

CC: We don't have a lot of people of color making it out to the nature and experiencing it on the high end. When I was an outdoor leadership instructor, this was a program designed to get urban young people of color outdoors. I was really the only urban person of color instructing for the longest time. Many of the practitioners were white folks from the suburbs. It was easy for them to sign on and go through this training and get access to the materials and the resources. I struggled so hard to get my brothers and sisters from the city to do the same.

Even people I went to camp with as children. I was an administrator, and then years later, I'll run into some of those folks, and they'd say, "Oh, does that camp still exist?" I'm like, "Yeah, it does. And we actually have a lot of events and activities." "Oh, wow, that's cool." So, I think, what happened for you where you lost contact with a magical experience in your life? What messages got in the way for you not to see that? 'Cause when you go back to the city, you're flooded back with those messages of, I need to look good. I need to spend money on that. I need to do all of these other things that are not really necessary. But we are flooded with messages. The whole idea of going out, camping and hiking and doing that stuff, that's not the messages that our people are getting. And so, we need more players to turn that TV off or turn off that messaging. And refocus their time and attention so that at some point, they may be able to have, through nature's help, a conversation with themselves.