



## Emily Knapp

**Emily Knapp:** [00:00:00] And it is to be able to bring our community in The Wilds closer. And so, we're looking for ways, with this OWL program being one of them to bring a lot of our community members into The Wilds in as many different ways as possible.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:00:17] Welcome to Learning Unboxed, a conversation about teaching, learning and the future of work. This is Annalies Corbin, Chief Goddess of the PAST Foundation and your host. We hear frequently that the global education system is broken. In fact, we spend billions of dollars trying to fix something that's actually not broken at all, but rather irrelevant. It's obsolete. A hundred years ago, it functioned fine. So, let's talk about how we re-imagine, rethink and redesign our educational system.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:00:52] Welcome again to Learning Unboxed. This is your host, Annalies Corbin, and I am very excited, as always, for our program today because joining me is somebody who actually has my dream job. And so, I'm very, very excited for us to have the opportunity to talk about an amazing place that we have in Ohio called The Wilds. And joining me today is Emily Knapp, who is the conservation education coordinator at The Wilds.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:01:21] And we'll get her to explain what The Wilds is and all the amazing things that they do. But, you know, very high level, Emily has the privilege of getting to have at her disposal a 10,000-acre classroom and gets to do some of the most amazing programs. I have had the privilege to stand back from afar and watch over the years, so I'm really excited to talk with Emily about the things that she does. So, Emily, welcome.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:01:46] Hi. Thank you so much. I'm so excited to have this opportunity to meet with everybody. This is a wonderful experience.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:01:53] Oh, good. I'm glad that you're excited about it. So, we'll check in on that at the end. Let's get started first. Very, very high level because we have people who listen to Learning Unboxed from all over the world. So, for those who have no idea, tell us what The Wilds is, what's its mission and vision, and then we'll get into the weeds of what you actually do there.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:02:13] Okay. Perfect. So, I'm very biased, but The Wilds is one of my favorite places on the planet. So, out in little Cumberland, Ohio, very, very, very small town, there is a 10,000-acre conservation facility. And so, The Wilds originally was all area that was surface-mined. And so, around the 1970s, there was the spark of an idea that it would be a great place to have a conservation facility for exotic species.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:02:41] And so, moving all the way through that timeline to today, we're very, very lucky out there to have all sorts of exotic species such as southern white rhinos, giraffes, we've got ostriches, zebras, a ton of really cool exotic species, but we also do a lot of work with native species as well. So, we have our eastern hellbender, our American burying beetles and a lot of the other native species populations that would call Ohio home to.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:03:09] That facility as well, there is a team of really inspiring, really incredible people. I consider myself so lucky to work alongside a lot of really great departments, like our animal management team, Wildlife Ecology, Restoration Ecology because education out there makes up just a small portion of that. So, it's a really great place with a lot of fun things happening, and I highly recommend everyone to go out there if they can.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:03:34] Yeah, it is an absolutely joyous place to be. I love it. And a little bit of some additional context for our listeners, so as Emily said, this is reclaimed land. And I think that's the other thing that we're really proud of regionally as it relates to The Wilds, is that this was reclaimed from the energy industry, right? AEP as I recall, right? AEP Foundation, ultimately, an AEP Ohio gifted this to make this possible of this amazing conservation facility. And it is affiliated, operated under within the realm of the Columbus Zoo, correct?

**Emily Knapp:** [00:04:15] Yes.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:04:15] So, just to make sure folks understand how there is a connection between the Columbus Zoo and The Wilds. Could you explain that just a little bit as well?

**Emily Knapp:** [00:04:22] Absolutely. So, The Wilds and the zoo's mission is to lead and inspire by connecting people and wildlife. As partners with the zoo, both organizations work really, really hard to do that each and every day. And so, we're really lucky to work with not only just like The Wild's team, as I was describing it, but oftentimes, we either travel to the zoo or having constant meetings with the zoo. And just the staff over there is just vital to making sure that The Wilds runs smoothly. And then, we're lucky enough to be able to help the Columbus Zoo as well, which is great.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:04:55] Right. And you actually end up helping zoos and conservation facilities all over the world because at The Wilds, you're conserving, right? And so, therefore, you've got amazing breeding programs and sierra and finding places for animals to go and really just trying to maintain these species for our planet, yes?

**Emily Knapp:** [00:05:15] Yes. So, we at The Wilds have worked really hard along with a lot of the other zoos and facilities and the facilities across the globe to receive our accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. With that, we work really hard to establish breeding programs, or southern white rhino breeding program is really excellent, but also to work, just as you said, with other zoos, to work on where the best place for either our animals are, how we can help other facilities. So, while we talk about the partnership with the Columbus Zoo, we also have this lucky opportunity to be partner with a lot of other zoos or like I said, animal facilities, conservation facilities across the globe. So, just a really great network that provides to us, for sure.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:06:00] Yeah. And it's really an amazing place, like I said. And with that comes the opportunity to do some really incredible education. And that's really sort of what this program's all about. So, we'll just dig right in. And, you know, there is a residential summer camp called WildeCamp. There's a teen volunteer program called OWL. There are adult volunteer programs. There's a wild homeschool program,

which right now is very timely, I could imagine, as long as assisting with school visits and activities in kids' discovery opportunities.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:06:34] And so, we'll kind of get into the weeds of lots of those things. But I want to talk really sort of high level at first about sort of the specific skills and experiences that you are hoping that kids gain no matter which one of your programs they're participating in. There's a set of outcomes that you've sort of pre-thought about, I guess. And, you know, as schools and communities and other facilities are talking about how can we best make use of those sorts of outcomes at The Wilds, have in mind from education. So, talk to us a little bit about the rationale behind the way you do your educational programming in general.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:07:09] Absolutely. So, a few years ago, with our partnership with the Columbus Zoo, the Education Department's at The Wilds as well as the zoo came together and really worked on and decided what we were trying to accomplish. What are we trying to accomplish with all of our programs? And so, we created six behavioral outcomes, ranging from one of which being fostering a lifelong connection with—to critical thinking, to building support for conservation facilities, such as The Wilds and the Columbus Zoo. And so, armored with those six different behavioral outcomes, it creates a blueprint for every single program, a backbone, the real purpose and idea behind all of those.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:07:53] So, programs such as WildeCamp, our residential summer camp, we're trying to bring kids out to The Wilds to adventure with us for a week with really important science skills, well, out in nature, but also to create a community, too. So, to create these young conservationists who hired—to be able to go off—once they return home, to be able to take those same behavior outcomes and make a difference in their corner of the planet, too. I'll confidently say that that is a big piece of every single one of our programs. Program individually has its own idea and way to achieve that individual outcome.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:08:36] And what age group of kiddos get to come? And because the fact that it's residential, kids could come from anywhere, right? And you're encouraging that. And not all places have the ability to offer a residential camp experience. That's disappearing more and more all over the world, right? So, it's awesome that you have it. So, just for folks who are curious and would love to, you know, send their kids to the camp, what age group are we looking at for that?

**Emily Knapp:** [00:09:02] Excellent. Oh, my goodness. I could talk all day long about WildeCamp. It's one of my favorite times of the year, but is a residential summer camp for ages 8 to 18. So, each week of summer, there's a different age group that will come up to visit. So, we have everything from a two-day camp for eight, nine-year-old kids who never have been away from home before. And it kind of gets their feet wet into a camp experience where they get to meet a lot of other kids who are interested in the same things that they are.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:09:32] We have our 10 to 11-year old's camp. We've got our 12 to 15-year-old camp. And then, 15 to 18-year-old camp as well. Each of those different weeks, we're having different age groups, too, so we have an adventure camp. We have our Dirty Wilds Jobs camp, which is teen to 18-year olds who are interested in either coming up to learn about animal management or being a zookeeper or going down a veterinary track.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:09:58] So, veterinary medicine of some kind. And since they're staying with us from Sunday to Saturday, while it's just a week, it oftentimes feels like this entire really, really great adventure and experience. We see a big transformation from our kids regardless of the age group coming in on Sunday. And then, once they leave on Saturday. We don't allow cellphones out of camp, number one, because The Wilds has no cell service, right?

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:10:24] Right.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:10:25] To kind of like further that appreciation for nature, to unplug during that week.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:10:30] Absolutely.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:10:31] The easiest way to talk about a transformation is the kids who are not ready to give away the cellphone to their parents on Sunday, right? On Saturday, their parents are like, "Here, use your phone." And the kids are like, "No. No. No. I would rather tell you about my experience at the zoo." So, there's a lot of lessons that come from just the knowledge base that comes from all the camps. There's a lot of nature appreciation that occurs during that time, also just making friends, join a camp where you're kind of out in the middle of a lot of cool things going on, which is really great too.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:11:03] Hopefully with a lot of people you've never met before and you get to work on your social skills back to getting kids to unplug, what does it look like and feel like to meet new people? And for real, not just online and in a video game or whatever kids are naturally doing. So, that's a great thing for them. Yeah.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:11:21] Right. And we often say that camp is for everyone, camp is for everyone. And so, a lot of times, just as you said earlier, kids are coming from all corners of the tree to come out to this camp. And we are able to offer an opportunity not only for them to make friends, but to meet people who might be interested in the same things they are. I think back to one of our campers who is super interested in insects and thought that they were alone in the world for being excited about bugs, came out to camp and found a few friends who were just as excited as they were. And so, it was a cool opportunity to bring people, bring kids together to get them excited about the same things, which is really great too.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:12:01] Yeah. That's always awesome. So, let's talk a little bit about your teen volunteer program, the OWL because that's one that I think is pretty—that one's pretty intriguing to me. So, share with us a little bit about how that program works. And how do you maintain teens as a volunteer base? Because lots of organizations, even schools, really, really struggle with this. We have this growing component around some type of social enterprise or give back component tied to formalized education anymore. And so, all kinds of places are really struggling with how to do this well. So, what does that look like at The Wilds?

**Emily Knapp:** [00:12:40] Absolutely. So, the teen volunteer program or the OWL program, and the OWL is an acronym for Outstanding Wilds Learning, that program was created five years ago now, just the spark of the idea for it. Because we alongside a lot of the other facilities that you just mentioned, schools included, saw this need for more environmental education, more opportunities for kids to be able to come together just for the social skills, but then also the importance of volunteering, especially in something that you're passionate about.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:13:14] And so, this program was created with the idea to bring local kids out that are surrounding The Wilds. So, we're a very rural area out at The Wilds, but there are a lot of schools that neighbor us. And so, the OWL program, as it exists now, there are two different tracks in the program. You can either be a part of the interpretive education track, where you're out with guests throughout the summer or maybe you have an ostrich feather in your hand or [indiscernible] and you are expressing to other guest why these vital facts or these items are so exciting.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:13:49] And then, kind of bringing a bigger picture of why The Wilds exists, telling our story about our mission, and really helping with that guest experience piece. But at the end of the day, we get to talk to the teen volunteers about the impact that they were able—and how they made this giant difference for

everyone that they talked to that day. And then, that is very empowering, right? The other track in the program is our research program—our research track, I should say.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:14:16] That is working directly with our restoration ecology and wildlife ecology teams to go out on the property and to this 10,000 acres of property to be able to do fieldwork, conservation-related fieldworks, such as looking for salamanders, doing some snake surveys, doing tree identification, forest inventory, soil samples. And I mean, the possibilities are endless out there because there's so much going on. And especially for our kids at our local areas, a lot of times, they might not be able to dabble in those sorts of opportunities.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:14:49] They might not be able to go out and look for salamanders in their area with these staff who are going to be able to help them identify those. So, just giving as many opportunities as we can to the kids who are closest to us. One of my biggest areas of passion is to be able to bring our community in The Wilds closer. And so, we're looking for ways constantly, with this OWL program being one of them to bring a lot of our community members into The Wilds in as many different ways as possible. And that directly relates to us going out in January to our local high schools to recruit our OWLs for who come out in the summertime.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:15:28] Yeah.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:15:28] Really exciting opportunity. Really exciting.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:15:31] Yeah. And, you know, the other thing, too, because I've actually—on numerous occasions, actually experienced those high school kiddos who are doing some of the interpretation piece of it. And, you know, a couple of things, you know, as we know, kids have to practice learning how to talk to the public, right? And some schools do a great job with this, but not all schools do. And so, these community opportunities to practice talking to others, to learning how to share a story, to learning how to take other's questions, internalize them, you know, figure out, do I know the answer, do I not know the answer?

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:16:10] And then, how do I answer back in a professional way? And there have been a few of the kids at The Wilds that I've encountered that I saw them say early on, like at the beginning of the summer versus the end of the summer. And the difference between the confidence of these kids and their comfort in, A, I belong here, B, I'm an expert in something. It may only be that ostrich feather, right? And maybe not too much more than that. But the reality is I've got this.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:16:40] Right.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:16:40] That's incredibly empowering, right?

**Emily Knapp:** [00:16:43] They do. They become, like you said, confident and also very proud of the work that-

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:16:48] Yeah. They're proud.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:16:49] And they go home, and then they express that interest and enthusiasm for whatever it may be, ostrich, salamander, whatever it is back at home. And we get that really lucky opportunity out there to serve as their coaches, their mentors, help them to feel comfortable doing that, but then we, in turn, just as you expressed, get to watch that transformation and just have that really incredible hand in their journey for that, too.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:17:15] This program has been active for so long that we've been able to see some kids go through the program for a few years, so a few summers, they've come up, and after college, and writing letters towards these colleges and talking about the time that they spent and what it did for them, and I can't express just like how grateful I feel to be able to work with these really inspiring kids, but also how proud I am of all the hard work that they put in and how much that they inspire everyone that they cross paths with in their journey towards having a career in conservation or towards education or fieldwork or whatever it may be. Just really, really incredible kids.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:17:53] Yeah, they are. And those experiences are very, very meaningful. And even for the kids that don't go into conservation or into, quite frankly, any related field, that experience gave them the confidence to know they could do a whole variety of things, including things that aren't necessarily in their comfort zone. You literally took them outside of that. You scaffolded them to be able to do that.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:18:18] And I hope that when others hear you talk about this program, because I do push on this often in my work all around the country and around the world, you know, as schools or communities are looking to find better ways to engage their students in education in the here and the now, rather than the things that we thought we were supposed to be teaching them, the skills that you're talking about by being these public ambassadors, whether it's at The Wilds or it's in your community or to your local—your courthouse doing tours, right?

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:18:47] It doesn't make any difference. The reality is that those experiences are what we're looking to, to not only have kids grow to do, but employers want people that are confident to be able to tell their story, to explain their work, to be able to participate. So, that's awesome. I want to get into a little bit about the homeschool program, because I'm really curious, you know. So, this program will release probably in a couple of weeks.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:19:13] So, we will still be in the United States right in the middle of this this pandemic experience. We're all working from home. You and I are both not sitting in our regular sort of day-job sorts of things. So, everybody's out there, you know, basically scouring the globe for great content. And I love organizations that deliberately have a history of doing work in that homeschool space because you're very, very good at saying, look, we can teach anybody, anywhere, almost anything tied to our mission and vision.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:19:46] So, let's talk a little bit for folks about your homeschool program and what, if any, adaptation that you're utilizing with that for people who find themselves suddenly, you know, "I worked over here in this corporate office, but today, I'm homeschooling." Whether I want to and my school is doing a great job of helping me out with that or not, the reality is there's a whole bunch of us now who are homeschool parents.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:20:06] Right. Which first and foremost, I give so much credit and I offer so many—so much enthusiasm towards the parents who are finding themselves in that situation because I'm sure that it can be daunting at first, an educator. Being able to give your kids or your students the best step toward success that you can is the most important piece of all of that. So, with our homeschool program, right now—we've developed it over the past few years, and right now, it is visits that's built towards homeschool communities coming out to The Wilds.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:20:41] So, in light of everything that's going on, we're working on other programs that we may be able to release sort of as other facilities have, whether it's on Facebook or in some sort of other—on our Web site, whatever it may be. For right now, we are—The Wilds has worked really hard with our community relations team to release as many videos of our animal management staff working towards—you

know, working with our animals, showing what's going on at The Wilds, even though no one's able to come out to us right now, you know, giving as much positivity as we can.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:21:15] Those homeschool programs that we offer, we offer eight programs. We will be offering a program each year. And with different themes, different topics, we will have evening programs that will last from 5:00 to 8:00. My favorite one that I'm excited about is our Friends of Frogs program. We have community members do a frog walk and be able to identify different frog calls. It's again a big community building piece, and it's something that is different than what we've done in the past.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:21:44] So, we're still developing it, still working on it. But again, for all of our parents who are suddenly finding themselves as educators, getting kids excited, your kids excited about whatever you are excited about or taking them outside during this time, just out in the backyard, I mean, there are endless opportunities to be able to bring that positivity and that excitement and that happiness just by looking at something really simple in your yard.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:22:09] Something that you may have looked at a dozen times, whether it's watching for birds, maybe building a bird feeder, maybe building a bird house. And then, as you know, all of those species that you'd be impacting are coming to visit or coming to interact. So, I cannot convey my enthusiasm enough and my hope that you're able to enjoy this time. And your kids spending time with you is going to be the story and the memory that they have during something that's tough, that's happening right now too.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:22:43] Yeah, that's, I think, everybody's hope, right? That on the backside of this, we're like, you know, we actually got this moment.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:22:49] Yes.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:22:49] You know, scary upfront. And, you know, we're hopeful that it doesn't have horrific impacts for lots of families. But the flip side of it is a lot of opportunity to spend time we didn't think that we're going to have with our kiddos. And there's so many creative things that you can do. So, we do appreciate collectively, you know, anything that The Wilds is able to sort of put out there and put on and make that available.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:23:17] So, what do you think—when you think about how an experience like coming to The Wilds or how The Wilds is working generally within education about the opportunities that are there, how do you help schools translate that back into their day-to-day practice? Because whether you're providing content directly into schools or not, the reality of it is people, teachers, they're being impacted by the work that you're doing as well. And so, how do you think about that? And how do you scale that, I guess? Maybe that's the better question.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:23:55] So, I think that some of our programs impact structured classrooms and schools a bit more than others. So, our outreach program is what comes to mind initially, too. So, we had a really lucky opportunity to build an outreach program a few years ago. I think this is our second year that we've been able to launch in our local schools. We go into fifth-grade classrooms from four local schools, and we bring lessons on the scientific method.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:24:25] And so, that outreach program is six visits. One of those visits being a field trip out to The Wilds to do some fieldwork and hands-on learning out there. But those other five lessons are our education staff traveling to those schools and teaching those kids and working with those kids directly. And so, learning about the scientific method is often a very, very big chunk of—especially when we're talking about

science and state standards, so us being able to come in and help teachers to work through that and take that off their plate and to be able to bring a Wilds flavor to it, if you will, has been really, really beneficial.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:25:07] We've heard a lot of really great feedback from the local schools who we've been working with. And then, we also get to have The Wilds present in classrooms too. We're able to achieve a lot through that. I have—we've recently also launched evaluation tools that help us when we're looking at our programs to really see what the community effect is, to really see how we're able—those positive effects of working with classrooms.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:25:34] And in our OWL programs, the teen volunteer program, I was talking about, as well as outreach, and even with the residential summer camp, we've heard from parents that it's really helped their kid's journey through science that following year or through school that following year. So, whether it's the social skills that those kids have, the confidence that they have while they're working through our programs, the knowledge base that they've gained through those programs, they've been able to walk away having been impacted by some of the things that they drew from The Wilds.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:26:04] So, a lot of our programs are able to help schools. We're always constantly looking for more ways to be able to do that. And I would invite everyone to look at The Wilds Facebook page—or not the Facebook page, but also the website. You email me, too, with any questions, comments or suggestions because like I said, we're always looking for ways to help the community more, always looking for ways to reach out to be able to help with that, whether it's classroom visits, presentations or a program that we already offer that we can tell you more about.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:26:36] Yeah. Always very important. And so, you also touched on something that I was going to ask you about next. So, very timely in the sense of, you know, as there are other folks that are out there that are listening to this who may or may not ever make it to The Wilds, who are contemplating, "I love the concepts that you're working through as an organization and the programming you're able to offer", what advice do you have to either other organizations or communities that are trying to think about how could I take my natural resources, whatever that happens to be, and turn that into some type of community-based educational program? What kind of recommendations or maybe, you know, the three things you should know before you start contemplating something like that? What would you recommend to folks?

**Emily Knapp:** [00:27:32] I think that that's a great opportunity. So, the first thing that I would probably touch on is communication. And so, while it's a very broad word, and it means a lot of things, I think communicating to others around you first. So, if it's a staff, if it's other members in your community, whoever it may be, that might be considered part of your team, what do we want to accomplish? What are we trying to put forth towards our mission, our purpose?

**Emily Knapp:** [00:27:59] And then, communicating to a community, your audience, whoever that is, what do they want? What does that audience—what is that audience really interested in? Because if you're working really hard to create this idea, but having no idea what your community, your audience may want to listen to or experience, you might miss your mark, right? And all your hard work might be for naught. So, communication would be definitely my first piece.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:28:27] I would also, as an educator, say the flexibility or the ability to adapt as well because a lot of times when you're working with kids or you're working with a group of people, you have no idea about the questions they might ask you or what they might bring to the table that day. But it's a beautiful opportunity. You may think that the beginning of the day or the program that you're going to have this very set itinerary,

"We're going to do A, B and C and D today." Throw out A, B and C, and you're at E, and here we are. And now, we're learning. We're having fun. And it's the best.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:29:02] So, that flexibility and the positive moments, to see the positivity in those moments, I think, is important. Last, I guess, the third piece is just enthusiasm and passion—you're working towards. Not every day is going to be an easy day. And I think we all can understand and connect with that with everything going on right now. But if we see the positivity in these moments, if we see our enthusiasm shine through and be able to reach our end goal to achieve that mission, to set the successful program, that's what all this is for.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:29:38] That's what we're geared for. That's what we're working towards. And to build and accomplish that is just the greatest feeling in the world. So, I could probably create a list of all these incredible things that I would suggest, but I think that, yeah, to communicate, the flexibility and ability to adapt, and then just enthusiasm for whatever you're working towards. That's how we've created a lot of our programs.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:30:03] And those three things alone will let you sustain programming. I've had a number of different schools over the years who are really trying to sort of change the way they approach science, especially in elementary and middle school, and even in the high school levels. And, you know, some of the things that we've actively talked about was, you know, you have this amazing opportunity, if nothing else, you have this plot of land that your school sits on.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:30:31] And it may or may not be a very exciting plot of land, but it's yours to—you are the steward of that, no matter what, right? You have tremendous learning opportunities tied to that. And if you have a local park within walking distance or other resources in your community, there are a million different ways that you could take the work that you're doing at The Wilds around having an appreciation of outdoors and nature and really understanding the fact that you have something to preserve, that's teachable in every community.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:31:02] Absolutely. I can't agree with you enough on that. I think sometimes, we're talking about outdoor education or environmental education, it becomes a very daunting idea because there's so much that you could do, but that's also the beauty of it, too, is going outside and taking your kids out there and getting kids excited about grass, something that they see every day or a flower or a squirrel that they see in a tree, I mean, I think the hardest step is perhaps the first step in taking that to go outside or to start to learn more about whatever topic you are interested in. But once you take that first step, it starts to get a little bit easier after that. And your kids, you'll find your kids are excited about whatever you're excited about, which is totally important.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:31:48] And that's always the case. And I appreciate it so much. I love that you said that because I cannot tell you how often, at PAST, we tell teachers, administrators, you know, city people, you name it, if you love the thing you're teaching, your kids will love it too.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:32:05] Yes.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:32:05] They pull their enthusiasm from you. That's the first place they look to, to, should I love this thing or should I hate this thing, truthfully. So, thank you for that. And thank you so much, Emily, for joining us and for the work that you do at The Wilds. We will post the resources along with the episode when we let it go. And so, I truly hope, folks, that you reach out to Emily and that you enjoy the things that they have to share.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:32:33] The Wilds has a television program that I actually, my family, we all sit down and we watch it when it comes on because it's so quirky. And we love the fact that it's real, right? It's about the day-to-day stuff. We know all of you at The Wilds that end up on the program. And you learn something every single time. So, you know, embrace these types of local resources. And certainly, if you get a chance, visit The Wilds online and in person if you're able to. So, thank you, Emily, very much.

**Emily Knapp:** [00:33:00] Thank you so much for this opportunity and for everyone listening. I can't tell you how much I appreciate this. It's so inspiring to hear about everyone else's experience, too, so please, like I said, reach out to me if you have any questions or just want to share your story about what you're doing during this time as well. I'm happy to help however I can, and I know that The Wilds education team, as well as the Columbus Zoo and Aquariums Education team is going to be happy to help however we can as well. So, thank you again, all, for this. This is wonderful. I really, really—I'm so happy that I had a hand with this.

**Annalies Corbin:** [00:33:33] Thank you so much. Thank you very much. Thank you for joining us for Learning Unboxed, conversation about teaching, learning and the future of work. I want to thank my guests and encourage you all to be part of the conversation. Meet me on social media at Annalies Corbin and join me next time as we stand up, step back and lean in to re-imagine education.