

It's a Great Big World

Caroline Serio, Environmental Ethics '23 + Conservation Across Boundaries '24



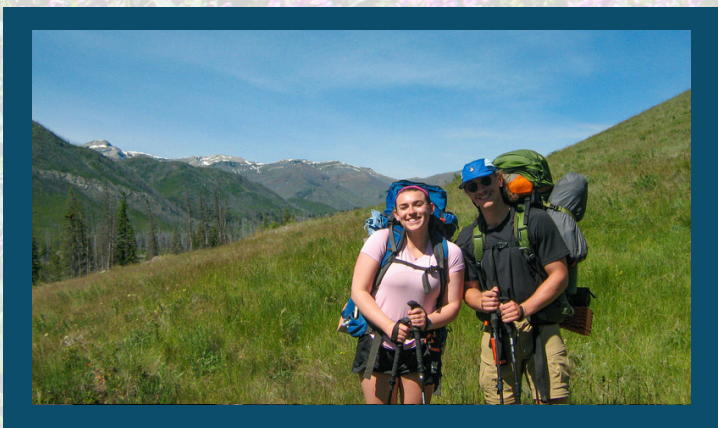
If you've been a college student, you know how uncertain those years can feel. From deciding where to go, what to study, and who to befriend, it can be a lot. For Caroline Serio, an interest in politics helped her narrow down a major, but she wasn't sure where to apply the skills her Political Science degree would afford. While she was deciding, she at least knew she wanted to join WRFI for the Environmental Ethics course - the same her sister had taken and gushed about upon return.

Even with that decision made, uncertainty remained. Joining the course would mean traveling from a busy campus in New York to the backcountry of Montana for three weeks of class in the wilderness. Her new classmates, all strangers, would hail from every corner of the country. This sounded like a lot to contend with at once, not to mention the daily backpacking and camping that would be taking place as well. Knowing all of this, she jumped in anyway.

Fast forward to today, a year later, and Caroline's academic life and professional goals have been shaped by those fateful three weeks. In her words, "Environmental Ethics solidified that I wanted to go into environmental policy and use what I saw and felt to envision policy and change how people see and feel about our planet." This meant applying to law school, and even taking another WRFI course. Her participation in Conservation Across Boundaries this summer deepened her appreciation for our ability to make change and how that could lead to positive effects for people all over the country.

Taking two WRFI courses, meeting classmates and community members, and diving deeper into the curriculum have broadened Caroline's horizons and shifted her perspective on society at large. It's a great big world and we look forward to see her positive impact on it.

"It's not only the places you go that make you realize how big the world is, it's all the people you meet too. It can be scary at first but it's so worth it. Take the trip."



Caroline Serio is a senior at SUNY Albany, majoring in Political Science with a minor in business administration and a focus on public law. Thanks to her time with WRFI, she has decided to attend law school in hopes of practicing environmental law.