

Conference Call for Proposals

* Required



WORLD OF WONDER

2018 International Nature-Based Early Learning Conference

Thank you for your interest in submitting a proposal for the World of Wonder: 2018 International Nature-Based Early Learning Conference! The conference is jointly organized by the Natural Start Alliance, the International Association of Nature Pedagogy, and the Northern Illinois Nature Preschools Association.

Here is some information you should review prior to completing your proposal. If you have more questions, email us anytime at info@naturalstart.org!

CONFERENCE DATE AND LOCATION:

August 1-4, 2018

Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo, Chicago, IL, USA

CONFERENCE ATTENDEES:

Approximately 300 nature-based early childhood professionals with a wide range of experience in environmental and/or early childhood education.

Participants will be mostly educators and administrators working in nature-based learning settings, but will also include traditional classroom and childcare teachers, university researchers, and early childhood teacher educators.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES AND THEME:

Your proposal should directly address one or more of the following conference session objectives:

- Learn how to plan, run, and advocate for Nature Preschools, Forest Schools, Forest Kindergartens, and other nature-based early learning programs;
- Learn about strategies, curricula, and documentation in nature-based early learning settings;
- Improve fundraising, marketing, and other administration tasks associated with nature-based early childhood programs;
- Learn about the latest research findings and methodologies in early childhood environmental education.

The conference theme -- "World of Wonder" -- draws attention to the value of international and multicultural perspectives on early learning experiences in nature. It also reminds us that young children have a whole world of opportunities to experience the wonder of nature: in school and out of school, in cities and rural areas, in winter and summer. We encourage you to address in your session these larger geographic and cultural contexts in which nature-based early learning takes place.

SESSION STRANDS:

The conference will feature three strands or tracks:

- Teaching (focused on teaching strategies in nature-based early childhood education);
- Administration (focused on administrative issues in nature-based early childhood programs);
- Research (focused on early childhood environmental education research).

We welcome both individual and joint proposals (such as panel discussions) in all three strands.

SESSION FORMATS:

Presenters will be able to offer:

- 60-minute presentations (indoor or outdoor);
- 90-minute workshops with a substantial hands-on component (indoor or outdoor).

Indoor sessions will have access to a projector/screen/computer setup. The chairs in the rooms will be arranged theater-style. Outdoor sessions will be moved indoors in case of inclement weather.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Friday, January 12, 2018.

REVIEW PROCESS AND NOTIFICATIONS:

Proposals will be evaluated by a review committee based on alignment with conference objectives and/or theme, relevancy of topic to the early childhood community, clarity of learning objectives, instructional and assessment methods, overall quality of submission (all required questions answered completely and clearly, etc.), and consistency with accepted standards for effective adult learning. Notifications will be sent in February-March 2018.

DISCOUNTS:

Lead presenters of accepted proposals will receive a discounted conference registration rate. One discount will be offered per session. Accepted presenters must register by the presenter registration deadline (exact date to be determined) in order to remain in the conference program.

We look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

Sheila Williams Ridge, University of Minnesota
Proposal Review Committee Chair

Presenter Information

If the session has multiple presenters, please complete the contact information below for the person who will serve as the primary point of contact, and list additional presenters where indicated.

1. **Name ***
-

2. **Title ***

3. **Organization ***

4. **Brief Description of Qualifications (500-character limit) ***

5. **Country ***

6. **Street Address ***

7. **City ***

8. **State/Province (if applicable)**

9. **Zip/Postal Code ***

10. **Email ***

11. **Phone ***

12. **Co-Presenter (if applicable) Names and Organizations**

Session Information

13. **Session Title ***

14. **Session Description, Including Instructional Methods and Alignment with Conference Objectives (for review purposes only; 1000-character limit) ***

15. **Session Learning Objectives (300-character limit; in bulleted or numbered list format: "After this session, participants will be able to...") ***

16. **Assessment of Learning Objectives (this could include small or large group discussions, pre-/post-quizzes, hands-on practice, etc. -- anything that ensures that participants are internalizing or applying the information; this may not be applicable to formats such as panel discussions; 300-character limit) ***

17. **Program Guide Description of the Session (this will be published in the conference program if the session is accepted; 300-character limit) ***

18. **Will the Session Feature International or Multicultural Perspectives on Nature-Based Early Learning? (sessions with this focus will be highlighted in the conference program if accepted) ***

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No

19. **Session Strand ***

Mark only one oval.

- Teaching
 Administration
 Research

20. **Session Format ***

Mark only one oval.

- 60-Minute Presentation
 90-Minute Workshop

21. **For 90-Minute Workshops Only: Would you be able to adapt the session to a 60-minute presentation if necessary?**

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No

22. **Session Setting ***

Mark only one oval.

- Indoor
 Outdoor

23. **For Outdoor Sessions Only: Would you be able to adapt the session to an indoor setting in case of bad weather?**

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

24. **Other Needs/Requests**

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