

Promoting environmental literacy through education

MAEOE Board of Directors Application

Thank you for your interest in serving on the MAEOE Board of Directors. Some of the information you provide will be used for the online MAEOE ballot.

Please submit completed form to admin@maeoe.com along with your resume and a jpg photo of yourself.

Name Eileen Boekestein

Address [REDACTED] City [REDACTED] Zip [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

Employer Grand Valley Metro Council - Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds

Employer address [REDACTED] City [REDACTED]

Current Job Title Environmental Education Coordinator

Are you currently a member of MAEOE? Yes No Number of Years 4

Character of the community in which you reside: Rural Suburban Urban

Character of the community in which you work: Rural Suburban Urban

In which geographic area of the state do you live in (select one):

- | | |
|---|--|
| Western U.P. <input type="radio"/> | Eastern U. P. <input type="radio"/> |
| NE-Lower Peninsula <input type="radio"/> | SE- Lower Peninsula <input type="radio"/> |
| NW- Lower Peninsula <input type="radio"/> | SW- Lower Peninsula <input checked="" type="radio"/> |



Promoting environmental literacy through education

Please rate your skills, experience, expertise, training, and/or background in the following areas, with “1” as the lowest level and “5” as the highest.

Area	Rating	Area	Rating
Sincerity & Passion to the MAEOE mission	5	Non formal Education Field	5
Leadership	4	K-12 Formal Education Field	4
Advocacy	3	Government	4
Availability to commit time to the organization	4	Environmental and/or Outdoor Education Curriculum	4
Marketing/Public Relations	3	Environmental Science	5
Networking/Outreach	5	Grant Writing	5
Fundraising/Sponsorships	3	Legal	1
Organizational Development	4	Finance/Accounting	3
Higher Education	3	Teacher Professional Development	4
Business	2	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	3

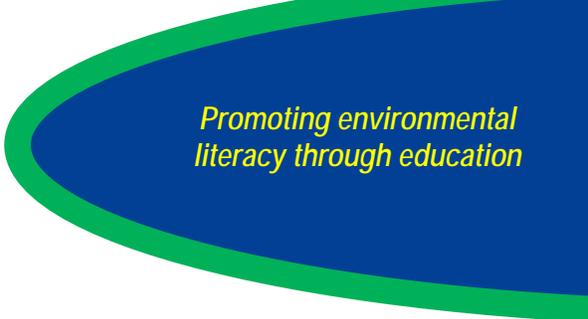
Relevant training/education/certifications not identified on your resume:

It's all on my resume! But I'll highlight the EEC-Professional certification and the National Green Infrastructure Certification. I'll also highlight the Natural Resources Leadership Development Institute training I participated in, which took place over 1 year through Purdue University, and the Nonprofit Board Certification training through Johnson Center for Philanthropy.

Skills you would bring to the MAEOE board:

I'm passionate about MAEOE's mission and committed to helping the organization move forward. One of my strongest skills is in network and partnership building, and I have connections in nonprofit, K-12, higher education, and government around the state that can help support the organization's mission. My experience in environmental education spans a variety of settings, which helps me be in tune to the different needs of formal vs. nonformal educators. I'm also an experienced grant writer and reviewer and experienced in nonprofit board leadership.





Promoting environmental literacy through education

Please describe any past experience you have as a MAEOE volunteer, or serving on another board, or in a leadership position.

I've been an active member of the EEC and Grants committees at MAEOE since I received my EEC in 2018. I've helped grow the EEC program through review and support of EEC candidate portfolios, through leading workshops and presentations, and by providing support to the EEC coordinator. On the Grants committee, I've helped with updates to the Grants rubric and have reviewed grant applications. I received a Nonprofit Board Certification from the Johnson Center for Philanthropy and have been a member of other environmental nonprofit boards, including Plainsong Farm in Rockford, MI and the Indiana Lakes Management Society. I was both a member at large and the Board Secretary for both of those boards. Currently I serve on the Groundswell Advisory Committee (our Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative local hub) and chair Groundswell's Projects Committee. I'm also a troop co-leader and product manager for my daughter's Girl Scout troop. Finally, I was just awarded NAAEE's ee360 Civics and Environmental Education - Change (CEE-Change) Leadership Fellowship.

Why do you want to serve on the MAEOE board?

I believe strongly in the power of environmental and outdoor education to grow the skills people need to build a healthy and resilient future. Outdoor and environmental education experiences, grounded in the places that people live, work, and play, can be the source of deep and lasting changes in people's knowledge and attitudes about how to live in a sustainable way on the Earth. To provide these experiences, environmental and outdoor educators need a strong professional network that helps us share best practice and support one another through the challenges and successes that are unique to our field. I have experience in building networks of support and education, and I care deeply about MAEOE's mission to support, connect, and empower our membership to make a lasting difference in our communities. I want to serve on the MAEOE board because I think I have a set of skills and experiences that can support this mission, and I want to give back to an organization that has provided a great deal of support to me during my time as a member.

In your opinion, what should be MAEOE's top priority in the coming year?

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused educators of all kinds to re-evaluate the structures and systems we work within. I think the upcoming year will require us to provide a great deal of support to environmental and outdoor educators grappling with unique challenges as they transition back to a more "normal" - or perhaps a "new normal" - manner of environmental education. I think this transition could hold opportunities for MAEOE to champion not just the inclusion, but the institutionalization of outdoor and environmental education in new ways across formal and non-formal settings. I'd like to see the board actively considering this opportunity in all of its activities over the next year.

Please list 2 professional references, their titles and their phone number. One MAEOE past or present board member is encouraged, in addition to a MAEOE member, coworker or volunteer that has worked with you as part of a group project or team.

Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck; Prof of Environmental Education at Ferris State University and MAEOE's EEC Coordinator - [REDACTED]

Lea Sevigny; Central Middle School Teacher (Forest Hills Public Schools) - [REDACTED]

