

Chris' Story

Here is what I would share with you if we were walking together in the wildlife refuge near my home, probably with a dog or two)...

Though I live in a culture that asks us to conform and follow the rules, I was fortunate to be raised by parents that celebrated our uniqueness. They didn't mind that I was less interested in dolls and more into sports; less conventional, more original; less soft, more powerful. The plaque my mom made that hung in my room as a child has followed me through all of my moves. It now hangs in my bedroom in my cabin in the city. It says, 'Do therefore what is good in thine eyes.' I took that to mean 'Be yourself, wholeheartedly. Keep learning who you are, what you're made of, and live it.'

With a family that went on canoe or hiking trips for vacations, I found early on that being connected to the natural world is as necessary for me as food or water. That wilderness is a benevolent and thorough teacher. That rivers and dogs and tracks in the mud and canyon walls are responsible for much of what I know. I am someone for whom relationships matter, even in a crowd of 500 people. Deep, rich conversations are the sweetness, the stuff that makes life rich.

I am a speaker and a wilderness guide and a poet and a dog musher. I get to do what I love, which is a fortunate and joyful thing. My life's work could be summed up as being a bridge, helping people connect to their full Wild selves, daring them to live from that place of wholeheartedness, and then challenging them to do the brave work of welcoming the Wildness of others. I love crafting experiences based on who will be there, designing them in a way that is approachable and relatable and on point with what they need.

My job is to be fully present to the group and make an impact so people leave with ideas and inspiration. They will laugh, many will cry, all will wind up with important things to consider.

Keynote speakers with loud personalities and a large deck of PowerPoint slides aren't always what's needed.

If you are looking for a speaker that is refreshingly different, who crafts their keynote specifically for your group, your search may be over. I am your Wild card, the one that will take your group by surprise and leave them energized, thoughtful, and ready to make positive changes, because they saw themselves in the stories, and some part of their Wild hearts and minds were awakened in new and exciting ways.