

Chris Heeter Short Bio

Always engaging. Never boring. Refreshingly different.

This is what I would share with you if we went for a walk together in the woods behind my house.

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.

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 an audience of 500 people. Deep, rich conversations are the sweetness, the stuff that makes life rich.

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.'



Chris Heeter Highlights

- Profiled on The Discovery Channel's "National Geographic Today"
- Selected as a Top 10 Speaker of the Year by MeetingsNet
- Main Stage Speaker at Meeting Professional International's World Education Congress
- Highest rated speaker at Meeting Professionals International's World Education Congress 2014, spoke at the 2015 Leadership pre-conference and at the 2022 World Education Congress
- Recipient of National Association of Women Business Owners Luminary Award.
- Wilderness guide since 1984 and Dog Musher since 1990
- Shares a dogsledding kennel of 26 Alaskan Huskies with mushing partner, Kathleen Anderson
- Certified Wilderness First Responder
- Current board member of MCEA (Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy)
- Graduate of Master Composter/Recycler program
- Graduate of NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School)
- George Williams College Distinguished Alumnae award recipient

