



ARKANSAS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2026 Environmental Education Awards

Categories

Outstanding Environmental Educator – Formal Education The nominee must be an Arkansas Pre-K, elementary, secondary or college educator who incorporates environmental education as a main focus in their curriculum. The nominee should influence students, school, or community in environmental education, awareness, knowledge, and action.

Outstanding Environmental Educator – Non-formal Education The nominee must be an Arkansas educator performing in a non-formal setting. Non-formal settings include, but are not limited to, nature centers, parks, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies which provide education and outreach programs. The nominee should exhibit personal and professional commitment to environmental education and have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field.

The Robert McAfee Environmental Education Lifetime Service Award The nominee must be an Arkansan who has exhibited personal and professional commitment to environmental education, service, awareness, knowledge, and action throughout their career and life. The nominee should exemplify the values and mission of AEEA, and should have at least 20 years of service in the environmental education field. The award is named after one of AEEA's founding members and long-time volunteer director.

Nomination Process

Nominations should be submitted as a Microsoft Word or Google Doc. The following information is required and should not exceed 4 pages front and back. Applications are due no later than **January 16, 2026**.

- Category: Formal Educator, Non-formal Educator, or Robert McAfee EE Lifetime Service Award
- Name and contact information including mailing address, school/organization, job title, phone, and email where the nominee can be reached during the summer
- List of activities and accomplishments
- Impact of the nominee's work
- Description of any innovative environmental and outdoor education instruction the

- nominee has developed and implemented
- Overall involvement of the area of environmental and outdoor education (include number of years in field)
- Affiliation with organizations outside main employer, including AEEA
- Optional supporting materials such as news releases, examples of work, or photographs may be included

Judging Criteria

Reviewers will be looking for a nominee's demonstrated ability to:

- Facilitate participant/student leadership and involvement
- Promote hands-on involvement
- Promote critical and creative thinking in students
- Partner with others
- Address real world problems and/or problems of local environmental importance
- Develop and implement innovative programs/projects

Applications are due no later than January 16, 2026.

Please submit to:

Sophia Stephenson via E-mail: director@arkansasee.org - please note "*Outstanding Educator Nomination*" on the subject line

**Awards will be presented at the 2026 Environmental Education
Conference in Fairfield Bay on March 7, 2026.**