

August 2018: Pam Evans

Background: I would like to introduce Pam Evans who is starting a new position as Junior High Science Teacher for Arthur Grade School in Arthur, IL. Before that she taught 6th grade at Jefferson Elementary School in Charleston, IL. I also know her as our East Central Regional Director for the Environmental Education Association of Illinois. When I hear the word “go getter” I think of Pam because she is always finding ways to bring environmental education into the classroom. Please help me welcome her.



- Kirsten

TPNC: Can you tell us a little about what you do?

Evans: For the past 10 years, I have brought the joy (I hope!) of science to 6th grade students in Charleston. I have also taught math and social studies. I enjoy getting my students outside and learning about things they may not otherwise think about. We have studied birds through BirdSleuth, streams with Stream Discovery, had Zoom sessions with research vessels off the coast of Japan and the Maldives, to name a few.

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TPNC: What influenced you to choose this career?

Evans: I enjoyed being a Cub/Boy Scout leader for my 2 boys. They were in elementary school when I went back to school to become a teacher. It was great getting to spend the summers with them. We did a lot of camping and outdoor activities through Scouts.

TPNC: What do you like most about your career?

Evans: I love to learn and share what I have learned. What better avenue to do this than as a teacher. I seek out interesting professional development. I have spent a week on an EPA research vessel on Lake Huron, been to the Peruvian Amazon, and to Exxon-Mobile for a Teacher Leader Academy.



TPNC: What do you find challenging about your career or environmental in general?

Evans: There is not enough time in the day or in the school year to fit in all I would like to do with my students. I think this will be especially challenging as I start a new chapter in a junior high setting.

TPNC: Can you describe a favorite environmental education moment?

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Evans: I love taking my students to our section of the creek in town. The kids get in the water and do real science. They LOVE the hands on part of this and the fact they get a bit wet. They gather data and have fun while they do it.



TPNC: Why do you feel environmental education is important?

Evans: I think the students need to learn to care about the environment they live. Why else would they want to take care of it, if they don't know anything about it?

TPNC: Who is your environmental hero and why?

Evans: Rachel Carson would be my environmental hero. She knew there were signs of things that were happening near the water's edge. She kept doing research until people starting listening to her.

TPNC: What is your favorite aspect of nature and why?

Evans: Nature is so calming. I find that my students are much better behaved when given tasks in a nature center. They keep those memories with them.

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