



**49TH Annual
Conference**

OCT. 14-17

**17TH Annual
Research
Symposium**

OCT. 13-14



Inspiring Change



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

49th Annual NAAEE Conference

Inspiring Change

October 14-17, 2020 • Tucson, AZ

Deadline for Submissions: March 23, 2020

The focus of our 2020 Conference is positive change. Environmental education, by definition, is about creating a more equitable and sustainable future using the power of education. By helping to create a motivated citizenry, environmental education has the potential to transform lives and society. NAAEE's 2020 annual conference will focus on the ways in which EE informs and inspires, and how it builds human capacity, influences attitudes, and galvanizes actions. The conference will highlight creative and inspirational efforts to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement to create healthier communities and a healthier environment for all.

NAAEE seeks compelling proposals that inform environmental educators about proven practices, push the leading edge of the profession, advance equity and inclusion in the field, and motivate the pursuit of excellence.

This is the Call for Presentations for the general NAAEE Conference.
[Click here](#) for the Call for Presentations for the NAAEE Research Symposium, October 13-14, 2020.

Conference Strands & Keywords

Presentation proposals must be submitted under one of the six thematic strands that characterize this year's conference. Each strand explores a different aspect of the environmental education profession. The focus points listed indicate priority topics we are emphasizing this year.

Use these to guide your submissions and choose the **one** strand that most closely aligns with your proposal. Submitting identical or nearly identical proposals under more than one strand will not increase your chances of being selected.

1) Advancing Civic Engagement and Sustainable Communities

Creating sustainable, equitable, and resilient communities through partnership building, informed civic engagement and personal decision making, systems thinking, connecting community and environment, and understanding historical impacts on communities of color

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- The role of environmental education in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Achieving environmental integrity, social equity, environmental justice, and economic prosperity through education and authentic engagement of historically underrepresented communities
- Incorporating culturally rooted practices into our work and understanding how people from different backgrounds relate to, engage with, and care about the environment in urban, suburban, and rural communities
- Grassroots partnerships for community improvement; characteristics of successful community action projects
- Strategies, tools, and training for addressing controversial issues and finding common ground
- Education and civic engagement to build more resilient communities and address climate change

2) Conservation and Environmental Education

Achieving conservation goals through education, communication, social marketing, and ecotourism strategies, including public participation in scientific research and place-based community action

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- Integrating education strategies into the broader practice of conservation
- Increasing equity and inclusion in the conservation movement
- Current research and case studies on behavior change as it relates to conservation education
- Successful tools, approaches, and educator preparation for bringing citizen science into the classroom and community improvement projects
- Successful collaborations between conservation educators and practitioners in all settings, from rural to suburban to urban, as well as wild spaces, public lands, and beyond
- Education strategies for addressing specific issues such as climate change, energy, water, biodiversity, ocean conservation, and food systems

3) Green Schools, Universities, and Vocational Institutions

Using environmental education to transform education, enhance student achievement, preparing students for green careers, conserve resources, support national and international education trends, link schools and communities, and build support for environmental education in formal education.

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- Green Schools as a pathway to service learning, student leadership, civic engagement, outdoor learning, and other effective education practices
- Exemplary initiatives for greening the campus and the curriculum, including school learning gardens and landscapes, facilities management practices, district and administrative commitments, and student involvement
- Advancing the Green Schools movement worldwide, including Green Ribbon and other recognition programs
- Promoting interdisciplinary instruction at all levels
- Integrating EE into preservice teacher preparation and inservice professional development
- Preparing a workforce with trade skills for green careers

4) Connecting with Nature

Cultivating partnerships and providing universally accessible outdoor education experiences that connect people of all ages and backgrounds to nature

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- Early childhood environmental education and nature preschools
- Developing outdoor programs that are inclusive and relevant to all audiences and provide equitable access for all
- Creating and using parks and other green learning spaces in urban, suburban, and rural areas
- Overcoming challenges associated with getting students and young children outside
- Outdoor programs that promote physical or spiritual health and wellness and that build a sense of place and cultural relevancy in urban, suburban, and rural communities
- Using the arts to explore people's connections to nature

5) Linking Research and Practice to Increase Impact

Using research to inform how we design, develop, refine, and promote environmental education programs for maximum effectiveness, and using practice to inform research

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- Cutting-edge research that is important and relevant to all environmental educators
- Connecting research and practice; applying what we know to what we do
- Strategies for evaluating and improving environmental education programs
- Developing shared outcomes that allow us to better measure our collective impact and using research results to influence decision makers and demonstrate the value of EE
- Research and case studies about the benefits and challenges of learning and teaching in outdoor settings and in a culturally relevant context
- Research and case studies that demonstrate how environmental education can lead to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

6) Building Leadership for Environmental Literacy

Strategies for building leadership and infrastructure to advance EE at the state, provincial, national, and global levels, and for motivating the public to take informed actions to protect the environment and address social and economic disparities

Sessions appropriate to this strand provide training in such areas as:

- Creating a more inclusive and equitable field
- Strengthening organizations that deliver and coordinate EE, especially on the local, state, and regional levels
- Cultivating and supporting leadership in EE
- Providing career pathways that promote diverse EE workforces, including trade skills for green careers and opportunities in community colleges
- Building our capacity to deliver effective, relevant environmental education for and with diverse audiences
- Leading efforts to link environmental education and civic engagement
- Setting, achieving, and maintaining professional standards of excellence

Keywords:

Program listings on NAAEE's mobile app are searchable by keywords. You can tag your proposal with up to three keywords selected from the word bank on the proposal submission form.

Session Formats

Please read the following session format descriptions carefully and select the most appropriate format for your proposed session.

Bright Spots

(10 minutes) Bright spots are **succinct talks** that celebrate specific triumphs and showcase things that work! These 10-minute presentations highlight successful and innovative family programs, school programs, community partnerships, conservation achievements, expanded audiences, research findings, civic engagement, and more. Three loosely related sessions are presented back-to-back during one 40-minute time block, followed by a short discussion. A/V equipment is provided.

Hands-On Presentations

(90 minutes) Hands-on sessions provide participants with an opportunity to **engage in teaching activities and interactive discussions** about a particular topic. A/V equipment is provided.

Poster Presentations

(40 minutes) Posters are 4-foot x 4-foot two-dimensional **printed presentations** that illustrate research studies, programs, and other work. Posters are fixed to portable bulletin boards and are available for viewing at leisure throughout the conference. The Thursday luncheon includes a one-hour general poster session during which all presenters stand near and share their posters with conference participants. No A/V equipment or electricity is provided but presenters may use their own laptops or tablets at low volume.

Roundtable Discussions

(40 minutes) Roundtable discussions emphasize **spirited discussion** between the presenter(s) and session attendees about a central question. Presenters briefly introduce the baseline idea or issue they wish to explore, and then open the discussion for input and exchange of ideas among participants. Examples and interactive materials are welcome, but this format does not lend itself to formal presentations, and PowerPoints are strongly discouraged. Roundtable discussions are held throughout the conference and there are about six simultaneous discussions in the same large room. No A/V equipment or electricity is provided but presenters may use their own laptops or tablets at volume low enough not to disrupt nearby discussions.

Symposia

(90 minutes) Symposia are **panel discussions** presenting different perspectives on a topic or question related to one of the focus points for each strand. Panels must include a moderator and a minimum of three panelists representing different organizations, ideas, or experiences. To enhance the richness of discussion, criteria for selecting symposia include the diversity of presenters and viewpoints. A/V equipment is provided.

Traditional Presentations

(40 minutes) Traditional presentations focus on a single topic or program, typically including a **talk or media presentation** followed by a short discussion. A/V equipment is provided.

Workshops

(3½ hours) Pre-conference workshops are **in-depth sessions** that actively develop specific professional competencies and have widespread potential for implementation. All workshops are held at the Westin La Paloma on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, prior to the start of the conference on Wednesday evening. Workshops require a separate registration fee and all workshops are subject to cancellation due to insufficient enrollment. Note that workshop proposals are highly competitive and very few are selected for the conference program.

Audio-Visual Equipment

Rooms for all presentations except roundtable discussions and poster sessions are equipped with a PC laptop (with Office Suite loaded), LCD projector, and screen. We do not provide audio-visual equipment for roundtable discussions or posters, but presenters in these sessions may use their own battery-powered laptops or tablets. NAAEE strongly recommends bringing PowerPoint and other audio-visual materials on portable drives and using the equipment provided. Wireless Internet access is available in all meeting rooms.

Preparing Successful Proposals: Review Criteria

The strongest proposals **provide enough detail** for reviewers to fully understand what the session will entail and carefully address the **criteria listed** below.

We strive to dedicate at least 15 percent of our concurrent sessions within each strand to **advancing equity and inclusion in EE**. These sessions explore ways to strengthen our field through strategies and programs that help diversify our audiences as well as our workforce, build cultural competence, support environmental justice, engage with new audiences, forge new and lasting partnerships, honor traditional knowledge, and increase our reach and

relevance throughout society. Sessions that meet related criteria are identified with a special icon in the conference program.

Proposals will be assessed by how well they:

- Describe how the session will effectively engage the audience in innovative thinking about new or proven ideas and approaches
- Raise important questions or deliver positive, solution-oriented outcomes supported by research and/or program evaluation
- Explain how the session will inform environmental educators about proven practices, push the leading edge of the profession, and/or motivate the pursuit excellence
- Clearly identify what will occur in the session in the format and time allotted
- Demonstrate how the session fits the strand description and one or more focus points
- Meet the requirements for the selected format
- Address the following three program criteria:
 - Identifies an underrepresented, oppressed, or marginalized community
 - Describes how curriculum design, participant recruitment, program leadership or administrative structure result in equitable environmental education opportunities for the identified community or diversify the EE profession
 - Demonstrates outcomes that result in persons from the underrepresented community becoming empowered to take action on environmental issues of concern to their community
- Use language that demonstrates cultural competency and inclusion sensitivity and describes appropriate and relevant educational methods, tools, or resources that will engage and empower the conference audience with:
 - Increased cultural competency skills
 - A better understanding about the value of diversity and inclusion in environmental education programs
 - Strategies for improving and strengthening equity in order to build capacity in the environmental education field

How to Submit a Proposal

Proposals must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. PST on Monday, March 23, 2020.

You may find it helpful to [download a blank form](#) from the NAAEE website and use it to draft your proposal before entering the information online.

To help maximize the number and diversity of presenters and perspectives, each individual or team of individuals is limited to a maximum of three proposals.

1. You must have an account in NAAEE's eePRO directory and be logged in on the NAAEE website before you can submit a proposal. ***Note: All individuals associated with your proposal need to have an eePROfile that has been linked to the online conference management system before you will be able to their names to your online proposal.***

[Log in or create a new eePRO account >>](#)

Creating multiple accounts can cause problems with your ability to submit and edit your proposal(s). If you're not sure whether you have an existing account or whether your account email address is current, we're happy to assist. To avoid confusion, we encourage you contact NAAEE to check on your account status.

Need help with login? Email regina@naaee.org or call (202) 419-0412.

2. After login, click on the "Submit/Edit Proposals" link on your eePROfile page to connect to All Academic, our online conference proposal management system.
3. Select "Conference" and follow the directions for online submission. Click on the "Accept and Continue" button on each page until you reach the final confirmation page.
4. When your proposal is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation message at the email address in your eePROfile. This message comes from **do_not_reply@allacademic.com**; please make sure the "@allacademic.com" domain is in your **safe sender list**.
5. You can edit any of the information in your proposal until the March 23 submission deadline by (1) logging in to your NAAEE account, (2) clicking on 'Submit/Edit Proposals' link on your eePROfile page, and (3) selecting the proposal from the list on your All Academic home page.

Important Notes About Presenters and Registration

All presenters and co-presenters are required to register for the conference and pay published conference fees.

NAAEE depends on registration fees to cover conference expenses and cannot provide waivers or discounts to presenters.

Fees are not yet finalized, but the early bird, full conference registration for current NAAEE members is expected to be about \$440 for a professional and \$300 for a student. Nonmember and daily rates will also be offered. There is a separate registration fee for the Research Symposium.

All presenters must register by the August 24 early bird deadline to confirm their participation.

If your proposal is accepted, you will have an additional opportunity to finalize session information after you receive your acceptance notice.

Questions?

Please check the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the NAAEE website for assistance with submitting your proposals or contact us at conference@naaee.org with questions about submitting or reviewing proposals.