

AEOE Announces Save California Salmon as 2022 Environmental Education Organization of the Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2022

CONTACT: Estrella Risinger
director@aeoe.org
510-214-6406

California's [Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education](#) (AEOE), [Ten Strands](#), and the [California Environmental Literacy Initiative](#) (CAELI) are pleased to award Save California Salmon as the 2022 Environmental Education Organization of the Year. Justice for California tribes and the environment is at the heart of SCS's work. They are a Native-led organization that specializes in organizing, policy advocacy, leadership and curriculum development, media, hosting events, and youth action. Land Back, Water Back, and Fire Back are some of their proposed solutions to protect California's land and water and people from the effects of climate change while restoring justice to Native communities. SCS supports the fisheries and water protection work of the local communities, and advocates effective policy change for clean water, restored fisheries and vibrant communities. They also support youth-led action centered on cultural and educational advocacy, which is intertwined with watershed action in California's salmon-dependent Tribal communities. [Click here to learn more about their work.](#)



Two of SCS's staff members, Araceli Moreno and Danielle Rey Frank, attended AEOE's annual statewide conference and accepted the award on behalf of the organization (at left, Amy Frame and Celeste Royer from Ten Strands present the 2022 Organization of the Year Award to Frank, seated). "Our culture and daily lives are connected to the water and land, and the subjects that we learn in school," explained Frank, the Hoopa Valley Tribal and Save California Salmon youth

coordinator. "By connecting local issues and environments to our education, and encouraging us to apply what we are learning to benefit our communities and California policy, we are helping to solve critical issues and getting students excited to learn. Something about the curriculum that excites me is it educates us on how

to sustain what we have left of the sacred world our ancestors left, while teaching what can be done to help revive it.”

Save California Salmon successfully works in coalitions with California Tribal governments, school districts, teachers, and other Tribally-led organizations and nonprofits. The communities they work with include Yurok, Hoopa Valley, Karuk, Winnemem Wintu, Tolowa Deeni, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indian, Wiyot, Pit River, Pomo, Ohlone and other Tribal youth and families. SCS also helps support the work of fish and water-dependent communities such as commercial fishermen, non-Native and Native subsistence fishermen, and drinking water advocates and treatment facilities. They strive to keep these communities well educated and engaged in water pollution, flow, and fishery policy decisions in Northern California. SCS has been working with educational institutions including universities (Humboldt State University, UC Davis), school districts (Klamath Trinity Unified, Northern Humboldt, and Junction School Districts), high schools (Hoopa Valley, Arcata, and McKinleyville High), and Tribal education departments to get youth involved in natural resources decisions, cultural activities, environmental justice, and citizen science. They are focused mainly in rural areas in Northern California (Bay Delta/San Francisco Bay to the Oregon Border) however, they also work very closely with youth and environmental justice-focused organizations in Los Angeles, Stockton, and the Bay Area, as well as with Tribes from all over the West Coast.

Save California Salmon also develops community and science events regarding California's water and land/rights issues both virtually and in person, and which showcase Native youth, scientists, teachers, policy experts, and community leaders who share their experiences and stories in order to bring their social justice issues to light. They developed a high school and junior high school curriculum Advocacy & Water Protection, a Native designed, led, and built project that is aligned to California state standards, and which is being implemented in schools along the north coast. They produce a podcast and newsletter which discuss their projects, Native rights, youth, and environmental issues. All of these methods are proof of their creative means of getting Native voices and Tribal justice issues out to the public.

AEOE's Executive Director Estrella Risinger shared, "Save California Salmon does incredible work in their community. The Organization of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding organization that is advancing the impact of environmental and outdoor education in California in a meaningful way by offering innovative programs, following research-based best practices, and promoting equitable access to environmental learning. On behalf of Ten Strands and CAELI, AEOE is pleased to present the 2022 award to Save California Salmon, whose mission and programs

embody these principles fully. Please join us in congratulating them as the 2022 Environmental Education Organization of the Year!”

[Click here to learn more about the award.](#)



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