



Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education

Maryland Green Schools Newsletter

The entire MAEOE team would like to wish you a happy winter season. We would like to thank you for making safe and effective learning happen during this constantly changing school year. As always, we at MAEOE are here to support teachers and the environmental education community in many ways: compiling and sharing resources, training, and communicating. We are here to support the teaching community however possible.

The fall season was busy with Maryland Green Schools information sessions, programs, conferences, workshops, and more. We are looking forward to what winter is bringing. This includes Maryland Green School and Green Center applications, Green School testimonials, new social media campaigns, grants, and more. This newsletter will provide all of the information you need to know for the upcoming season.

Please share this newsletter with colleagues and partners interested in the Maryland Green Schools program and help us expand our program by growing more green schools!

Craig, Elana, Mary, and Laura
Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education
(MAEOE)

Winter 2020



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The 2020/2021 Green School Year



If you last certified in 2017 you are due to recertify in the 2020-2021 School Year (SY). We know this is a challenging year for all of you and so we have revised the application with COVID-19 modifications. These have been incorporated into the application guides for the 2020-2021 SY. Consider applying in 2021.

We do anticipate returning to the regular application during the 2021-2022 SY, but will continue to monitor how 2020/21 goes.

Applications are due March 17, 2021, but the Intent to Apply form and fee deadline (December 18, 2020) is right around the corner. Please take a look at the timeline below to get an idea for how you can space out your school year. Feel free to email us with any questions that you might have: greenschools@maeoe.org.

Apply to be a Green School or Center

NEW, RECERTIFYING, or SUSTAINABLE Schools

[Application Guide](#) (1 through 4) and [Rubric](#)

NEW, RECERTIFYING, or SUSTAINABLE Centers

[Application Guide](#) (1 through 4) and [Rubric](#)

- **12/18/2020:** Intent to Apply deadline
- **3/17/2021:** Application deadline



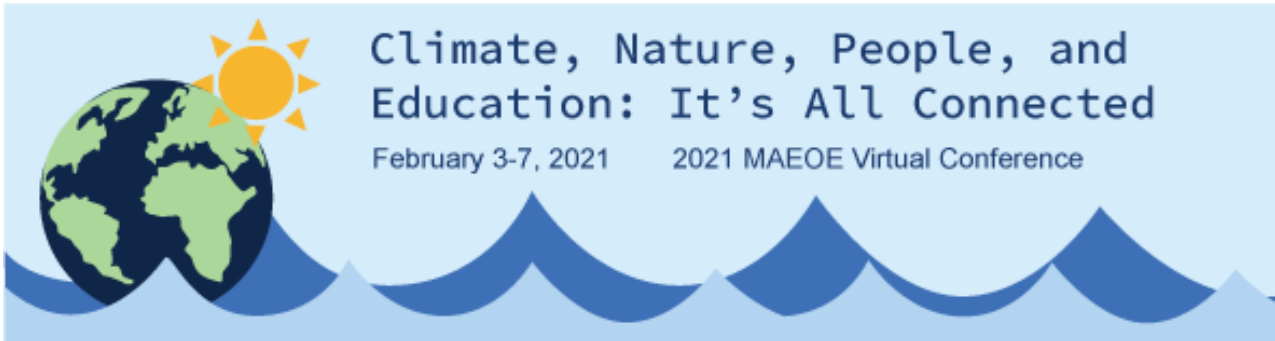
[Click here](#) to watch our Green Schools Application Info Session recording, view the Maryland Green Schools Application Info Session powerpoint slides, and view the Green Schools/Centers Application Info Session slides.

[Click here](#) to review our COVID-19 Modification Information: This document includes a summary of our COVID-19 modifications for the 2020/21 Maryland Green Schools application.

Check out the Green Schools and Centers [section of our website](#) for example applications, FAQs, and more!

Contact greenschools@maeoe.org with questions.

MAEOE 2021 Conference



Save the Date!

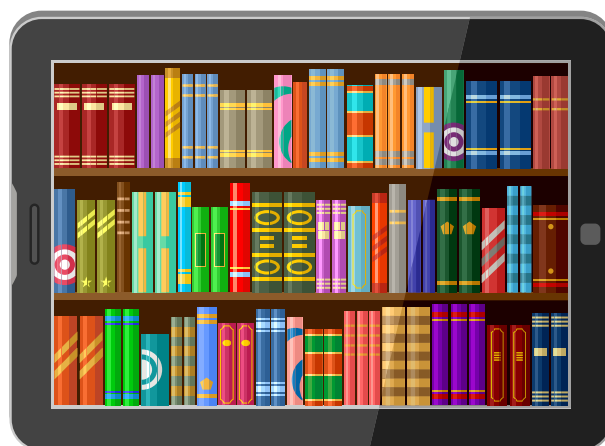
MAEOE Virtual Conference: February 3-7, 2021

[Click here to register today.](#)



We are thrilled to announce that our Keynote Speaker is Dr. John Francis! Register now to be a part of our Community Science workshops, network, attend 40+ in-depth workshops, join our International Sustainable Schools panel, view our virtual exhibit hall, interact with our field experiences, and more!

Become a MAEOE member and register before Jan. 4th for a 30% conference discount or before Jan. 31st for a 20% discount.



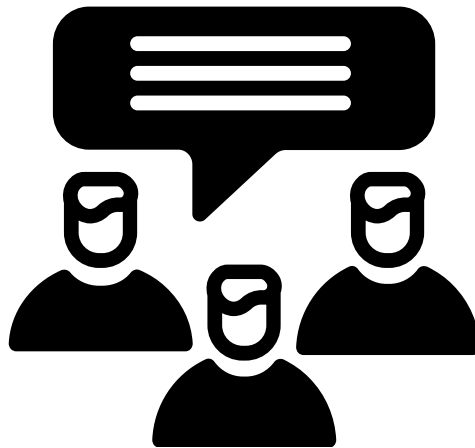
MAEOE Resource Library

Check out the [Resource Library](#) on our website for free resources and programs, virtual project ideas, meeting recordings, and more!

Become a Green Leader

This is a particularly difficult year for schools throughout the country and world. We want to maintain as much normalcy as possible during this challenging time. MAEOE's Maryland Green Schools Program is still looking to maintain and expand the reach of environmental literacy in our state. To do so, new and recertifying Green Schools are going to need all of the help they can get. This is where our awesome Green Leaders come in. Green Leaders help new and recertifying Green Schools complete their application and ensure that they are provided with the support needed to put sustainable initiatives into action.

If you are interested in becoming a Green Leader take a look at our [Green Leader Info Session](#) and fill out the [Green Leader Interest Form](#). Email Craig Freeland at community@maeoe.org with any questions.



Maryland Green Schools Testimonials

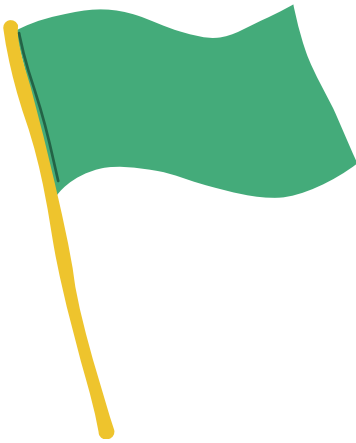
We want to hear from you! We are asking for testimonials from current Green Schools to share with schools considering applying to become a Green School. If you would like to be included in this campaign, please share your experiences by [filling out this form](#).

Read some of the testimonials we have already received:

“I love seeing how passionate our kids are in wanting to make a difference in the community and at the school. It makes me so happy knowing that they want to make a difference and that we are able to help them do it!”

“By transitioning to a recognized MD Green School... no matter what coursework or clubs a student or teacher may be involved in, they are included in our holistic approach to Green education and action. Every member of our school body has a voice and role in our mission.”

“I've observed that our students are more mindful about their own ability to make a positive impact on the environment. Students have become conscious of waste and little things that they can do to make a difference.”



Green School Flags and Certificates

Because of COVID-19, we were not able to distribute the 2019/20 Maryland Green Schools flags, awards, and certificates to our 2019-2020 awardees in June. With some staff returning to school buildings and centers in limited capacity, we are planning to distribute flags and certificates after the New Year. Be on the look out! Public Schools, we will be using the School System delivery, others will be mailed.

2020/2021 Key Dates

Application Information:

- December 18, 2020: Intent to Apply deadline
- March 17, 2021: Application deadline

Announcements and Recognition

- April 2021 (Earth Day*): Green School/Center Announcements
- May 2021: Youth Summit (Virtual)

*Earth Day if possible



Native American Heritage Day Statement

Please read MAEOE's Native American Heritage Day Statement by [using this link](#). This statement is shared on our website, Facebook, and Twitter.

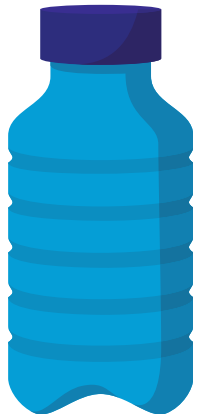
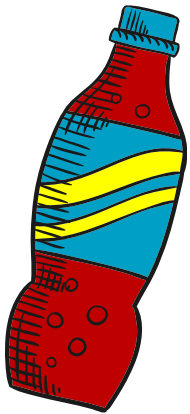
Earth Force and MAEOE: Youth Voice, Youth Action

We are excited to invite you to participate in our *Youth Voice, Youth Action* virtual workshop series presented in collaboration with Earth Force. Throughout these workshops, participants will have the opportunity to integrate meaningful civic action into their curriculum. This workshop series is designed for educators who would like to strengthen their skills in project-based learning and integrate youth voice and youth action into their instruction.

Due to an overwhelming number of registrants, we will be holding a second series of five virtual sessions held on 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, and 2/3 from 3:30-5:30PM. In addition to valuable skills, we provide several other incentives for attending the workshops. These include \$100 stipend and one MSDE credit. After signing up, you also have the opportunity to recommend another teacher for the workshops to have your name entered into a raffle to win \$500 for your school.

Use this link to apply as a Participant.

As a part of this course, we are also recruiting two educators from each school district to serve as mentors. The mentor educators have an important role in this course and will join a network of educators dedicated to including youth voice and youth action in their instruction. Mentors will also be considered for a scholarship to attend the Annual MAEOE conference this coming February. **Use this link to apply as a Mentor.**



EnviroTip of the Month: Plastic Bottle Art Projects

Do you have a lot of leftover plastic bottles lying around? Check out these art projects for ways to repurpose them!

Plastic Bottle Bird Feeder

- Large plastic bottle with a lid
- Scissors
- Twine
- Birdseed

Start by cutting a hole on the side of a plastic bottle, but ensure that the hole is placed so that it prevents the seeds from getting wet. Make several holes in the bottom of the bottle to drain out rainwater. Add a hole to the lid of the bottle so that you can hang the bottle. Then fill up the bottle with birdseed and hang it in your garden or on your window sill!

Plastic Bottle Planter

- Plastic bottles of different sizes
- Googly eyes or bottle caps
- Acrylic paint
- Scissors/knife

Remove the bottle label and cut the bottle in half vertically. Paint the bottom half of the bottle in bright colors and decorate as you like. Use googly eyes or bottle caps to make a nose and eyes. Now you have a fun planter ready for your garden!

Project article by Yashasvi
Check out the [website](#) for more ideas!

Programs for Students

Immersive Learning in Nature During COVID-19:

[Carrie Murray Nature Center, Outdoor Discovery](#)

Children will be guided to use their senses, hone motor skills, and notice and inquire about the multi-faceted world around them! [Register here](#).

Echoes of Nature: Virtual and In-Person Field Trips

[2020-2021 Enrichment Programs](#); [2020-2021 Outreach Programs](#)

NGSS aligned enrichment and outreach activities that can take place virtually. Programs engage children ages 2 - 8th grade through demonstrations involving live animals. Call (301) 860-1306 or [check website for more info](#).

Crowd Sourced Nature-Based Resources for Teachers

Links to free nature-based online resources.

Jug By Wetlands Sanctuary: In-Person and Virtual Nature-Based Field Trips

Available all year round with a focus on early elementary, elementary, middle and high school students, and families.

National Aquarium: Virtual Field Trips

Bring the wonder of the National Aquarium field trip to your students with video presentations and virtual tours. After the video tour, your class will enjoy a live, pre-scheduled virtual Q&A session with an Aquarium educator.

Port of Baltimore Environmental Education Program: outreachtours@menv.com

Includes in-class education, field trips, and professional development. Visit the [E3 Portal](#) to learn more about environmental initiatives and how to incorporate them into your online learning experiences!

Towson University: Center for STEM Excellence - Science Explorers Club

An afterschool program that meets virtually via Zoom every Wednesday from 4-5pm, and is open to MD 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. [Sign up here](#).

Courses for Adults

Earth Expeditions

[Project Dragonfly](#)

Miami University's Project Dragonfly is accepting applications for the 2021 Earth Expeditions graduate courses.

Eastern Region Association of Forest and Nature Schools

[Nature-Based Learning Indoors and Out \(MSDE courses\)](#)

Notre Dame of Maryland

[Environmental Educator Certification in 8 Online Sessions](#)

March 23-May 11, 2021, Tuesdays 5:00 - 9:00 pm

Join us for a series of online workshops focused on interdisciplinary, hands-on learning. This course fulfills the requirements for the MAEOE Environmental Education Certification, a professional certification. Each day focuses on engaging projects using guides from and presentations by the Department of Natural Resources, National Oceanic, Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA. Participant will gain an in depth understanding of biodiversity studies and Meaningful Watershed Experiences (MWEEs) that they can apply to their education sites.

Grant Opportunities

For questions concerning any of the following opportunities, please refer to the specific webpage for the Program Officer assigned to the Award Program.

Restoration Research Grant Program

Deadline: 1/29/2021, 4PM EST

Request for Proposals for Restoration Research award program. The program's goal is to answer several key restoration questions that are a barrier to watershed restoration project implementation.

Anne Arundel County Watershed Restoration Grant Program

Deadline: 2/12/2021, 4PM EST

Funds projects to reduce pollutants through the implementation of watershed restoration practices.

Charles County Forestry

Rolling deadline

Funds projects to implement cost-effective reforestation projects in the County to increase tree canopy and as a result create forest habitat and improve water quality.

Community Engagement Mini Grant Program

Rolling deadline

Designed to engage Maryland residents in activities that enhance communities, engage residents, and improve natural resources. Funds small-scale activities such as tree plantings, rain gardens, stream cleanups, storm drain stenciling, and more.

Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate

Rolling deadline

Offers rebate incentives to homeowners, businesses, and others to install practices that will improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce pollution, and improve local stream and river health.

Sponsorship Program

Rolling deadline

Designed to support events that will increase awareness within the event participants about issues pertaining to restoration and protection of the natural resources of the Chesapeake and/or Maryland's other watersheds.

Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program 2021

Deadline: 1/28/2021, 11:59PM EST

Seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support.

Meet a Local Environmentalist!



The MAEOE Membership Committee is excited to introduce a new feature in the newsletter to showcase the great things being done by our members, and perhaps help make new connections. If you know of an outstanding member, please send the name and contact information to Elana Kellner (engagement@maeoe.org) for member verification, and interview.

Meet Serenella Linares!

As Manager of Virtual Programs at Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) and Co-Chair of Naturally Latinos, Serenella Linares is dedicated to sparking curiosity about nature and inspiring nature stewardship through environmental education. Serenella is known around ANS for being expert in two things: making learning fun (for children and adults) and mycology (mushroom knowledge).

Serenella has been working with ANS since 2015 and was recently promoted to Virtual Programs Manager. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Serenella developed a series of virtual programs that included bilingual videos that could be used as educational tools for both English and Spanish speakers simultaneously. Serenella also manages the Naturalist Hour talks series, in which experts and nature enthusiasts come together to learn and stay connected online. Her previous work at ANS includes collaborating with schools to deliver curriculum-based environmental education programs, establishing fieldtrip scholarships for title one schools and Spanish speaking children at ANS, and teaching nature-themed summer camps.

Her love for the study of mushrooms started when she visited the Maryland forests. Serenella finds them “magical” and is intrigued by their different shapes, colors, textures, and other characteristics, especially those that glow in the dark.

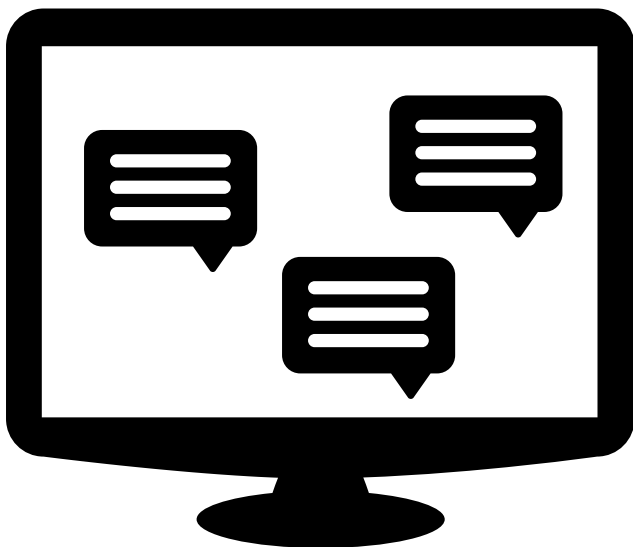
As a member of MAEOE for at least eight years, she has attended four conferences and has participated in a few conferences as a presenter. Serenella expressed that MAEOE provides a sense of community that is hard to replicate in any other conference she has attended. “Regular conference attendees are very committed and there are people I know and love that I can only see at a MAEOE conference, even if we stay in touch throughout the year. It’s a place to see different ideas being expressed, learn about or showcase new programs, and find new ways to improve or expand ideas”.

Prior to joining ANS, Serenella worked as an assistant park naturalist with the Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation from 2011-2016 at an urban nature center serving predominantly African-American and Hispanic communities. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in biology from Universidad Metropolitana de Puerto Rico, a Master’s degree in atmospheric science from Howard University, and graduate training in mycology from University of Maryland. When Ms. Linares is not teaching, she explores urban natural areas, photographs plants, insects, and fungi, and participates in citizen science projects.

Workshops for Adults

To see more opportunities that connect to Objective 1.2 in the Maryland Green Schools/Center application, check out the **MAEOE Professional Development Calendar!**

- 12/8, 12/15, 1/5, & 1/12, 3-5pm: Youth Voice, Youth Action - Earth Force and MAEOE Virtual Workshops
- 12/17, 7-8pm: Natural History Society of MD: Lichens and Lichenologists Who Love Them
- 1/11-1/15, 12-4pm: Service to Justice Virtual Leadership Training
- 1/20, 3-4pm: Think Green: Benefits and Outreach for Green Infrastructure (MWEE Practitioner Series)
- Friday's 3/5-3/19, 2-3pm: Healing the Roots of Racism in Ourselves
- 1/19 and 1/21, 1 - 4pm The Green Careers for a Changing Climate workshop. Explore how environmental education can serve as an essential part of the pathways leading to climate-ready jobs.



Questions or Comments?

Call MAEOE at 443-733-1220

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