

SENDING TEACHERS TO OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The New York State Outdoor Education Association (NYSOEA) is the professional non-profit organization supporting outdoor and environmental education and interpretive services in New York State since 1968. Our membership includes classroom teachers, college professors, environmental educators, youth leaders, and outdoor recreation specialists. Our mission is to promote interdisciplinary, life-long outdoor learning to inspire an appreciation of our environment by all people. NYSOEA's annual conference brings together hundreds of teachers, environmental educators, nature center staff, and administrators from across New York and neighboring states for three days of high-quality professional development. It also provides an opportunity for educators to learn about new products and services, and to network with others in their field. This conference is so much more than a sharing of resources, but a strong network of educators with passion for supporting our communities outdoor experiences and education throughout the state.

In a time where schools are operating tight budgets, bussing shortages, and cuts to programs, the school system is challenged more than ever before. Educators across the state are crafting and reimagining the classroom to meet performance standards and the wellbeing of their students to work around these challenges. By sending your educators to NYSOEA's annual conference, you are directly supporting your teacher's curriculum, enthusiasm and morale for teaching, network, and access to resources.



Nature is all around us, including your school grounds. It's no secret that outdoor education benefits K12 students in dramatic ways. Increased attention spans, improved test scores, decreased behavior issues, and student and teacher wellbeing have all be documented successes of increasing nature-based lessons. Support your teachers by providing them the opportunity to pursue these goals!

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS FOR TEACHERS

- Workshop and keynote opportunities in pedagogy and curriculum content
- Plug into a network of like-minded educators to navigate teacher-specific barriers in outdoor education
- Access to a community of nature centers, non-profits, administrators and more to discover local resources and spaces to utilize curriculum.
- Connect curricula with crosscutting concepts in science, art, physical education, and literacy through nature



To further support our school teachers, NYSOEA sponsors **CTLE's** and offers conference **scholarships**.

"NYSOEA's annual conference is a great way for classroom teachers to acquire new ideas and to share their own ideas with other educators. It's not only about science, either. So much of the conference is interdisciplinary and you'll find yourself bringing back art, music, history, and ELA activities to do with your students. They will appreciate engaging in fresh new learning opportunities!" – Andrea, 4th grade teacher

PAST CONFERENCE WORKSHOP TITLES

"Bringing Microscopy Out of the Lab"

"Engaging Students from Inquiry to Action in Your School Community"

"Digging Deep: Exploring Soil Health Through Ecology and Art"

"That Explains It! Gaining Climate Understanding Through Activities"

"Lessons From a Schoolyard Bioblitz"

At the annual conference, opportunities for teachers are endless. It is our hope that you recognize the value of the professional experience that the New York State Outdoor Education Association provides and consider supporting your teacher's attendance. We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions.

With gratitude,

the 2026 Annual Conference Committee