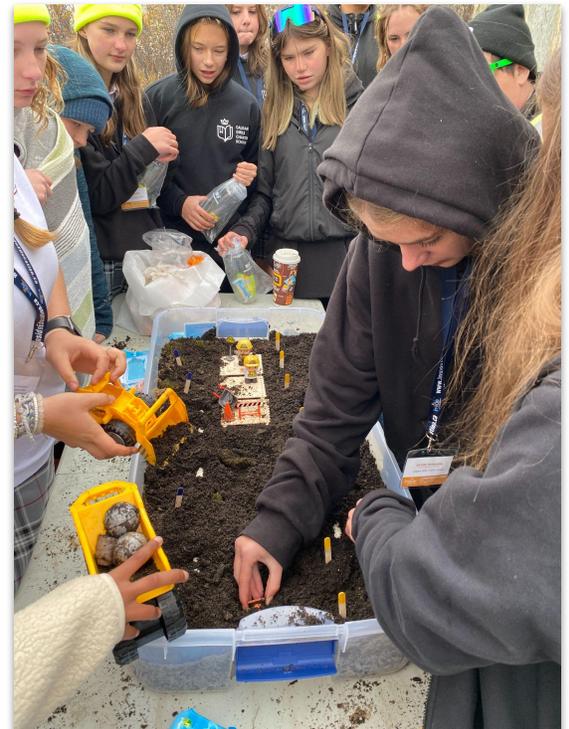
Students rotated through eight hands-on stations to explore career opportunities including soil and aquatic invertebrate sampling and looking at equipment like wildlife cameras. The students also explored forestry tools such as increment borers and diameter tapes, and heavy equipment operation through an activity with model trucks, a pipeline and a big tub of soil! They also heard from *CAREERS: The Next Generation* to learn more about the supports available through the Registered Careers Apprenticeship Program (RAP).

“This program gave us the chance to connect the Nature Conservancy of Canada with youth, and help students see opportunities for careers they may not know about.”

Morgan Higginson, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Expert Guests/Organizations

- Lara deMoissac | Cromptimistic Technology
- Dayna Solmie and Team | Triton Environmental Consultants
- Brooke Kapeller, Nisha Saini and Volunteers | Bow River Basin Council
- Morgan Higginson and Carissa Sideroff | Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Tiara McAlister | Nutrien
- Sabrina Ryans | Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Andrea Taylor | Women Building Futures
- Corry Pepper | CAREERS



WHITCOURT PROGRAM

Expert Guests/Organizations

- Ashley Johnson and Caitey Seifer | Athabasca Watershed Council
- Shalan Thomas and Kelly Musgrove | Triton Environmental
- Camila Hurtado | Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute
- Laura Brandon | Work Wild
- Cynthia Labrecque, Charlotte Ratcliff and Katie Thompson | Canadian Forest Products Ltd.

The northern Alberta program took place at the Huestis Demonstration Forest, a working forest and interpretive site 13 km northwest of Whitecourt. Three schools participated in this event - Swan Hills School, École St. Joseph from Whitecourt, and Holy Redeemer Jr/Sr High from Edson, with a total of **42 students**.

Students rotated through five stations learning about various natural resource careers related to forestry, research, environmental monitoring, reclamation, and conservation.

This program gave students the opportunity to interact with women who work in natural resource fields that are traditionally dominated by men, and hear firsthand the benefits and challenges associated with pursuing these types of careers.



SUMMARY AND FUTURES

Inside Education strongly believes in providing opportunities for young women in environment, science, technology, math, engineering (eSTEM). It was in keeping with this commitment that these pilot programs were developed. The activities and hands-on components from each organization were well received, and teachers appreciated their students getting to hear firsthand experiences from environmental professionals. With this, Inside Education intends to continue developing more hands-on, careers-focused natural resource and environment programs.

Choosing to pursue a career in an environmental sector is just one method of environmental stewardship that these young leaders can take, and we hope that the **Women in Outdoor Careers** program provided inspiration for these young women to consider natural resource careers that they may not have previously. The engaging, outdoor nature of this program, with incredible female mentors will, we believe, help support the next generation of women leaders in eSTEM and environmental and natural resource stewards.

Contact

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“Being out in the ‘wild’ was such a great way to do this because it shows what it is like to be in an outdoor career (warm and cold days!)”

Lisa Corbett, Teacher, Rundle College - Calgary

