

What is a WLEE?

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Staff Writer

In 2010, I came to Brevard College and declared myself a Wilderness Leadership with Experiential Education (WLEE) major. I am sure that all Brevard College students have heard or created a stereotype for WLEE majors. We are all known for our little quirks, like having a slight obsession with some form of outdoor activity, having our classes in Ross Hall, and the immersion semester.

The immersion semester is an opportunity (part of the curriculum) for WLEE

majors, like myself, to gain more experience in the outdoors to fine tune our abilities as outdoor leaders and educators. This is a semester long course (17 hours) that only 10 students get to do at a time, taught by 1 WLEE professor.

To some, the WLEE major is a joke; all we have to do is kayak, rock climb, and hike for four years before we get a College Degree. For others, the WLEE major is exactly what it stands for, leadership and experiential education. To non- WLEE majors and some freshman WLEE majors, Immersion is a bit of a mystery. The RDR suddenly has the letters W-F-R stamped across the win-

dows. Then 10 students wander out to the (supposedly) haunted building atop a hill between the baseball field and the North Villages, only to disappear and then reappear sometime later, the same but changed in some way.

This semester, is my immersion semester. I will be providing the Brevard College Community information about the immersion semester and what we are really doing throughout the next three months. Are we going to be just playing around, or are we doing what every other major at Brevard College is doing, learning in order to serve and create our futures.

Survey

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Upscale dining

Square Root and Hobnob were neck-and-neck in this category, with Square Root leading slightly at 24 votes (41 percent). Hobnob received 21 votes, followed by Jordan Street (17 votes), Falls Landing (10 votes), and Marco Trattoria (9 votes).

The Pisgah Inn Restaurant received eight votes, despite being located more than 20 miles away from campus along the Blue Ridge Parkway. And the Quarry received five votes, despite the fact, as several readers noted in their comments, that the Quarry is now closed. (In its place now is the Phoenix Lounge.)

Bakeries or coffee shops

Four establishments were the top picks here, with Bracken Mountain Bakery taking the lead at 23 votes (34 percent). The others are Starbucks (in Ingles) and Sunrise Café (each with 21 votes) and Blue Ridge Bakery (20 votes).

Quotations came in next, with 14 votes, followed by Brighter Day Coffee at 12, and French Broad Café at eight.

Bars or pubs

Maybe it is because it is the only pub, and certainly the closest within walking distance, but Dugan's was voted the favorite in this category with 25 votes (45 percent). Other top picks included the Brevard Brewing

Company and Jordan Street Café (each with 14 votes), and Cielito Lindo (9 votes).

Retail stores and other choices

Ingles was by far the top pick for readers on where they buy groceries or routine personal items, with 64 people (86 percent) choosing it. Walmart came in second, with 35 votes, followed by Kmart, Food Lion, CVS, and Dollar General.

For haircuts and the like, several readers mentioned the barbershop on Main Street, but otherwise, there was no clear consensus—several said in comments they had “a friend” do their hair, while others said they simply went home for such things.

Hair salons listed by name include Razor's Edge, R-Cuts, Pisgah Hairitage, Glamour Inc., Salon Allue, Mane Attraction and Nevaeh. One person listed Nails 2000, and someone else mentioned Tan 360 for massage therapy.

Readers also recommended the following other local businesses: Harris Ace Hardware, Brevard Auto Parts, Main Street Limited, Proper Pot, Grover's Office Supplies, Postal Express (formerly Postnet), the Sports Spot on Main Street, Marcum's for fishing supplies, Charlotte's Web for knitting supplies, the Brown Bean Coffee Roaster, and Highland Books. And recommended local services include Emmet Owen for plumbing, David's Auto Repairs, Alliance Crisis services, and Carolina Smiles Dentistry.

Finally, one reader recommended checking out local thrift stores for some items, including the Safe store located just a few dozen yards from campus on Broad Street: “If you're looking for decorations, furniture

or even clothes, always go to Safe first! It's hit or miss, but I've bought clothes with tags still on them.”

Leisure activities

Day hiking was the number one choice here, with 42 votes (63 percent), but Clarion readers definitely like their outdoor activities: other top choices include camping, sight-seeing (by car), swimming (“there's some really great lakes and swimming holes around,” one person says), backpacking, kayaking, mountain biking, and team sports.

Eight people listed rock climbing, and six mentioned trout fishing, but Brevard students also listed individual sports (14 votes) and intramural sports (11 votes) as favorite leisure-time activities.

As for location, Pisgah National Forest was, naturally, the top destination, with 55 votes (81 percent), followed by DuPont State Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway (41 and 32 votes, respectively). And 26 readers listed simply hanging out on campus as a favorite place to be one with nature.

