

## **FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS' JOSHUA YORK WINS NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD**

DAYTON, OH, October 18, 2015 — Joshua York, a naturalist and education supervisor at Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, Ohio ([www.metroparks.org](http://www.metroparks.org)), was recently recognized by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), a leader in environmental education, as the recipient of one of NAAEE's hallmark annual awards recognizing leadership in the field. At a special awards reception during NAAEE's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in San Diego, York received the award for Outstanding Service to EE by an Individual (Local Level).

The Five Rivers MetroParks system, which encompasses 19 parks in the Montgomery County area surrounding Dayton, offers a wide-ranging educational program built on the concept of nature play and getting people outside. In addition to providing dedicated places to experience natural features and wonders, the organization offers numerous programs on topics ranging from hibernating insects to how to track raccoons in the woods. Many of the parks include areas where children can roam safely, build rock dams and forts, play with the flow of water, pick wildflowers, and balance on logs, even without the assistance of park staff members.

“For more than four decades, NAAEE has promoted excellence and impact in environmental education thanks to the tireless efforts of our members, supporters, and affiliate organizations,” said Judy Braus, Executive Director. “Our award winners represent bright spots across North America that show progress in our field across multiple disciplines and approaches, from teaching and community engagement to research and environmental justice.”

This year, 11 award recipients — an impressive slate of individuals and organizations from North America — were selected across 11 categories. For more information about the 2015 NAAEE Awards including eligibility requirements and a full list of winners, visit [www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards](http://www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards).

### **About NAAEE**

The North American Association for Environmental Education is a pioneering membership organization dedicated to accelerating environmental literacy and civic engagement through education. NAAEE supports a network of more than 20,000 educators, researchers, and organizational members working in environmental

education in more than 30 countries through direct membership and 54 state, provincial, and regional affiliate organizations. Through community networks, publications, signature programs, and eeNEWS and eeJOBS, NAAEE provides programming and resources for professionals working in all areas of the field. NAAEE's flagship annual conference, now in its 44<sup>th</sup> year, convenes leaders from private and public sectors to advance the field of environmental education. For more information, visit [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org).

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