



Project Based Learning: Boreal Toad

Course Information

Course Description

Solve a real-world problem with Denver Zoo in this toadally awesome workshop. You'll dive into project-based learning—and hop away with resources and techniques for exploring authentic conservation problems in your classroom. Our boreal toad conservation project will be a jumping-off point to design your own teaching units.

Course Objectives

1. Understand the benefits of project-based learning (PBL) as a teaching method and active engagement learning approach.
2. Participate in a project-based learning unit through the lens of Denver Zoo’s Boreal Toad Project to deepen your understanding of the PBL approach. Educator guide with resources and materials provided to support Boreal Toad PBL unit.
3. Plan your own project-based learning unit, in collaboration with fellow teachers.

Course Outline

9:00a – 3:30p	Day One	Day Two	Day Three
9:00 – 12:00 <i>Animal experiences and Zoo Exploration included throughout each day</i>	Arrival, light breakfast provided Introduction to the Course and Resources Project-Based Learning (PBL) Introduction and PBL through a Conservation Lens Introduction to Boreal Toad PBL Unit (teachers participating as students)	Arrival, light breakfast provided PBL Presentations and Debrief Designing a Conservation PBL Unit (teachers designing their own Conservation PBL Unit) Topic Inspiration – Zoo Exploration, access to experts	Arrival, light breakfast provided PBL Phases and Activity Planning Present PBL Plans to Students Panel Reflection and Revisions Framing Conservation Conversations
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch, provided by Denver Zoo	Lunch, provided by Denver Zoo	Lunch, provided by Denver Zoo
12:30 – 3:30 <i>Animal experiences and Zoo Exploration included throughout each day</i>	Boreal Toad PBL Unit Behind the Scenes Experience, Access to Experts, Project Research PBL Presentation Preparation	Standards and Driving Questions Zoo Exploration and Planning Time Collaborative Feedback and Brainstorming	Present PBL Plans to Peers Collaboration and Peer Feedback Resource Sharing Wrap Up and Survey



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Course Logistics

Location: This workshop will take place on the Denver Zoo campus. You may park in any of the parking lots adjacent to the Zoo or in the Zoo's four-level parking garage. All parking is free. Denver Zoo encourages carpooling, using public transportation, bike riding and walking.

Consideration for Included Activities: To safely participate in the program's activities, please consider your ability and willingness to

- Walk short and medium distances (could be up to one or more miles over the course of each day.
- Spend time in the heat and sun, or potentially adverse weather conditions.
- **Should you require accommodation to participate in any of the listed activities, please contact us at dzeducation@denverzoo.org or 720-337-1670 to discuss.**

Dress for Success: The Zoo's beauty is best appreciated outdoors, so please prepare for the day's predicted weather conditions. Please consider wearing/bringing:

- Sturdy close-toed shoes
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- A water bottle (refill stations available)
- Hat
- Small backpack

Meal Information: We will provide a continental breakfast and lunch; however, it is always a good idea to bring along extra snacks to fuel yourself for hot days!

Classroom Connections: We will spend time throughout each day researching and planning units while we explore the pedagogy of project-based learning. Please bring a laptop or tablet to support this work. It may also be helpful to bring or have access to school and/or district planning and content reference materials. This workshop is most appropriate for upper elementary through high school educators.