

Nominate an outstanding teacher for the Margaret O'Neill Early Childhood Nature Educator Award!

BACKGROUND

Established in 2013, this award's namesake honors Margaret (Peggy) O'Neill, former Executive Director of Irvine Nature Center. Peggy spearheaded the launch of The Nature Preschool at Irvine, which was licensed in 2010. Under her guidance The Nature Preschool as well as countless early childhood education programs and professional development for early childhood educators have flourished and continue to grow today. This award commemorates Peggy's dedication to nature-based learning for young children and her support of early childhood educators in this endeavor.

GOALS

- To honor an outstanding early childhood educator who facilitates nature-based learning and provides meaningful programming for children from birth through eight years old.
- To publicly recognize the contributions of early childhood educators and encourage others to choose this field as a career.
- To inspire other educators to infuse nature-based experiences into early childhood education.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Educators including administrators, naturalists, classroom teachers or outdoor educators must :

- Demonstrate creativity, enthusiasm, talent and compassion as facilitators of nature-based learning;
- Be a creative and inspiring presence that motivates students, families, colleagues and the greater community;
- Demonstrate leadership in the field of early childhood environmental education; and
- Go above and beyond job requirements to be a model of excellence in the field.

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The award recipient is notified during the annual Nature Preschool Conference at Irvine Nature Center.

BENEFITS OF AWARD

In addition to public recognition, the recipient receives complimentary attendance to all future Nature Preschool Conferences.

NOMINATION PROCESS

1. Submit a nomination letter. Please include the individual's name, title and organization they represent. Be sure to fully describe the accomplishments that make this individual a worthy candidate.

2. Submit the names of two other references that could speak to this individual's talent as an educator or administrator in the field of early childhood environmental education. This might include previous students, their families, a colleague or supervisor.

3. If available, please submit the nominee's resume and/or any other information that might help the committee learn more about this person.

NOTE: We are not able to return any materials, so please do not send original copies.

NOMINATION DEADLINE: April 6th

You may submit information via email at:

MadiganK@ExploreNature.org

or by post:

O'Neill Award Committee
Attn: Karen Madigan
Irvine Nature Center
11201 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, MD 21117

Please direct questions to Karen Madigan, Director of The Nature Preschool at Irvine Nature Center by phone at 443-738-9223 or via email at MadiganK@ExploreNature.org.