

255 Center School road
W. Charleston, VT 05872
November 14, 2017

Dear ELPA,

This year we took a field trip to Echo Lake. We worked with Jason Brueck from Siskin. We were there because we were learning about ecosystems and how the environment is good for the lake. The environment is good for the lake because the water is not polluted by the farmers putting fertilizers and manure in the lake.

We went kayaking. We kayaked around part of Echo lake and into the fishing access. We stopped half way there and started talking about how big Echo Lake is, and whether Echo is an oligotrophic lake or a eutrophic lake. Oligotrophic is when a lake has low levels of nitrogen and phosphorus and Eutrophic is when a lake has a high level of nitrogen and phosphorus. Echo lake is an oligotrophic lake.

We learned about lake trout and that they are a high quality species. When we were down there, our teacher Ms. O'keefe got a jar of water from the lake. We looked at the water through a microscope, along with the other water samples of other lakes and ponds, and Echo lake was the cleanest lake out of all. Afterward we got in the bus and went down to a trail that was close to Echo lake.

Two people followed Jason down the trail and he taught them something about where they were standing. Those two people had two more people come down the trail and they taught them what Jason had told them, and then went on to their own spot where Jason would teach them something to share. It kept going until there was no one left to teach. When we got to the end of the trail we had a quiz on what we learned on the trail. Everyone got their question right. After that we just walked down the rest of the trail until we got to the water edge. Jason talked to us about how farms try hard to not pollute the lake. Then we walked back up the trail and into the bus. I had a lot of fun that day, and I think everyone else did too.

Sincerely,
Kayla Graves