



Minnesota  
Association for  
Environmental  
Education

## 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 30 - October 1, 2022

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

# CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

**SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: June 15, 2022**

## 2022 ANNUAL MAEE CONFERENCE

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

*Celebrating 30 years of MAEE*

**SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1, 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 and educators
- administrators of nature centers, ELCs, etc.
- environmental education and outdoor program directors
- non-formal environmental educators: naturalists, interpreters, and school program staff at nature centers, science museums, zoos, etc.
- college and university students interested in pursuing an environmental career
- education & outreach professionals at local government units such as cities, counties, SWCDs, watershed districts, townships, etc.
- nature-based preschool staff and administrators
- environmental education volunteers, 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 innovative and 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:

- Transforming traditional preschools into 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 school programming
- Developing 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
- Addressing 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:

- How to build successful civic engagement programs that address environmental issues with a focus on disadvantaged & disproportionately burdened communities
- Growing 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
- Sharing successful tools, approaches, and educator preparation for bringing community-based science to classrooms and community improvement projects
- Examples of 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 explore 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, hands-on learning, 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 (e.g. applicable to formal educators, administrators, naturalists, preschool teachers, etc.) and be applied to multiple audience types.

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 Wednesday, June 15, 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](mailto: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.**

MAEE has not yet finalized fees, but we expect conference registration for current MAEE members to be about \$225 for full conference registration (two nights lodging, food, and 3-day conference access) for environmental education professionals; one-day rates are TBD. Non-member rates will also be offered. Once fees are finalized, we will post information about registration and scholarships on our website. A special link will be provided to the primary contact for each accepted abstract for one discounted/free registration.

**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](mailto:maeeinfo@gmail.com).