



MAEOE

Maryland Association for Environmental
& Outdoor Education

For Immediate Release

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Celebrates 2025 Maryland Green Schools

117 Schools receive recognition at Annual Youth Summit

Annapolis, Maryland – (June 4, 2025) – The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) held the annual Maryland Green Schools Youth Summit at Sandy Point State Park. Students from across the state celebrated Green Schools achievements and received awards and Governor citations for demonstrating and documenting a continuous effort to integrate sustainable environmental management practices, environmental education curriculum, professional development opportunities, and community engagement into our daily operations. The award signifies their commitment to developing stewards of the earth and reducing the school's impact.

“Green Schools provide engaging and effective instruction by integrating environmental learning across all subjects. The results are powerful—we see students leading composting programs, conserving energy, joining environmental clubs, and advocating for what is important to them. These stories give us hope. They remind us that when young people are empowered with knowledge and a connection to the world around them, they become the changemakers we need—not just for the future, but right now, says Laura Johnson Collard, Executive Director of the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE).”

There are now 693 schools participating in the program. These schools are models within our state and in the U.S. Students want to participate, whether it is part of classwork or they initiate a project in a green club. Students are encouraging others to make a difference.

The youth summit celebrates teachers, students, parents, staff and partners. Environmental Organizations have activities for students giving them ideas for next year. The Green Careers fair provides students with an opportunity to learn about different career pathways and to learn about various green careers.

Students come from across the state to celebrate. While they have all studied the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in school and how local actions impact the Bay, many have never seen the Bay. The State Park provides a safe and beautiful venue.

About MAEOE: MAEOE is a non-profit organization. MAEOE's mission is to encourage, engage and empower the community to understand, responsibly use and promote the natural world. MAEOE's Maryland Green Schools Program celebrates 25 years in 2024. For a complete listing of Green Schools and Green Centers visit www.maeoe.org.

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