



Upper Valley
Teaching
Place
Collaborative

REQUEST FOR PRESENTATIONS

Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative Conference

Flourish Together: Well-being, Belonging, and Learning for a Changing World

November 6, 2026

Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont

The Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative (UVTPC) welcomes presentation proposals for our 2026 conference. In our region, we share a landscape of abundant beauty and wonder, a place rich with forests, rivers, and vibrant communities. Traditionally, the conference has offered presentations focused on place-based ecology education (PBEE), helping young people build meaningful connections to the places they call home.

Recognizing the speed at which our world is changing, this year we hope to provide a pause, to take a breath, and reconnect to what matters to our learners and to us all. The conference theme, “**Flourish Together: Well-being, Belonging, and Learning for a Changing World**,” invites participants to explore how caring for ourselves, caring for community, and caring for the land can nourish resilience and stewardship within and beyond ourselves.

What We’re Looking For

We welcome presentations that are engaging, reflective, hands-on, and restorative. Whether you’re a PBEE practitioner, classroom teacher, naturalist, artist, yoga instructor, mindfulness practitioner, scientist, counselor, community educator, or nonprofit partner, please consider submitting a presentation proposal. We especially encourage sessions that:

- Highlight practices that **support well-being, belonging, and learning**
- Offer **different perspectives**, including those from traditionally underrepresented communities
- Get people **outside, moving, and connecting to nature**
- **Address different learning styles and accessibility**
- Include **student voices or participation**
- Are **interactive** and invite **reflection, renewal, and connection**

Audiences- To help tailor presentations to participants, we ask that proposals align with one of these audiences:

- **Education focused on younger ages (PreK–4th grade)**
- **Education focused on middle grades (5th–8th grade)**
- **Education focused on high school and above (9th grade and above)**
- **Nonformal education (nature center staff, museum & outdoor educators, and more!)**

Session Length Options- Please choose the session length that best fits your presentation:

- **Morning Workshop (60 minutes)** | 10:45 AM – 11:45 PM
- **Afternoon Workshop 1 (60 minutes)** | 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM
- **Afternoon Workshop 2 (45 minutes)** | 2:00 PM – 2:45 PM
- **Extended Session (2 hours)** | Combine both afternoon slots—ideal for field trips/in-depth activities

Submit your presentation proposal online using the link below by **August 1**

Conference Strands & Suggested Topics

Caring for Ourselves: Sustaining educators and preventing burnout

How do we care for ourselves so we can continue showing up fully for students, colleagues, and communities? This strand focuses on well-being practices that support personal and professional growth.

Session ideas:

- *Self-care and educator well-being*
- *Mindfulness, stress reduction, and emotional resilience*
- *Joy, creativity, and play*
- *Sustainable work practices (wellness in the workplace?)*
- *Outdoor wellness practices*
- *Self-expression through movement, art, or writing*

Caring for Community: Building relationships that foster a sense of belonging and support learning

Strong relationships create strong networks of support and opportunities for impactful change-making. How do we build healthy connections with students, colleagues, families, and partners? This strand highlights reciprocity, collaboration, learning with and from one another, and other practices that strengthen our communities.

Session ideas:

- *Building belonging and trust*
- *Professional learning communities*
- *School-community partnerships*
- *Intergenerational partnerships/learning*
- *Collaboration across organizations*
- *Practices that strengthen PBEE partnerships*

Caring for the Land: Deepening connection to nature

Connection to nature encourages mental health, perspective, clarity, and stewardship. How do we help learners—and ourselves—build stronger relationships with the natural world? This strand explores practices that cultivate a more eco-centric understanding of and relationship with our place.

Session ideas:

- *Practices that help us live more sustainably on the Earth*
- *Reflections in nature*
- *Offering a different cultural lens for understanding and working with nature*
- *Nature connection and well-being*
- *Local stewardship initiatives*
- *Seasonal and local ecology learning*
- *Building regular outdoor learning routines*

What We Ask of Presenters

- Teams of co-presenters from different organizations or roles are welcome.
- Up to 4 presenters attend for free. Additional presenters pay the \$45 registration fee.
- Confirm participation by August 20, 2026.
- We encourage full-day attendance, but understand if you can only attend part of the day.

Submitting Your Proposal

Submit your presentation proposal online by **August 1** using this [Google form](#).

Listed below are the questions you will find on the online proposal form.

- Presenters contact information
- Title of Proposed Presentation
- Marketing Summary (Describe your presentation in 50 words or fewer. This will appear in the conference brochure.)
- Preferred Time Slot/Presentation Length (60 or 45 minutes; combined 2-hour slot)
- Target Audience and Minimum/Maximum # of Participants
- Conference Strand Addressed
- Detailed Description – 500 word max (Provide an overview of what your session will be like. e.g., primary content areas covered, presentation format/structure, ways you will engage all audience members, and how your presentation fits with the conference strand chosen)
- Desired Outcomes (What do you want participants to walk away thinking about, knowing, doing?)
- Space and Equipment Requests: Please describe any location or equipment needs. The conference will be held at [Lake Morey Resort](#) located along the shore of Lake Morey. The site has lake views, grassy areas, and beach access to the lake. Just down the road is The [Morey Mountain Conservation Area](#) with 4 miles of looping trails through forest and [Glen Falls](#) (3/4 mile hike). [Click here to see more hiking areas nearby](#). Indoor spaces include the large ballroom overlooking the lake and two smaller rooms that accommodate 35 people. We'd love to have a variety of outdoor and indoor presentations so we encourage folks to consider taking the learning outside.

You will receive a confirmation email shortly after submitting your proposal. Presenters will be notified of acceptance by August 11. If your proposal is accepted, you will have an additional opportunity to finalize session information after you receive your acceptance notice.

Questions? Please contact the Conference Committee at info@uvtpc.com.

