

Whereas

Whereas, the City of Portland is honored to host the 2026 North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Annual Conference, bringing educators, researchers, youth leaders, and community partners from across the United States and around the world to share ideas, strengthen partnerships, advance environmental learning, and environmental care;

Whereas, Portland's natural beauty and culture of sustainability offer a powerful setting to inspire curiosity, responsibility, and a lifelong connection to the environment;

Whereas, the extraordinary natural landscapes of Oregon are treasured places that must be protected for future generations;

Whereas, we acknowledge that Portland sits on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial, including the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, and Tualatin Kalapuya peoples, whose cultural traditions and knowledge shape our understanding of the natural world;

Whereas, honoring our land requires knowledge, respect, and conscious stewardship of its natural systems, as well as native plants and wildlife such as Chinook salmon, Roosevelt elk, Western redcedar, Douglas fir, and Oregon grape;

Whereas, Portland has long demonstrated leadership in environmental protection. We have restored urban watersheds, protected salmon habitats, expanded our urban tree canopy, and connected communities with nature;

Whereas, environmental education is essential for cultivating knowledge, skills, and opportunities for learners of all ages to build climate and environmental literacy and expand E-STEM learning and career pathways that strengthen our communities and economy;

Whereas, teaching and engaging individuals, schools, institutions, businesses, and organizations in environmental learning helps empower people around the world to care for the natural systems that sustain us.

Now, therefore, I, Keith Wilson, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of
Roses," do hereby proclaim

Environmental Education Week

to be in the City of Portland and its respective schools
from October 5, 2026, to October 10, 2026.

and hereby encourage all residents, businesses, and community members to participate and honor the
natural systems, native plants, and native wildlife of the land we inhabit.

