

The Power of Place - Using Acadia as an Outdoor Science Classroom



Hannah Podurgiel
MDI High School

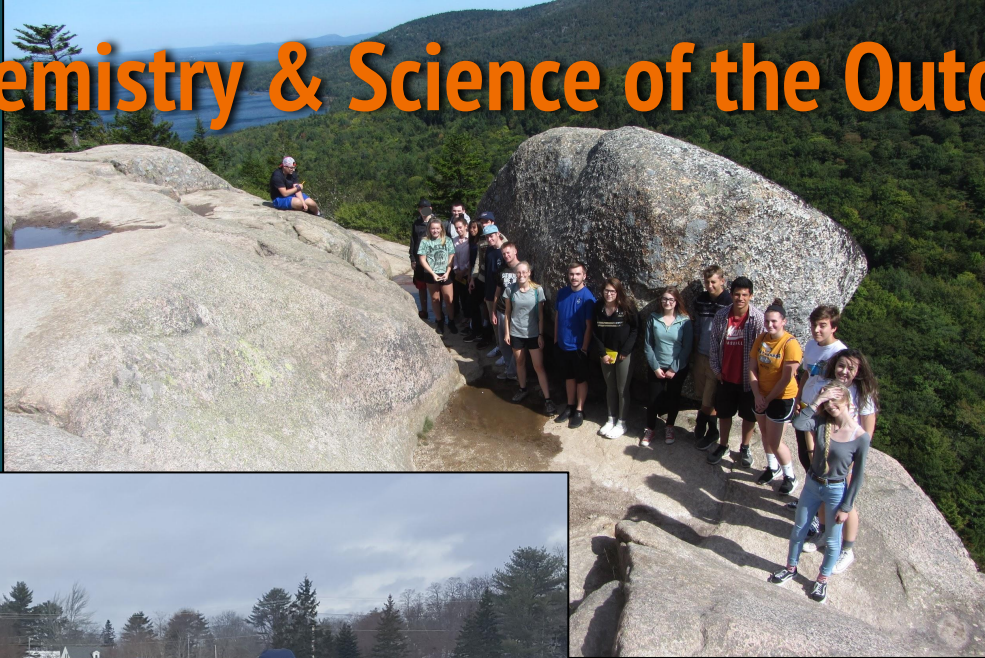
Agenda

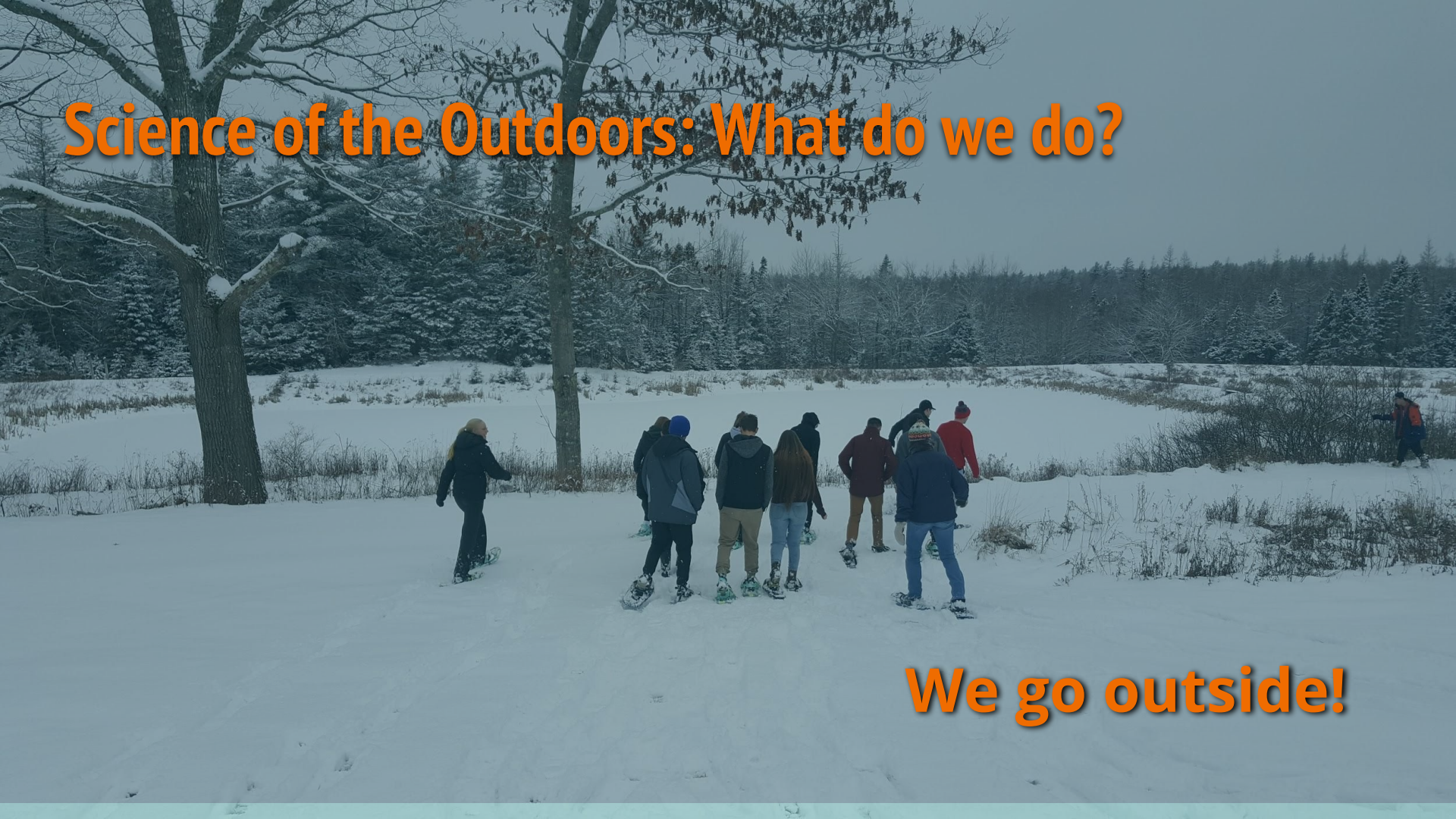
- My school & courses
- How do I use Acadia as an outdoor classroom?
- What resources are available to educators and others?
- Thoughts on using Acadia to engage students

Mount Desert Island High School



Subjects: Chemistry & Science of the Outdoors



A group of about ten people are snowshoeing through a snowy field. They are dressed in winter gear like jackets, hats, and snowshoes. The background features a line of snow-covered trees under a grey sky. The text "Science of the Outdoors: What do we do?" is overlaid in orange at the top.

Science of the Outdoors: What do we do?

We go outside!

Science of the Outdoors: What do we do?

- Use the trail system around the school
- Take a WEEKLY field trip into the park (~15 field trips/semester)
- Do projects and engage with experiences to learn about:

- Leave No Trace
- Geology
- Ecosystems
- Map Navigation
- Nature Writing

- Birds
- Survival skills
- Forest surveying
- Tree/plant species
- Meteorology

Science of the Outdoors: What do we do?

- **Use a field journal to:**
 - Question
 - Observe
 - Sketch
 - Explain



Science of the Outdoors: What do we do?

- Use the PLACE to teach us about something!



Science of the Outdoors: What do we do?

- Cadillac Mountain
- Sand Beach
- Eagle Lake
- South Bubble
- Parkman Mountain
- Sieur de Monts
- Somes Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary
- Granite Museum

- Day Mountain Sea Stack
- The Ovens
- Little Hunter's Beach
- Shore Path
- Blue Horizons Preserve
- Blagden Preserve
- Great Hill
- Compass Harbor



The Power of Play & Exploration

- My students consistently say that their favorite experiences are when THEY get to do the discovering.



Connections/Resources

Using Acadia as an outdoor classroom is enriched by the connections available to us.



Connections/Resources

Acadia Education Internship

Acadia Teacher Fellow (ATF) Program

ANP Education Staff

Resource Management - Jesse Wheeler, Bill Gawley

Schoodic Institute - Nick Fisichelli

Somes Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary - Billy Helprin

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) - Douglas McMullin

MDI Search and Rescue



Acadia Education Internship



Acadia Education Internship

How did this help my students?

- I really got to know Acadia! (content knowledge)
- Experience with place-based lessons
- Connections with skilled educators



Acadia Teacher Fellow (ATF) Program



LOCAL SCHOOLS AND RESOURCES

Acadia Teacher Fellow (ATF) Program



HISTORY



Acadia Teacher Fellow (ATF) Program



New Field Techniques

Acadia Teacher Fellow (ATF) Program

**Greater Vision of Connection Between Other Schools
and the High School - Potential Partnerships!**

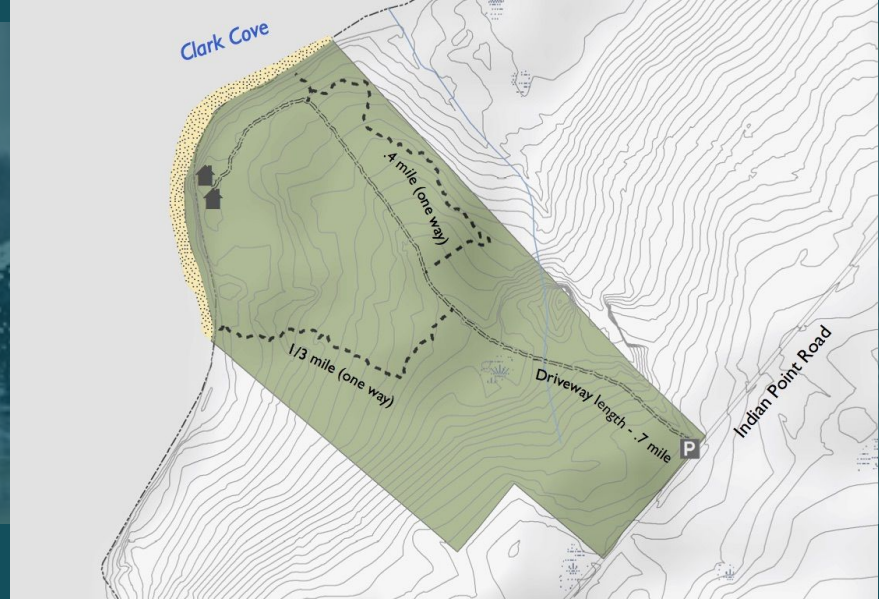
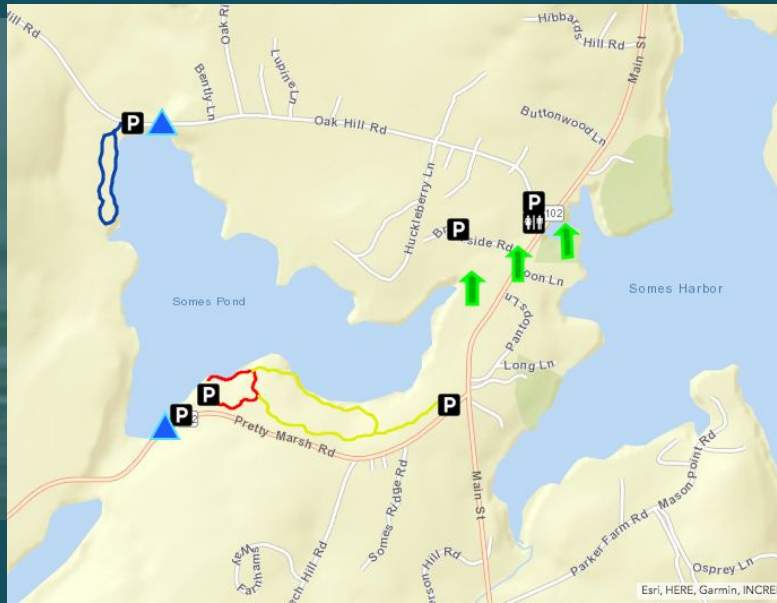


Somes Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary & Blue Horizons



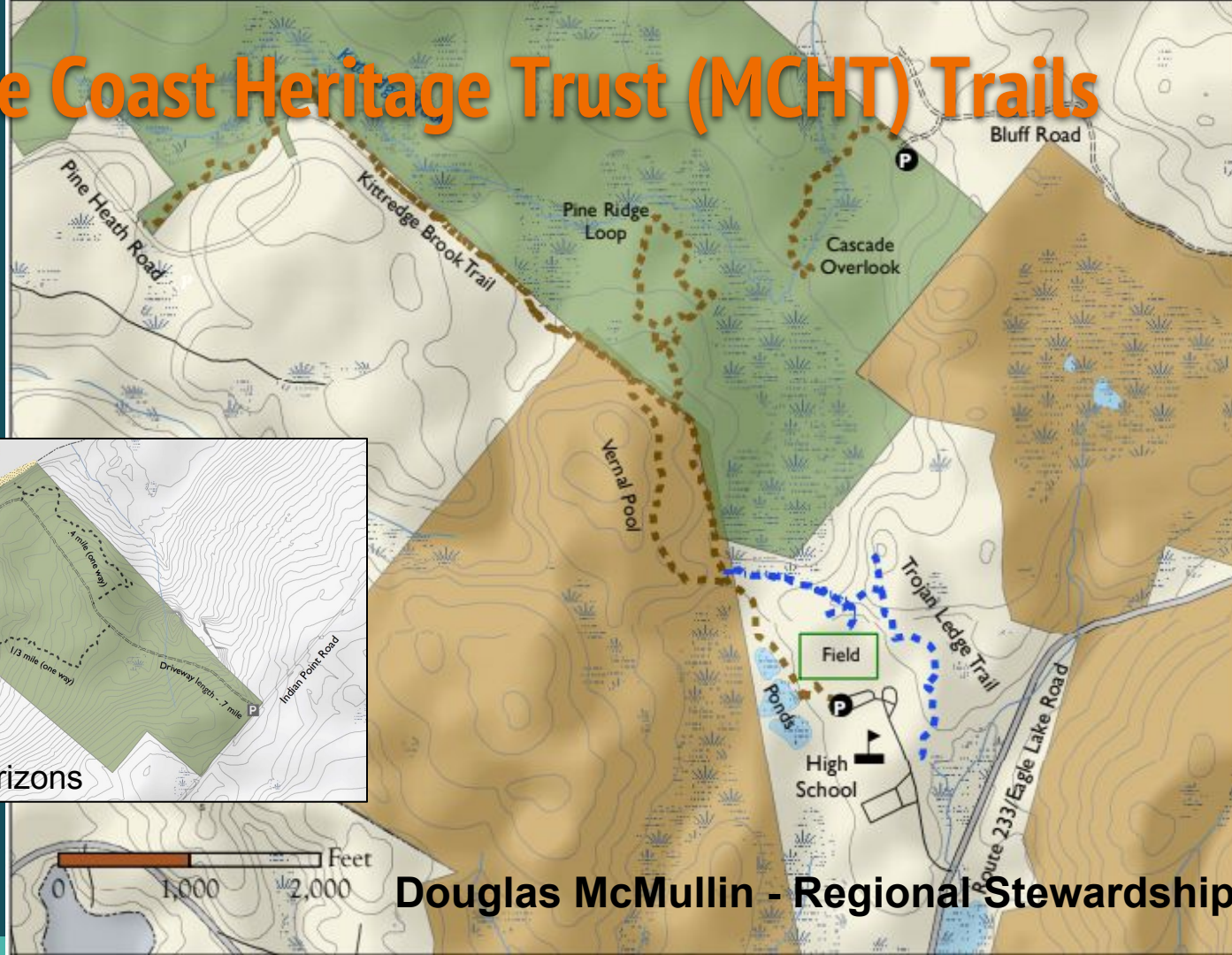
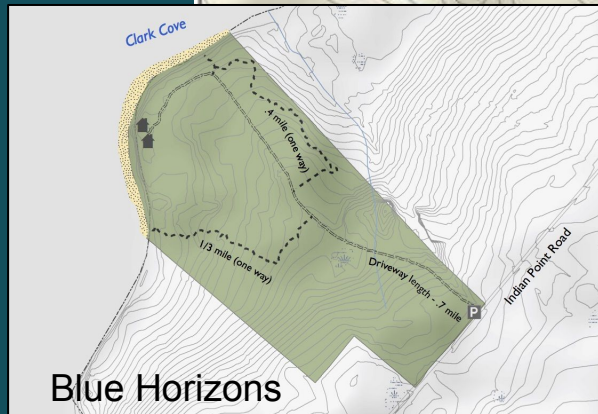
Somes Meynell Director - Billy Helprin

Somes Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary & Blue Horizons



Somes Meynell Director - Billy Helprin

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) Trails



Douglas McMullin - Regional Stewardship Manager

MDI Search and Rescue

- Work with park LE and others
- Field techniques (map navigation)
- Safety for students in the field



Thoughts on Engaging Students in Acadia

- There are SO many resources available to educators and others
 - Park programs for students
 - Place-based lessons developed by park educators
 - Professional opportunities for educators (Education Internship, Teacher Fellowship)
- Students benefit from a facilitated EXPERIENCE of a place
 - Guided by an educator, students can discover and make connections
 - Phenomenon-based lessons work very well
- Connections are key!
 - There are so many experts who can enhance the learning experience for students
 - Connections create OPPORTUNITIES

Thoughts on Engaging Students in Acadia

- There are SO many resources available to educators and others
 - Park programs for students
 - Place-based lessons developed by park educators
 - Professional opportunities for educators (Education Internship, Teacher Fellowship)
- Students benefit from a facilitated EXPERIENCE of a place
 - Guided by an educator, students can discover and make connections
 - Phenomenon-based lessons work very well
- Connections are key!
 - There are so many experts who can enhance the learning experience for students
 - Connections create OPPORTUNITIES

Thoughts on Engaging Students in Acadia

- There are SO many resources available to educators and others
 - Park programs for students
 - Place-based lessons developed by park educators
 - Professional opportunities for educators (Education Internship, Teacher Fellowship)
- Students benefit from a facilitated EXPERIENCE of a place
 - Guided by an educator, students can discover and make connections
 - Phenomenon-based lessons work very well
- Connections are key!
 - There are so many experts who can enhance the learning experience for students
 - Connections create OPPORTUNITIES









Thank you!

