



**naaee**  
North American Association  
for Environmental Education

**54TH ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**  
November 3–6

**22ND ANNUAL  
RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUM**  
October 30

**FORWARD  
TOGETHER**

**Virtual 2025**

conference.naaee.org

## **CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS**

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 16, 2025**

## **—FORWARD TOGETHER—**

# **54TH ANNUAL NAAEE CONFERENCE**

## **NOVEMBER 3–6, 2025 ● VIRTUAL**

In the face of unprecedented global challenges, our 2025 virtual conference will highlight how we can move forward by harnessing our collective wisdom and diverse perspectives to create a more just and sustainable future. Environmental education is our foundation—it equips people with the tools to act, encourages new ways of thinking, and leads to positive change. As we confront environmental threats, misinformation, and division, our mission has never been more urgent.

Progress depends on collaboration, innovation, and the collective power of educators, learners, changemakers, and communities. Our conference will bring together voices from across the field and around the world. Together we can support more educators, inspire more learners, and create lasting impact.

NAAEE seeks compelling proposals that broaden participation, inform environmental educators about proven practices, push the leading edge of the profession, and motivate the pursuit of excellence.

# Conference Strands

We invite proposals for presentations in 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 this year's priority topics. 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 and is strongly discouraged.

## 1) Enhancing Environmental Education in Formal Settings

*Using environmental education to transform education, enhance student achievement, prepare 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, including early childhood, primary, secondary, university, and vocational*

*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
- Research-based benefits and challenges of learning and teaching in outdoor settings and in a culturally relevant context
- Nature-based learning in early childhood and primary grades, including nature preschools
- Preparing a workforce with 21st century learning skills—including vocational skills—for the green and blue economies
- Exemplary initiatives for greening the campus and the curriculum, including strategies for using gardens, schoolyards, and landscapes to advance learning and demonstrating how facilities management practices and policies can support learning
- Integrating EE into preservice teacher preparation and in-service professional development

## 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
- Expanding the conservation movement to all communities
- Applying current research on behavior change in conservation education initiatives
- Demonstrating effective education strategies for addressing specific conservation issues such as ecosystem restoration, ocean conservation, food systems, energy, and water
- Showcasing effective collaboration between conservation educators, scientists, resource managers, and practitioners in formal and nonformal education settings
- Highlighting successful tools, approaches, and educator preparation for bringing community-based science to classrooms and communities

### 3) Advancing Civic Engagement and Sustainable Communities

*Creating sustainable, equitable, and resilient communities through partnership building, civic engagement, personal decision making, systems thinking, and connecting community and environment*

*Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:*

- Achieving environmental integrity, social equity, and economic prosperity through education and authentic engagement of all 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
- Creating grassroots partnerships for community improvement; characteristics of successful community action projects
- Demonstrating strategies, tools, and training for finding common ground when addressing controversial issues
- Linking environmental education and civic engagement and building networks to scale up community efforts into effective change.
- Highlighting successful examples of how environmental education can effectively achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals

### 4) Connecting with Nature

*Cultivating partnerships and providing accessible outdoor education experiences that connect people of all ages and backgrounds to nature and foster a sense of stewardship*

*Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:*

- Developing outdoor programs that are culturally relevant and provide access for all
- The restorative power of nature during challenging times
- Developmentally-appropriate and inclusive practices for connecting all young children to nature
- Creating and using parks and other green learning spaces in urban, suburban, and rural areas
- 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 and strengthen people's connections to nature

### 5) Educating for a Changing Climate

*Highlighting innovative approaches and best practices that help learners of all ages understand climate impacts and solutions and overcome barriers to spur effective action*

*Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:*

- Reducing climate anxiety and fostering hope for the future
- Building more resilient communities with education and civic engagement
- Addressing the impacts of climate on all communities
- Preparing educators to teach about all aspects of climate change, from climate science to community solutions
- Building public awareness, support, and policies for climate action
- Incorporating climate change across all grade levels and subjects in preschools, primary and secondary schools, and in universities, and nonformal education organizations

## 6) Building Leadership in Environmental Education

*Strategies for building leadership and infrastructure to advance EE at the state, provincial, national, and global levels, and for preparing and 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:*

- Providing effective and relevant environmental education to build a stronger and more representative field
- Cultivating and supporting leadership and early career professionals in EE
- Exploring opportunities and challenges of using technology and AI to advance the field
- Culturally responsive strategies for evaluating and improving environmental education programs
- Highlighting experiences from around the world that integrate, scale up, and sustain environmental education efforts
- Promoting global citizenship through collaborative networks and online learning communities

### Delivery Options

All sessions will be virtual, but, depending on the selected format, they may be presented live or as prerecorded on-demand sessions. To increase the chance of acceptance, individuals opting for live sessions may also indicate on their submission that they'd also like to be considered for an on-demand bright spot session as an alternative.

#### **Live Sessions (Workshop, Symposium, Hands-On, Traditional, Roundtable):**

- Scheduled once between November 4 and November 6 and presented live via Zoom during regular conference hours (11:00 AM–6:00 PM EST) (Workshops will be scheduled throughout October, dates to be determined.)
- Presenters interact in real time with attendees; the majority of presenters must participate in the live session
- May include one or two prerecorded segments, in particular to help accommodate international presenters in different time zones
- Sessions (except workshops) will be recorded for on-demand viewing after the conference
- Presented through a conference platform that uses Zoom, with typical features such as screen sharing, breakout rooms, chat, and polls available to presenters

#### **On-Demand Sessions (Bright Spot, Poster):**

- Prerecorded sessions submitted in advance and available throughout the conference for asynchronous viewing at any time
- No scheduled presentation time
- Presenters must be registered conference participants but do not need to be in attendance
- Presenters will need to submit prerecorded mp4 files by September 15 to allow time for processing
- On-demand session recordings will continue to be available for viewing after the conference

# Session Formats

Select the most appropriate session format for your proposal.

## Bright Spots

**(10 minutes)** Bright spots are **succinct talks** that celebrate specific triumphs and showcase things that work. These prerecorded sessions highlight successful and innovative programs, community partnerships, conservation achievements, expanded audiences, research and evaluation findings, civic engagement, and more. Presentations are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes. All bright spots will be offered as prerecorded on-demand sessions.

## Hands-On Presentations

**(60 minutes)** Hands-on presentations are **designed to engage participants** in virtual teaching activities, interactive discussions, and more. All hands-on sessions will be offered as live sessions.

## Poster Presentations

**(10-minute option)** Posters are **images** saved as PDF files that summarize programs, resources, research studies, or other work through text, images, and data. Posters are most often created using applications such as Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Microsoft Publisher. Poster presentations may include one or more still images, and presenters may include an optional recorded introduction up to 10 minutes long. All posters and associated recordings will be offered as prerecorded on-demand sessions.

## Roundtable Discussions

**(40 minutes)** Roundtable discussions **emphasize spirited discussion** about a central question led by the presenter(s) and engaging session attendees. Presenters briefly introduce the baseline idea or question they wish to explore and then open the discussion to exchange ideas. Each roundtable discussion will be held in its own virtual room with active attendee participation. All roundtable discussions will be offered as live sessions.

## Symposia

**(60 minutes)** Symposia are **panel discussions** presenting different perspectives on a topic or question related to one of the focus points for each strand. Proposals 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. All symposia will be offered as live sessions.

## Traditional Presentations

**(40 minutes)** Traditional presentations focus on a single topic or program, typically including a **talk or PowerPoint (or other media) presentation** followed by questions and answers or a short discussion. All traditional sessions will be offered as live sessions.

## Workshops

**(3½ hours)** Pre-conference workshops are **in-depth sessions** that actively develop specific professional competencies and have widespread potential for implementation. They will be offered as live sessions throughout October prior to the conference (dates to be determined). 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.

## Review Criteria

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

### Proposals will be assessed and selected by how well they:

- Describe in detail what will occur in the session
- Explain why the session is appropriate for the selected format and, for live sessions, what specific steps you will take to engage the audience in the virtual setting
- 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 of excellence
- Demonstrate how the session fits the strand description and one or more focus points

We strive to dedicate at least 15 percent of our concurrent sessions within each strand to **advancing environmental education for all**. These sessions explore ways to strengthen our field through strategies and programs that help broaden our audiences as well as our workforce, support fairness, engage with new voices, forge new and lasting partnerships, honor traditional knowledge, and increase our reach and relevance throughout society. To help us identify these sessions, reviewers will also assess proposals by how well they address any of these program criteria:

- Incorporate ways in which people from different backgrounds relate to, engage with, and care about the environment in urban, rural, and suburban communities
- Support differences in skills, abilities, and perspectives
- Describe how curriculum design, participant recruitment, program leadership, or administrative structure result in environmental education opportunities for all
- Contribute to a more just and accessible field

## How to Submit a Proposal

**Proposals must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. PDT on Friday, May 16, 2025.** 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.

Each individual or team of individuals is limited to three proposals to maximize the number and diversity of presenters and perspectives on the conference program.

### Important:

- Use the **same email address** for submitting your proposal and registering for the conference.
- Make sure you can **receive mail from Do\_Not\_Reply@AllAcademic.com** to stay informed about your proposal. Check your spam filters if you are missing messages.

1. Proposals must be submitted online through All Academic, our proposal management system.
  - [Click here](#) to enter All Academic or find the link on the conference or research symposium home page or from the menu on NAAEE's conference website.
  - If you've been part of a proposal in the past, you likely already have an All Academic account. Log in using your email as your username and your most recent password.
  - If you need to reset your password, click on the appropriate link in All Academic. You will receive an email message from Do\_Not\_Reply@AllAcademic.com with further instructions.
  - If you do not have an All Academic account, you'll need to create one by clicking on the new user link. Use your email address as your username. You will immediately receive an email message from Do\_Not\_Reply@AllAcademic.com with further instructions.
  - Check your spam filters if you do not receive the message. You will continue to receive messages from this email address in the future; make sure it is in your safe senders list.
2. On your home page in All Academic, click "Submit a Proposal." Select "Conference" or "Research Symposium" and complete the online submission form.
3. Click 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 email from Do\_Not\_Reply@AllAcademic.com. This email address is often caught by sensitive filters. If you haven't received it, check your junk folder and make sure the "@allacademic.com" domain is in your safe sender list so you receive future mailings.
5. You can edit any information in your proposal until the May 16 submission deadline by logging in to your All Academic account and selecting the proposal from the list on your All Academic home page.

## Important Notes About Registration

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

NAAEE depends on registration fees to cover conference expenses and cannot provide waivers or discounts to presenters. There are typically more than 500 presenters on the conference program.

NAAEE has not yet finalized fees, but we expect conference registration for current NAAEE members to be about \$275 for a professional and \$175 for a student or retiree. Nonmember rates will be about 30% higher. We also hope to provide lower-cost options for those with limited funding. There is a separate registration fee for the NAAEE Research Symposium.

**All presenters must confirm their participation by registering for the conference by the September 15, 2025 early bird deadline.**

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

## Questions?

As a first step, please check the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the NAAEE website for assistance with submitting your proposals. If you need additional help, please contact us at [conference@naaee.org](mailto:conference@naaee.org).