

A person is seen from behind, hiking up a steep, grassy mountain ridge. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and casting long shadows. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is one of adventure and natural beauty.

**AEE** NORTHWEST REGION  
24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRESENTS

# FINDING YOUR EDGE

IN EXPERIENTIAL  
EDUCATION

APRIL 13–15, 2012  
CAMP SQUAMISH, BC

# WORKSHOP PROPOSAL KIT

# PRESENT A WORKSHOP, LEARN FROM A COMMUNITY

Workshops are a core component of the AEE NW Conference. Workshops address AEE's mission to further the development and practice of experiential learning. They provide attendees with opportunities to share information, learn skills and stimulate new thinking.

Each year, the conference is driven by a new theme. In 2012, our theme is FINDING YOUR EDGE in experiential education. Neale Donald Walsch said, "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone". This conference will challenge participants to go beyond their comfort zones in their practice of experiential education. Workshop presenters facilitate discussion and share progressive practices, encouraging participants to find their edge, and leave the weekend with tangible applications for their work back home.

We invite you to submit a proposal for a workshop that showcases YOUR EDGE: your practices, your tools, your ideas in experiential education.

## BENEFITS OF PRESENTING

- Discounted registration fee: \$75 off Early Bird Rates.
- Professional development: Present your ideas and receive direct feedback from peers.
- Networking opportunities: Connect with other experiential educators from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, the Northwest Territories, Oregon, Washington, and the Yukon.
- Contribute to a learning community: Be part of the AEE mission and make a direct impact on new and experienced professionals.
- Immerse yourself in knowledge: Stay the whole weekend and participate in others' workshops.
- Affordable visit to beautiful Squamish, BC: Competitive rates and shared lodgings.

### AEE NW 2012 CONFERENCE

For the last 24 years, the AEE Northwest Region Annual Conference has brought together experiential education professionals from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, the Northwest Territories, Oregon, Washington and the Yukon. Each conference offers the individual a full weekend of professional development, entertainment, and team activities.

Attendees include:

- Teachers
- Therapists
- Social workers
- Camp Directors & Counselors
- Program Coordinators
- Training & Development Professionals

The Association for Experiential Education (AEE) is a non-profit international professional organization with a mission to develop and promote experiential learning. AEE was formed in the early 1970s and today has over 1,500 members in 35 countries. AEE is committed to supporting professional development, theoretical advancement, and evaluation of experiential education worldwide. Our intent is to contribute to a more just and compassionate world by transforming education.

# HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR EDGE IN EE?

AEE Conferences use established workshop “strands” to categorize the range of content. See descriptions on the next page.

Workshops may also focus on unique theories and models of programs including:

- co-curricular education
- integrating adventure into the curriculum
- interdisciplinary learning
- learning communities
- youth development
- values and character development
- community-based education

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Workshops are either 90 minutes or 3 hours in length and can be presented by more than one person. Workshops are scheduled throughout Saturday and Sunday of the conference. You must select one thematic strand that is most appropriate for your workshop. But don't worry if you're unsure which strand to choose. We're always open to new ideas so suggest a new strand with your proposal.

You will need to provide contact details and a short biographical sketch (max 45 words) along with your qualifications and two professional references.

In addition to a title, general description (300-400 words), and the tangible skills and outcomes of your workshop, we ask you to indicate the workshop's format: lecture, participation, co-facilitation, or a bit of everything? You will also be asked to indicate the audience level most appropriate for your workshop (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, or Open to All) and the size limit.

Please be prepared to indicate logistical and audio-visual needs so that we can ensure your space is properly equipped with technical support.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://northwest.aee.org/conferences/>

### HOW TO SUBMIT

Workshop proposals are to be submitted through our online intake form:

<http://www.aee.org/proposal/nw>

Deadline for submissions is February 29, 2012.

### QUESTIONS?

Please contact Adam Ross  
[aross@enviros.org](mailto:aross@enviros.org)

### CONNECT WITH US!

[@aenw2012](#)

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[aenw2012.wordpress.com](http://aenw2012.wordpress.com)

# WORKSHOP STRANDS

## ADVENTURE-BASED PROGRAMMING

Techniques and models used by practitioners to foster learning and growth in wilderness- and adventure- based programs, outdoor education, or organized camping. Suggested topics: challenge course building/design, universal programming/design, initiatives and trustbuilding activities, climbing, boating, expeditions, and wilderness medicine.

## AEE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Workshops designed for AEE current and potential leaders and presenters. Suggested topics: first-timer orientation, how to write a proposal, presenter development process, regional or Professional Group leader training or development, board and committee development, how to put on an AEE conference or event, general membership meeting, and AEE accreditation or publications training or meetings.

## ART AND SCIENCE OF TEACHING

We all teach no matter in what thematic strand we operate. Suggested topics: techniques of effective teaching (i.e., what's in your teaching toolbox?), the "art" of teaching, skills necessary to be an effective teacher and an efficient learner, techniques to enhance learning, how multiple ways of seeing and thinking influence learning and teaching.

## SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Experiential teaching and learning for primary, secondary and higher education. Suggested topics: collaborative learning, empowerment-based education, service-learning, adult education, inquiry and action learning, problem-based instruction, peer education, simulation and role playing, learning style-appropriate teaching, and lab-based instruction. Workshops may also focus on unique theories and models of programs, including co-curricular education, integrating adventure into the curriculum, interdisciplinary learning, learning communities, youth development, values and character development, and community-based education.

## EXPERIENCE-BASED TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Techniques and theories to facilitate growth and development of and within organizations. Suggested topics: team building, leadership development, assessing clients' needs, program design and evaluation, facilitating strategic planning, visioning, business transformation, and systems thinking.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/NATURE STUDY

Techniques, models, and curriculum used by practitioners to

foster environmental literacy and learning about environmental issues and the natural world. Suggested topics: environmental awareness and stewardship, sustainability, nature studies, conservation, and minimal-impact techniques.

## FACILITATION/PROCESSING

Cross-disciplinary techniques, tools and models for exploring philosophy, practice, methodology, self-development and growth as a practitioner working with groups in a variety of settings. Suggested topics: challenge by choice, full-value contracts, group dynamics and development, framing, reflection, facilitating the experiential learning cycle, observation skills, technical skills, collaboration and co-facilitation, and developing professional skills.

## MIND/BODY/SPIRIT

Integrating all dimensions of the human being as an essential aspect of experiential education. Suggested topics: creativity, yoga, meditation, martial arts, personal wellness, prayer and other practices that involve a synthesis of spirituality, mindfulness and body work.

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Managing risk, responding to trends, promoting and marketing, maintaining client relations, fiscal management and staff development. Suggested topics: grant writing, strategic planning, capital campaigns, partnerships, accreditation, certification, insurance, internship programs, training, supervision, and site development.

## RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Theories related to experiential learning, new and continuing research results, evaluation methods and outcomes.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ETHICS

Social and ethical issues and questions as they relate to experiential education. Suggested topics: issues of ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability and multi-culturalism. Also includes professional standards, ethics and integrity.

## THERAPEUTIC

Therapeutic application and underlying theories and models of adventure-based practice in mental health, corrections, substance abuse, health and related fields. Suggested topics: clinical assessment, treatment modalities, ethics of client treatment, and workshops that blend other forms of experiential practice (art, drama, music, animal assisted, etc.) for therapeutic purpose.