



ARIZONA
ASSOCIATION FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

Greetings!

What a great few months we've had. Our Affiliate Network attended the [North American Association for Environmental Education's \(NAAEE\) 45th Annual Conference](#) in Madison, Wisconsin and returned inspired and energized for collaboration. AAEE hosted a Mixer on November 5th, leaving attendees feeling excited to connect and network over the coming year.

We also celebrated the completion of our successful first cohort of participants in the Arizona [Environmental Education Certification Program](#) with a 56% finish rate. Congratulations to all of our finishers!



Despite a tumultuous election season I feel compelled to share words of wisdom from Judy Braus, our Executive Director at NAAEE, and echo her sentiments:

"I want you to know that NAAEE's values remain steadfast. We are a non-partisan organization that is focused on advancing environmental literacy and civic engagement. We work together to create a more diverse and inclusive movement that will lead to a more sustainable future for all."

Thus, as the state Affiliate Network, we have much work ahead to continue to provide quality science, education, and environmental protection. As we build capacity in the coming year, consider joining us to learn more about our organization, or pitching in on a committee to connect to your passions. Donate to our [#GivingTuesday Campaign](#) and let us know how we can support YOU. You'll find information on how to participate below.

I am so thankful for all of you and for your hard work as Environmental Educators in our communities around the state. Together we can all make a difference.

Sincerely,
LoriAnne Barnett
President, AAEE

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 29, 2016

EE Certification Program APPLY for 2017 Cohort

Interested in continuing your professional development in Environmental Education? In January, AAEE celebrates launching an online [Environmental Education Basic Certification](#) course through Estrella Mountain Community College to formal and non-formal educators alike. The course aligns with [NAAEE's Guidelines for Excellence Preparation & Professional Development](#) and complements [NAAEE's Guidelines for Excellence: Best Practice in EE](#) preparing participants to create a professional portfolio while gaining knowledge, skills, and experience toward certification.

Apply Now!

A meeting of the minds

The Arizona Association for Environmental Education hosted a recruitment mixer at the [South Mountain Environmental Education Center \(SMEEC\)](#) on November 5th to interact with supporters, spread the word about the work that AAEE does, and network with potential new members. We were pleased to have more than 35 people join us! The AAEE Board facilitated a discussion about the public launch of our Environmental Certification Program, goals for hosting annual conferences, and advocating for environmental literacy. Our hosts at SMEEC generously provided tours of their amazing facility. AAEE plans to expand its presence at statewide conferences and other events to fundraise and market our objectives. We invite everyone to join by meeting us, volunteering, or serving on one of our committees. If you missed our Mixer, stay tuned for our next one in early 2017!



ARIZONA CENTER *for* NATURE CONSERVATION at South Mountain Park



The heart of our work

Committees are the units that meet the needs of our organization. Learn about AAEE's five active committees and how committee members are working to make valuable resources available to environmental educators in Arizona. Get INVOLVED!

[AAEE Committees >>](#)

Spotlight

For over 50 years, the [Cooper Center for Environmental Learning](#) (formerly known as Camp Cooper) has been providing memorable overnight field trip experiences to the children of Southern Arizona. The Center is a partnership between two of our state's most influential educational institutions, the University of Arizona and Tucson Unified School District. Its programs follow the earth education philosophy: providing foundational ecological understandings, positive and immersive experiences in nature, and pathways for each learner to live more lightly and sustainably on the Earth. Each year, more than 3,000 children experience the wonders of the Sonoran Desert at the Cooper Center, and more than 130,000 people have participated in field trips there over the history of the Center. Join the Cooper Center for an educator training scheduled for Sat. January 7th to learn more.

[Cooper Center for Environmental Learning >>](#)



ASU students take STEEM by storm



We are proud to announce our new organization called **ESSTEEM: Engaging Stew ards in Science, Technology, Engineering, Environment and Mathematics**. Our mission is helping one another become stew ards of the Earth through active engagement, participation, conversation and education. Through monthly meetings, service projects, and activities geared toward environmental education, we invite you to help us make a difference in our community. We look forward to an eventful partnership with AAEE!

[ESSTEEM: Supporting STEEM Activities >>](#)

Donate to Support Arizona Environmental Educators!

November 29 kicks off AAEE's first annual holiday campaign to raise funds and give thanks to environmental educators working to create informed citizens and engaged communities in Arizona. These frontline educators work across all sectors, and in all landscapes from the Sonoran Desert, to the ponderosa pine forests, to the deep canyons of the north, in schools and in businesses. Their expertise is essential now more than ever to connect people to nature. Find out how you can help us succeed! [#GivingTuesday](#)

Support AAEE on [#GivingTuesday >>](#)



Arizona Association for Environmental Education

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