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2021 EE Organization of the Year Award Winner

The Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (AEOE), Ten Strands, and the California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI) are pleased to announce the Winner of the 2021 Environmental Education (EE) Organization of the Year Award. This award recognizes outstanding organizations that are advancing the impact of environmental and outdoor education in California in a meaningful way by offering innovative programs, following research-based best practices, and/or promoting equitable access to environmental learning.

The winner of the 2021 Environmental Education Organization of the Year is [Youth Outside](#). Youth Outside advances racial justice and equity in the outdoor and environmental movement. They shift resources to, build power with, and center the voices and leadership of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color because the health of current and future generations demands it. Youth Outside's vision is of "a just world where Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color experience safety, health, and abundant joy through meaningful relationships with one another and the outdoors."

Youth Outside provides outdoor professionals with the skills necessary to transform the environmental field into a more equitable and culturally relevant sector through three key programs: the Outdoor Educators Institute, a four month-long professional and workforce development program for young adults from communities historically underrepresented in the outdoors narrative; the Rising Leaders Fellowship, which supports the professional development of diverse individuals in entry- to mid-level positions within youth-serving outdoor programs; and the Cultural Relevancy Series, a set of comprehensive workshops, paired with coaching, for organizations to strengthen their understanding and practice of cultural relevancy as it pertains to the outdoor field.

Youth Outside will be recognized at **AEOE's Annual Statewide Conference**. Learn more and register at www.aeoe.org/conference-2021. Please join us in celebrating Youth Outside!

About [AEOE](#)

The Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (AEOE) is the professional association for environmental and outdoor education in California, providing programs and practitioners with the tools, resources, and expertise to ensure that future generations are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary to

develop lifelong connections to the natural world and the commitment to sustain it. AEOE's mission is to advance the impact of environmental and outdoor education in California.

About [Ten Strands](#)

Ten Strands' mission is to strengthen partnerships and strategies that will bring environmental literacy to all of California's K-12 students. Ten Strands supports professional development opportunities and outdoor education resources so teachers can provide students with engaging environment-based educational experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

About [CAELI](#)

The California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI), led by Ten Strands, works statewide with guidance from a leadership council to create systems change in support of environmental literacy with a focus on access, equity, and cultural relevance for all students.