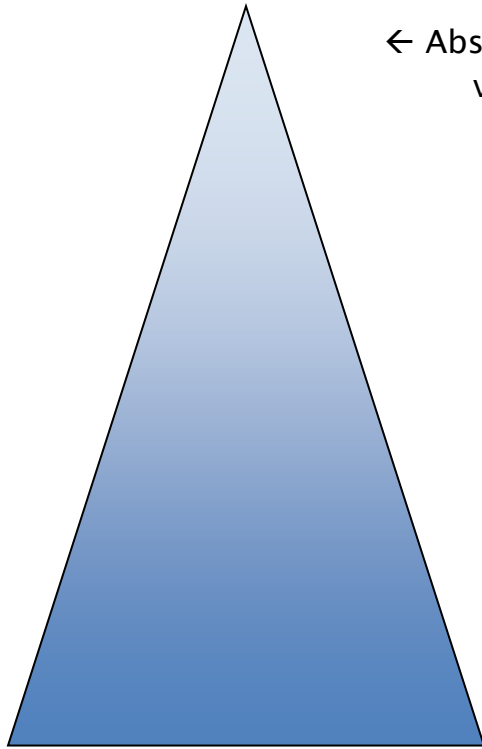


The Wilderness Education Cone of Experience

“HOW do I investigate wilderness and wild places with students?”

- The *Wilderness Cone of Experience* concept:

← Less than abstract: NO wilderness connection at all.



← Abstract wilderness learning: Reading books, viewing videos, looking at photos, listening to stories, etc.

← Outside but not wild: Getting outside for play, exploration, and/or study in slightly to highly manipulated landscapes and settings.

← Places with wild elements: Time is spent in places where wild elements and processes are the norm and not the exception. Educational topics are highly influenced by wild elements.

← Wilderness as classroom: Nature in all its *naturalness* dominates every moment and successful learners become part of the wilderness as they are mentored and influenced by it.

- The goal of wilderness education is to operate intellectually and/or physically as close to the widest, most experiential, truly wilderness point on the cone as possible.
 - Take home lesson: Set realistic goals but work hard to provide real, sensual, meaningful interactions with the widest point on the *wilderness cone-of-experience*.
- Educators who choose to teach in and about wilderness must be personally aware of how to *be*, how to *lead*, and how to *communicate* about wilderness through their own personal experiences.

