



Outdoor Learning Symposium

A New Era of Outdoor Learning

November 2, 2021

Virtual Sessions
and
Campus Tours That Inspire
Outdoor Learning

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Tune in - Waiting Room Video
8:45 AM - 8:55 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks
9:00 AM - 9:55 AM	Session BLOCK ONE
10:00 AM - 10:55 AM	Session BLOCK TWO
11:00 AM - 11:55 AM	Session BLOCK THREE
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	Keynote: GA Senator Sheikh Rahman
12:30 PM - 12:55 PM	Mini Sessions
1:00 PM - 1:55 PM	Sessions BLOCK FOUR
2:00 PM - 2:55 PM	Sessions BLOCK FIVE
3:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Closing Comments

ABOUT THE COUNCIL OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

The Council of Outdoor Learning (CoOL) is an EEA initiative that focuses on the design, development, use, sustainability, and longevity of outdoor learning environments at schools, nature centers, and elsewhere; and promotes research-informed practices for effective student and environmental outcomes. CoOL provides a Toolkit for creating outdoor learning stations, hosts an annual Outdoor Learning Symposium to share resources and strategies for teaching outdoors, curates a collection of outdoor learning activities that are integrated with state standards, supports OL providers, and offers customized professional development workshops and webinars for teachers and non-formal educators.

ABOUT THE SESSIONS

This program outlines the session times and links. Sessions vary in length from 10 to 60 minutes long. Please feel free to join a session at any time, keeping your sound muted. The Council of Outdoor Learning is extremely grateful for the presenters who are volunteering their time to present at the symposium. Thank you for participating and supporting outdoor learning.



**THE COUNCIL OF OUTDOOR LEARNING IS A COMMITTEE OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE OF GEORGIA**



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

DESCRIPTIONS

Session Block One 9:00- 9:55

EMERGENT CURRICULUM WITH A POLITICAL EDGE

Anamarie Shreeves, Environmental Education Programs Manager
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA)

Learn about West Atlanta Watershed Alliance's Environmental Education Pedagogy and some of the resources that have informed our five principles. Many emergent curriculum strategies lack consideration for social and political issues. Our pedagogy considers the multifaceted development of a child.

9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

WHAT CAN YOU LEARN IN A GARDEN BED?

Kara Kalra, Teacher
Ford Elementary School, Cobb County School District

Grand tour of the Ford Elementary gardens. A brief description of each grade-level area. A presentation to inspire other educators to take the plunge and begin teaching about the outdoors, in the outdoors. It can all start with just one garden bed!

9:00 AM - 9:25 AM

ENGAGING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVES

Kevin Spingler, Upper School Biology Teacher
Whitefield Academy

High school students at Whitefield Academy in conjunction with Georgia Adopt-A-Stream monitor the water quality of Nickajack Creek and the retention pond on campus, documenting the biodiversity in these freshwater environments and earning community service credit for their work.

9:30 AM - 9:55 AM

Session Block Two 10:00-10:55

CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Christine Lauer, Teacher
Dunwoody High School

Citizen science projects that work in science classes-meeting state standards and NGSS. With the ease of replication, teachers can teach their science standards while participating in citizen science with their students

10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

EXPLORING OUR LEARNING FARM & GARDEN

Brooke Fraser, Director of Marketing; Lesley Lang, Director of Admissions;
Derek Chriscoe, Farm & Facilities Director, Melissa Murray, Faculty Chair
The Garden School of Marietta

We have a working farm and garden situated side by side and complete with vegetable garden, pollinator beds, composting, chickens, donkeys and goats. We will tour this space and offer a picture of the variety of ways our students of all ages are able to interact, work, and learn day to day in this truly unique and child friendly space.

10:00 AM - 10:25 AM

PARTNERSHIPS ARE THE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACES

Sureka Taylor, Teacher
Champion Middle School

A pre-recorded video presentation will highlight the importance and ways to finding community partners to support your garden in addition to possible grants that could fund and support the learning space. The video will showcase, cafeteria to garden composting, garden to table cooking and nutrition, partnerships with the local community food pantry garden, engineering designs with real world garden problem solving tasks, and how to plan a end of year Garden Open House.

10:30 AM - 10:55 AM

Session Block Three 11:00 - 11:55

FOREST WATERSHED WALK

Jerry Hightower, Park Ranger, Environmental Education Coordinator
 Penny Hightower, Environmental Educator
 Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Utilization of multi-sensory learning opportunities found on a forest trail along Falling Branch and Island Ford Pond. This has been a proven, highly successful outdoor learning program for elementary students and will demonstrate easy to replicate techniques and strategies.

11:00 AM - 11:55 AM

ISCIENCE! BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR SCHOOLYARD - FOCUS GRADES 5-8

Aurora Sarchet, AmeriCorps Member
 Discover Life in America

Using iNaturalist, we'll investigate the biodiversity that surrounds us in a mini BioBlitz! Students become community scientists by using the iNaturalist app to observe and identify species they find in their schoolyards. It's a great way to introduce students to the biodiversity that surrounds them, and to engage them in caring for their world.

11:00 AM- 11:25 AM

WILDCATS IN THE WOODS!

Stephanie Miles, Teacher
 Villa Rica High School

I will be walking through my school yard, showing where, how, and why we use the creek, garden, and open spaces. This is a great way to increase student learning and engagement!

11:30 AM- 11:55 AM

Keynote Address 12:00 - 12:25

Georgia Senator Sheikh Rahman

12:00 PM- 12:25 PM

Mini Sessions 12:30 - 12:55

CONNECTING THE GREAT GEORGIA POLLINATOR CENSUS TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Becky Griffin, Community & School Garden Coordinator
 University of Georgia (UGA) Extension Mountain Research and Education Center

Many educators guide their students in participating in the Great Georgia Pollinator Census. The project was designed to provide a no-cost STEM program for educators. However, connecting the Census to other disciplines, such as writing, poetry and history allows educators to get the most out of participating in the Census. We will be discussing how to do this and the resources that are available to educators who want to participate in the next Great Georgia Pollinator Census, August 19th and 20th, 2022. We will be doing this in the beautiful setting of the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center.

12:30 PM - 12:55 PM

OUR JOURNEY INTO STEAM GARDENING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Gerin Hennebaul, Amanda Dodd, Heather Kane, Kathie Kelley
 Lovin Elementary School/Gwinnett County Public Schools

We will give a tour of our STEAM Garden and we will talk about how it came about, community and business involvement, and our community service. We will talk about our rain barrels, compost bin, chickens, our sustainable garden, parent, community, and business partnerships, our Eco-Hero Environmental Club, and our future.

12:30 PM - 12:55 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

DESCRIPTIONS

Mini Sessions (Continued)

ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER SHOWCASE

Maranda McGaha, Director of School and Public Programs
Elachee Nature Science Center

We will walk through our nature center to showcase our outdoor learning areas, Nature Academy, and school programs. Elachee serves a variety of audiences, including the public, local school districts, summer camp, and our own Nature Academy students. Our campus is designed to accommodate those groups for outdoor learning and environmental education. We will be showing our outdoor play areas, teaching areas, outreach vehicles, and live animal ambassadors.

12:20 PM- 12:55 PM

Session Block Four 1:00 - 1:55

FROM ECOPHOBIA TO ECOPHILIA: DEVELOPMENTALLY-APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS K-8

Jenna S Mobley, Teacher
Atlanta Public Schools

In this workshop, teachers will learn how to build an outdoor garden space and how to plan outdoor activities for grade levels K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 that are age-appropriate for developing strong environmental values. For grades K-2, we will learn about cultivating empathy between children and the natural world through living creatures. For grades 3-5, we will learn about creating spaces for exploration and “bonding with the earth.” For grades 6-8, we will learn about instilling a value for social action as children develop a sense of self, their connectedness to society and their natural inclination to save the world.

1:00 PM - 1:55 PM

FOCUS GROUP ON “COOL SCHOOLS” AND “EXEMPLARY OUTDOOR LEARNING PROVIDERS”

Karan Wood, Executive Director
Environmental Education Alliance

Join this focus group to share your thoughts about best practices in outdoor learning. Provide feedback on EEA’s new criteria for special recognition of exemplary institutions (“CoOL Schools and Universities”) and EE / OL providers (“CoOL Pros”). Find out how your organization can increase its capacity to deliver high-quality programs, receive cutting edge professional development for your staff, and earn certification (for schools) or endorsement (for organizations and agencies) by demonstrating best practices.

1:00 PM- 1:55 PM

Session Block Five 2:00 - 2:55

HARVESTING THE POWER OF RAIN BARRELS FOR STEAM EDUCATION

Aminta Liu, Environmental Program Specialist
Cobb County Water System

Rain Barrels are fantastic tools for STEAM education. In the first half of the session, Program Specialist Aminta Liu from Cobb County Water System will be introducing Rain Barrels, their key benefits, and how they can be obtained on a budget. In the second half, she will be exploring 4 inspiring case studies in which elementary, middle school and high school classes utilized Rain Barrels to expand their STEAM learning horizons. The workshop will conclude with a thorough overview of applicable GSE core ideas and standards from Kindergarten to 12th Grade. As an added plus, Cobb County Water System will be donating a rain barrel to 10 lucky session participants (scheduled pick up required).

2:00 PM- 2:55 PM

FOCUS GROUP ON “COOL SCHOOLS” AND “EXEMPLARY OUTDOOR LEARNING PROVIDERS”

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2:00 PM- 2:55 PM

Closing Comments Q & A 3:00 - 3:15

GEORGIA STATE SENATOR SHEIKH RAHMAN

Chair of the Senate Study Committee on Outdoor Learning

Senator Sheikh Rahman, a Democrat, is the first immigrant and first Asian American to serve in the Georgia State Senate. He is also the first Muslim Georgia Legislator. Elected in 2018, he represents the 5th Senate District in the heart of Gwinnett — Georgia's most diverse county. He is the Chairman of the Gwinnett Senate Delegation.

In the Senate, Sen. Rahman is the Secretary of the Urban Affairs Committee. He also serves on the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Economic Development and Tourism, Government Oversight, and Special Judiciary committees.



During his first term, Sen. Rahman was appointed by the Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan to serve on the Senate Higher Education Outcome study committee and Surgical Smoke Evacuation study committee. He was also awarded the Freshman Legislator of the Year by the Democratic Legislative Caucus. In 2019, Georgia Asia Times named Sen. Rahman the 25th Most Influential Asian American in Georgia. In 2020, he was named one of the 100 Most Influential Georgia Muslims by Islamic Speakers Bureau of Georgia.

Sen. Rahman grew up in Bangladesh, where his country was devastated by the Bangladesh Liberation War of Independence in 1971. At age 13, Sen. Rahman was kidnapped at gunpoint as a prisoner of war. In 1981, after graduating from high school, Sen. Rahman came to America to attend Central Piedmont Community College. In order to pay for his college tuition, he worked as a dishwasher making \$3.35 an hour.

In 1995, after a 14-year process, Sen. Rahman became a U.S. citizen and finished his undergraduate degree in Economics and Global Studies at the University of Georgia, where he also served as a Student Senator and President of the Global Studies Association. After school, Sen. Rahman worked his way up through the ranks of the restaurant industry, becoming a corporate executive at Pizza Hut, Dominos, and The Kroger Company. He then embarked on a successful career in retail convenience store and real estate, managing rental properties across Georgia.

Sen. Rahman began his political career as a student in community college when a friend invited him to work on a North Carolina gubernatorial campaign. He was inspired to run for office himself by another young man educated in Southeast Asia — Barack Obama — whom he served as an at-large Delegate in 2012.

Senator Rahman is a lifetime member of the NAACP, National Action Network, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a former National Advisor to the Alliance of South Asian American Labor (ASAAL), and a former member of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Georgia. He is a former member of the Democratic National Committee and was the first Muslim elected to the Democratic National Executive Committee.

Recently, he was an unpledged Delegate to the DNC 2020 and served as the Co- Chairman of the President Joe Biden Georgia AAPI campaign.

Sen. Rahman has attended multiple seminars and conferences within the United States and around the globe. He has traveled to a couple of dozen of countries around the world and has received several awards and recognition for his work. He was a speaker at Inkwell Breakfast Series sponsored by King & Spaulding, one of the largest law firms in the world.

Sen. Rahman lives in Lawrenceville with his two children and wife of 28 years.

THE PRESENTERS

The Council of Outdoor Learning and Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia are extremely grateful for the dedication of our presenters for the 2021 Outdoor Learning Symposium. Each has gracefully accepted the invitation to present and share their experiences and expertise with outdoor education.

THE GARDEN SCHOOL OF MARIETTA

Brooke Fraser

UGA EXTENSION MOUNTAIN STATION

Becky Griffin

LOVIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gerin Hennebaul, Amanda Dodd,
Heather Kane, Kathie Kelley

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - CHATTAHOOCHEE
RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

Jerry Hightower, Penny Hightower

FORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kara Kalra

DUNWOODY HIGH SCHOOL

Christine Lauer

COBB COUNTY WATER SYSTEM

Aminta Liu

MASON MILL PARK

Ranger Jonah McDonald

ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER

Maranda McGaha

VILLA RICA HIGH SCHOOL

Stephanie Miles

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jenna S Mobley

DISCOVER LIFE IN AMERICA

Aurora Sarchet

WEST ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Anamarie Shreeves

WHITEFIELD ACADEMY

Kevin Spingler

THE CHAMPION THEME MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sureka Taylor

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Karan Wood

COUNCIL OF OUTDOOR LEARNING - 2021 OLS SYMPOSIUM PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Karan Wood, Stefan Moss, Mike Kahle

For more information about visit www.eealliance.org/outdoor-learning-symposium.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Waiting Room - Videos with Ranger Jonah		
8:45 AM - 8:55 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks		
9:00 AM - 9:55 AM	EMERGENT CURRICULUM WITH A POLITICAL EDGE <i>9:00-9:55 AM</i>	WHAT CAN YOU LEARN IN A GARDEN BED? <i>9:00 - 9:25 AM</i>	ENGAGING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVES <i>9:30 - 9:55 AM</i>
10:00 AM - 10:55 AM	CITIZEN SCIENCE FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS <i>10:00 - 10:55 AM</i>	EXPLORING OUR LEARNING FARM & GARDEN <i>10:00-10:25 AM</i>	PARTNERSHIPS ARE THE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACES <i>10:30-10:55 AM</i>
11:00 AM - 11:55 AM	FOREST WATERSHED WALK <i>11:00 - 11:55 AM</i>	ISCIENCE! BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR SCHOOLYARD - GR 5-8 <i>11:00 - 11:25 AM</i>	WILDCATS IN THE WOODS! <i>11:30 - 11:55 AM</i>
12:00PM - 12:25 PM	Keynote Presentation: Sen. Sheikh Rahman		
12:30 PM - 12:55 PM	CONNECTING THE GREAT GEORGIA POLLINATOR CENSUS TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM <i>12:30 - 12:55 PM</i>	STEAM GARDEN AND COMMUNITY SERVICE <i>12:30 - 12:55 PM</i>	ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER SHOWCASE <i>12:30 - 12:55 PM</i>
1:00 PM - 1:55 PM	FROM ECOPHOBIA TO ECOPHILIA: DEVELOPMENTALLY-APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS K-8 <i>1:00 - 1:55 PM</i>	FOCUS GROUP ON "COOL SCHOOLS" AND "EXEMPLARY OUTDOOR LEARNING PROVIDERS" <i>1:00 - 1:55 PM</i>	
2:00 PM - 2:55 PM	HARVESTING THE POWER OF RAIN BARRELS FOR STEAM EDUCATION <i>2:00 - 2:55 PM</i>	FOCUS GROUP ON "COOL SCHOOLS" AND "EXEMPLARY OUTDOOR LEARNING PROVIDERS" <i>2:00 - 2:55 PM</i>	
3:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Closing Comments		



OUTDOOR LEARNING SYMPOSIUM

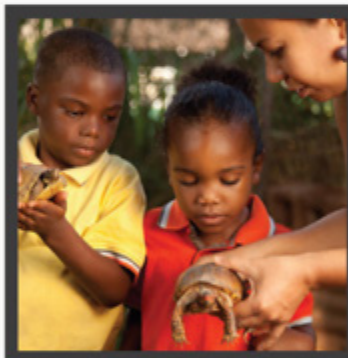
virtual for 2021

**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 2
8AM TO 3PM**

Keynote Speaker



Georgia Senator
Sheikh Rahman
Chair of the Senate
Study Committee on
Outdoor Learning



- Livestream Sessions
- Latest Research on Outdoor Learning
- Showcase Campus Tours

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/6ftjzftp>



**Environmental
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Alliance**
of Georgia 

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