



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

California's Environmental Educator Certification Program (EECP) draws together stewards and educators of the environment into a structured and effective initiative. Certification is a public declaration that a certain individual meets a stringent level of requirements and has a specific set of skills. The EECP enhances the legitimacy of the EE profession by building a uniform foundation in effectively teaching about the environment. Additionally, through participation in the certification program, educators increase their knowledge and skills, expand their professional network, enhance their resume, and make important connections across the state.

Program Testimonials

"While enrolled in AEOE's Environmental Educator Certification Program, our staff developed the skills, experience, and self-confidence needed to use their own voice and creative ideas to help us reach new audiences and bring fresh perspectives to our curriculum. As a small organization this has been an incredibly helpful and cost-effective way to train our staff in contemporary and relevant naturalist techniques and pedagogy."

- 2020-2021 EECP Participant Supervisor

"I learned so much that can be applied to my work and was able to build long lasting networks that I will continue to build."

- 2020-2021 EECP Participant

Learn more: www.aeoe.org/EECP. Please contact AEOE's Executive Director Estrella Risinger with any questions at director@aeoe.org.

Program Elements

- **Designed for Working Professionals:** The program runs August-June. Course requirements and meeting times are designed with the expectation that you are actively working in the field of EE.
- **Cohort Participation:** EEC candidates participate in monthly 1.5 hour cohort meetings over zoom
- **Conference Attendance:** Candidates attend both the fall regional conference and spring statewide conference – at which final action projects are presented.
- **Engagement in Online Learning Community:** Candidates participate in group discussions, chat, and digital submission of assignments.
- **Completion of Independent & Group Assignments:** Candidates submit monthly assignments aligned to the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Guidelines for Excellence that demonstrate competency in environmental education.
- **Independent Professional Development:** Individually selected PD or training sanctioned by AEOE (completed recently or over the program year).
- **Final Action Project:** The program culminates with a final action project that provides a summary of the skills and knowledge gained and positively impacts the candidate's community.
- **Mentorship:** Each participant is matched with a mentor in the field of EE with whom they will meet on a monthly basis virtually in small groups to set professional learning goals and discuss the culminating final project.

Content: The EEC content is based on NAAEE's Guidelines for Excellence, with supplementary components based on California's ecology and the diverse needs of our state.