



# ETHICS POLICY

## Responsibilities and Standards for Professional Conduct

### I. EEANM

Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (EEANM) is committed to assisting both formal and non-formal educators with their professional development in environmental education and understanding of environmental stewardship. By initiating and maintaining an Environmental Education Certification Program for the state of New Mexico, EEANM establishes standards for professional excellence, increases environmental literacy and promotes community leadership.

EEANM shall hold and maintain the application, review, portfolio, and acceptance/rejection materials/information in strictest confidence for the sole and exclusive benefit of the candidate. EEANM shall carefully restrict access to this confidential information to employees, contractors and third parties as is reasonably required. EEANM shall not, without prior written approval of a candidate, use for the organization's benefit, publish, copy, or otherwise disclose to others, or permit the use by others for their benefit or to the detriment of the candidate, any confidential information.

### II. EECF Candidates

The Environmental Education Certification Program (EECP) provides professional development, fosters understanding and stewardship of natural resources, develops teaching skills, and offers opportunities of leadership in the communities of New Mexico. This achievement benefits the entire state and contributes to the future of its environmental well-being. The EECF supports networking opportunities with other environmental educators across the state and requires that participants be active in their communities. At the conclusion of the program, certified candidates will receive a certificate of program completion.

Individuals who participate in environmental education courses and workshops demonstrate a sense of stewardship for the natural resources and fragile ecosystems of New Mexico as well as a desire to instill that sense of stewardship in others.

#### Candidate Code of Ethics

New Mexico Certified Environmental Educators must subscribe to the highest standards of integrity and conduct. They should promote competence in the field of environmental education by supporting high standards of education and performance. Candidates will promote understanding and encourage appreciation for the relationship between individuals and their environment.

Environmental educators (paid or unpaid) shall at all times adhere to professional standards of conduct, including but not limited to:

- communication of facts regarding the environment and environmental issues.
- accurate representation of research—avoiding bias, theological and religious beliefs, or political standing.

- familiarity with new research in the field of environmental education, keeping informed of trends within the field.
- professional performance only in areas of their own competence, referencing other environmental education professionals when the expertise of such professionals best serves the instance.
- promote competence in the field of EE by supporting high standards of education, performance and employment practices.
- conduct activities with honesty, fairness, and respect.
- be aware of how personal belief systems may affect professional activities.
- strive to be sensitive to cultural and individual differences including those due to age, gender, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and socio-economic status.
- avoid situations where a conflict of interest may arise.
- accept responsibility for behavior and decisions.
- possess an adequate basis for professional judgment.
- respect the fundamental rights, dignity and worth of program participants, program staff, colleagues, etc. and the environment.
- do not reveal confidential information of staff, program participants, etc.
- do not accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or obtain special advantage.
- avoid dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or unprofessional demeanor.
- cooperate with other environmental educators and professionals.
- promote the profession of environmental education in a positive but realistic manner so as to encourage involvement by other professionals.
- professionalism free from sexual harassment; discrimination; or smearing the reputation of other professionals / organizations through the use of false, biased or otherwise undocumented claims.