

2022 MAEE CONFERENCE

Re-Discovering People, Nature, & Ourselves on the North Shore

Celebrating 30 years of MAEE

September 30 - October 2, 2022

Wolf Ridge ELC, Finland, MN



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: June 23, 2022

2022 ANNUAL MAEE CONFERENCE

*Rediscovering People, Nature & Ourselves
on the North Shore*

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2022

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

MAEE seeks compelling proposals that highlight promising and proven practices, push the leading edge of the profession, advance equity and inclusion, and motivate the pursuit of excellence, as well as proposals that highlight the incredible resources in the North Shore area of Minnesota.

The audience for the annual conference includes (but is not limited to):

- preK – 12 teachers
- administrators of nature centers, ELCs, etc.
- environmental education program directors
- naturalists, interpreters, and educators at nature centers, science museums, zoos, etc.
- college and university students interested in pursuing an environmental career
- Non-formal educators for local government units such as cities, counties, SWCDs, watershed districts, townships, etc.
- Nature-based preschool staff and administrators
- Environmental education supporters and partners

Conference Strands

We invite presentation proposals in the three thematic strands that characterize this year's conference. Each strand explores a different aspect of the environmental education profession; the focus points indicate this year's priority topics. Use these to guide your submissions and choose the **one** strand that most closely aligns with your proposal.

1) Nature at Play

Providing accessible outdoor education experiences that connect people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to nature.

Examples of topics that might fall under this strand include:

- Transformation from traditional to nature-based preschools
- Developing outdoor programs that are inclusive and provide equitable access
- Incorporating the restorative power of nature into existing programming
- Creating and using parks and other green learning spaces in urban, suburban, and rural areas
- Outdoor programs that build a sense of place and cultural relevancy in urban, suburban, and rural communities
- Using the arts to explore individual and group connections to nature
- Incorporating culturally rooted practices into our work and understanding how people from different backgrounds relate to and engage with nature
- Designing outdoor classrooms with limited resources
- Safety considerations when bringing classrooms outdoors
- Exemplary initiatives for incorporating environmental initiatives into schools, including rain gardens, rain barrels, recycling programs, and student projects

2) Creating Connections

Cultivating partnerships and developing strategies for building successful environmental education programs and organizations.

Examples of topics that might fall under this strand include:

- Successful education and civic engagement to address environmental issues, with a focus on disadvantaged and disproportionately burdened communities
- Grassroots partnerships for community engagement; characteristics of successful community action projects
- Strategies, tools, and training for funding projects and applying for grants
- Building collaborations between conservation educators, scientists, resource managers, and practitioners in all formal and nonformal education settings
- Successful tools, approaches, and educator preparation for bringing community-based science to classrooms and community improvement projects
- School-community partnerships that support and promote project-based learning
- Integrating environmental education into preservice teacher preparation and

in-service professional development

- Introducing green career options for middle and high school students, especially efforts to encourage a diverse workforce

3) Discoveries of the North Shore

Taking advantage of the annual conference location to highlight the incredible wildlife, nature, and beauty of the north shore area.

Examples of topics that might fall under this strand include:

- Foraging for mushrooms, berries and wild edible plants
- How to identify common plants in the north shore area
- Early morning hike: learning bird calls and identifying north shore birds
- How to create an organic hobby farm or garden at your school or center
- Looking for animal signs: identifying animal tracks and scat
- Learning about the night sky: astronomy lessons
- How to geocache and/or create an orienteering program
- Learn more about maple syruping and its connection with Ojibwe people
- Complete a community science project (e.g. macroinvertebrate collection, sample vegetation plot, test for jumping worms, etc.)

Session Formats and Delivery Options

Please read the following descriptions carefully, and select the most appropriate format and delivery option for your proposal.

Delivery Options:

Sessions may be presented indoors or outdoors, weather dependent. Please make sure you understand these options before selecting your preferred method of delivery.

Indoor Sessions:

- Scheduled and presented once during the three-day conference
- Will be recorded for on-demand viewing after the conference and are available only to those who register

Outdoor Sessions:

- Will not be recorded; available only to in-person attendees
- Preference will be for those that can present in all-weather conditions

Formats:

Hands-On Presentations

(40 or 90 minutes) Hands-on presentations are **designed to actively engage**

participants in teaching activities, interactive discussions, and project development. A/V equipment is provided. Appropriate outdoor spaces will be coordinated with the presenter as needed/requested.

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. A/V equipment is provided.

Roundtable Discussions

(40 minutes) Roundtable discussions **emphasize spirited discussion** about a central question between the presenter(s) and session attendees. Presenters briefly introduce the baseline idea or question they wish to explore and then open the discussion for input and exchange of ideas. Presenters may request post-it notes and other materials as needed to engage participants.

Workshops

40 or 90 minutes) Workshops will be held early in the morning, during the lunch break, and late afternoons, and will not conflict with scheduled presentations or discussion sessions. These sessions should be used to explore the north shore or to provide a unique outdoor opportunity, and are intended to allow everyone a chance to learn more about the unique natural world surrounding Wolf Ridge ELC

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:

- **Engage:** Effectively engage the audience in the session through active participation, discussion, live polls, etc.
- **Innovate:** Deliver innovative approaches to education, highlight new ideas for programming, and/or offer positive, solution-oriented outcomes supported by research and/or program evaluation
- **Advance:** Inform environmental educators about proven practices that push the leading edge of the profession or pursue excellence in the field
- **Apply:** Provide information that can be applied broadly across all environmental education fields and be applicable to multiple audiences, including information on how session information can be used by all conference participants from formal educators to naturalists to program administrators to students, etc.

We also place importance on **advancing justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in environmental education** and each proposal should reflect on how these concerns might be included in their presentation. This may include:

- Incorporate culturally rooted practices and an understanding of how people from different backgrounds relate to, engage with, and care about nature
- Affirm differences in skills, abilities, and perspectives as resources and opportunities to build stronger programs
- Describe how curriculum design, participant recruitment, program leadership or administrative structure result in equitable opportunities
- Identify how education programs are reaching vulnerable communities and strategies for working in places where resources are limited

[How to Submit a Proposal](#)

Proposals must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. PST on Thursday, June 23, 2022. You may find it helpful to [download a blank form](#) from the MAEE website and use it to draft your proposal before entering the information online.

[Use THIS ONLINE FORM](#) to submit your final proposal. If you have any questions about how to submit or would like to make changes to your submission, email maeeinfo@gmail.com.

[Important Notes About Presenters and Registration](#)

MAEE depends on registration fees to cover conference expenses and will cover only the cost of the same-day registration for one presenter attending the conference per proposal.

ONE presenter for each accepted presentation will receive a single one-day registration at the conference. *Registration for other days at the conference, travel costs, and overnight accommodations are not included.*

All co-presenters are required to register and pay full in-person fees for the conference.

Conference Registration Amounts:

EARLY BIRD RATES (expire August 15)

- EARLY BIRD Full Conference Registration w/ Lodging: \$200
- EARLY BIRD Full Conference Registration w/ Camping Option: \$120
- EARLY BIRD Saturday Only Registration (no lodging): \$80

REGULAR RATES

- Full Conference Registration w/ Lodging: \$225
- Full Conference Registration w/ Camping Option: \$135
- Saturday Only Conference Registration (no lodging): \$95

A special link will be provided to the primary contact for each accepted abstract for one free registration for Saturday only, or a discounted rate to the full conference.

Scholarships will be available for conference registration fees.

**All presenters must confirm their participation
by registering for the conference by September 1, 2022**

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

Questions?

Please contact us at maeeinfo@gmail.com.