

## California Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Recognized for Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Education

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[San Jose, CA, November 12, 2019] After 65 years of advancing environmental education, the California Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education (AEOE) received the 2019 Outstanding Affiliate Organization Award from the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) at NAAEE's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

In 2019, AEOE hired its first Executive Director, expanded its professional network for managers and field practitioners and further established its Environmental Education Certification Program. It received recognition as part of NAAEE's network of 56 state, regional and provincial affiliate organizations working to advance the professionalism and prominence of environmental education.

"AEOE has been a leader in supporting environmental and outdoor education throughout the state of California for generations," said Judy Braus, Executive Director. "We're so excited to see their reach and impact continue to grow, and we look forward to working together to create a more equitable and sustainable future throughout North America and around the world."

AEOE was founded in 1954, making it one of the oldest state environmental education associations in the US. It joined NAAEE's Affiliate network in 1999 and continues to offer high-quality professional development opportunities, two regional annual conferences, a statewide conference, a robust job board and membership for educators in California.

"We believe that all people have the right to the benefits of meaningful learning experiences outdoors," said Estrella Risinger, Executive Director for AEOE. "We work to provide programs and practitioners with the tools, resources and expertise to ensure that future generations are equipped with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to respond to an ever-changing world."

The Outstanding Affiliate award is presented annually to Affiliates that demonstrate substantial accomplishments in the prior year that contribute to the field of environmental education. The award has recognized over 20 affiliate organizations in various states in the US and one province in Canada since it began in 1994.

This award was presented along with 10 other awards that recognize both individual and organizational leaders in the field of environmental education.

### *About NAAEE*

For nearly five decades, the North American Association for Environmental Education has led efforts to use the power of education to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement and create a more equitable and sustainable future. NAAEE supports a network of more than 20,000 educators and 56 state, regional and provincial affiliate organizations working in environmental education in more than 30 countries.

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