

Open-Ended Questions

Eva Happy, Montana Afoot & Afloat '21



For Eva, life is all about open-ended questions. Whether it's what to study in school (a Liberal Studies major allowed her to take a variety of courses), what life after college in a pandemic might look like (when there are so many pathways available), or what deep, thought-provoking things to ask her podcast guests, she's always leaving the door open for new opportunities, perspectives, and experiences to find her. She kept this open mind during her WRFI course in 2021:

“What I took away from [from WRFI], both academically and personally, was the concept of collaboration across boundaries, across borders, and across belief systems. It really opened my eyes to the power of connecting on a human level with people...When you come with the intent to connect, it's easy to find common ground. That was deeply inspiring.”

Among other areas of her life, Eva is now using this lesson as she collaborates with WRFI to bring a new series to her podcast, The Shadows Run. Over the next several months, she'll be interviewing members of the WRFI community to share stories from life and the field. WRFI is thrilled to partner with Eva as she shares her passion and perspective with us.

“The podcast was an idea born in the pandemic because it was such an isolating time... listening to podcasts gave me a kind of ‘virtual community’, but the one-sided nature of the conversations left me lonely and wanting to contribute. And then I realized I could make that happen, and I started The Shadows Run in the spring of 2024.”

Eva hopes listeners of the series will come away feeling empowered to try something out of their comfort zone, to chart their own path along their values, and to go against the grain if that's what their heart desires. We feel confident that listeners will, since Eva models these things so well!



Since graduation, Eva has worked for both Glacier National Park Conservancy and the National Park Service, spending as much of her professional time focused on conservation, education, and advocacy as possible. She also dedicates time to her podcast, The Shadows Run, where she shares deep conversations with inspiring people in her life.