



# 46th Annual NAAEE Conference CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

## Imagine a World ...

What is our vision for the field? How can we best build on the past 40+ years to create a more vibrant, inclusive, and effective field? How do we uphold the values that support a healthier, equitable, and more sustainable future for all?

Our 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will look ahead to imagine the type of world we want and how our field can help us achieve our vision.

As has happened every 10 years since the first International Conference on Environmental Education in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1977, environmental education leaders and practitioners from around the world will meet to reflect on progress in the field, share best practices, and create a positive path forward.

**October 18–21, 2017 • San Juan, Puerto Rico**  
**Deadline for Submissions: April 10, 2017**

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

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This is the Call for Presentations for the general NAAEE Conference.  
[Click here](#) for the Call for Presentations for the NAAEE Research Symposium, October 17–18, 2017.

# Conference Strands & Keywords

Presentation proposals must be submitted under one of 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 the 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. Please do not submit identical or nearly identical proposals under more than one strand.

## 1) Educating for Sustainable Communities

*Creating sustainable and equitable communities through partnership building, informed civic engagement and personal decision making, developing sense of place, 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
- Grassroots partnerships for community improvement; characteristics of successful community action projects
- Sense of place, inclusion, and cultural relevancy in urban, suburban, and rural communities
- Strategies for addressing controversial issues and finding common ground
- Incorporating culturally rooted practices into our work and understanding how people from different backgrounds relate to, engage with, and care about the environment

## 2) Conservation and Environmental Education

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

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

- Strategies for building capacity for education within the broader practice of conservation
- Increasing diversity, 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 PPSR (citizen science) into the classroom or 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, and food systems

## 3) Green Schools

*Using environmental education to transform education, enhance student achievement, conserve resources, support national and international education trends, link schools and communities, and build support for environmental education on K–12 campuses*

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 facilities management practices, district and administrative commitments, and student involvement
- Green Ribbon and other recognition programs
- Advancing the Green Schools movement worldwide
- Promoting interdisciplinary instruction
- Integrating EE into pre-service teacher preparation and in-service professional development

#### **4) Inspiring Connections to the Outdoors**

*Cultivating partnerships and providing 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
- Creating and using green spaces and nearby nature in urban areas
- Overcoming challenges associated with getting students and young children outside
- Outdoor programs that promote physical or spiritual health and wellness
- Developing outdoor programs that are inclusive and relevant to all audiences
- Partnerships that increase connections to nature

#### **5) Applying Research to Increase Our Impact**

*Using research to inform how we design, develop, refine, and promote environmental education programs—including methods to engage new and under-represented audiences—for maximum effectiveness*

Sessions appropriate to this strand address such topics as:

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

#### **6) Building Leadership for Environmental Literacy**

*Strategies for building leadership and infrastructure to further EE on the state and provincial levels, and for advancing efforts to motivate the public to take informed actions on environmental and other civic issues*

*Note: This strand is part of the ee360 Leadership and Training Collaborative and pre-determined sessions will provide training and skill development in organizational development, cultural competency and inclusiveness, civic engagement, and strategies for teaching about environmental issues. A limited number of additional proposals will be considered by a special review team looking to enhance training in ee360's priority areas.*

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

- Diversifying and strengthening the field of EE
- 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
- Engaging the public (adults and youth) in strategies that lead to problem-solving, building community resilience, and creating more equitable and sustainable communities

**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 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** illustrating research studies, programs, or other work. Posters are fixed to portable bulletin boards and are available for viewing at leisure throughout the conference. There is also one time block 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 will be

about six tables in the same large room. No A/V equipment or electricity is provided but presenters may use their own laptops or tablets at low volume.

## 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

**(Full day [7 hours] or half day [3½ hours])** Workshops are **in-depth sessions** that actively develop specific professional competencies and have widespread potential for implementation. All workshops are held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, prior to the start of the formal conference. Most workshops will be held at the Caribe Hilton, but NAAEE will consider offsite locations if visiting resources specific to the area is essential to the educational value of the workshop. A/V equipment is provided for onsite workshops. All workshops are supported solely by participant fees and are subject to cancellation due to insufficient enrollment. Note that only a small number of workshop proposals 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 and 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. 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 diversity, 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.

NAAEE's Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity eePRO group will identify sessions that meet related criteria with a special icon in the conference program.

## Proposals will be assessed by how well they:

- Clearly identify what will occur in the session in the format and time allotted
- Describe how the session will effectively engage the audience in innovative thinking about new or proven ideas and approaches
- Explain how the session will inform environmental educators about proven practices, push the leading edge of the profession, and/or motivate the pursuit excellence
- Raise important questions or delivers positive, solution-oriented outcomes supported by research and/or program evaluation
- Demonstrate how the session fits the strand description and one or more focus points
- 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. on April 10, 2017. 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.

While the official language of the conference is English, proposals and presentations in Spanish are welcome. Spanish versions of the Call for Presentations and proposal form are available on the [NAAEE website](#).

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: Each individual associated with your proposal needs an eePROfile that has been linked to the online conference management system before you will be able to add his or her name 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](mailto: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 April 10 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 confirm their conference participation by registering for the conference by the August 31 early bird deadline.**

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](mailto:conference@naaee.org) with questions about submitting or reviewing proposals.