



Addressing Equity through Youth Afterschool and Summer Programs

Session Organizer: T'Noya Thompson, NAAEE

10:40 am - 11:30 am

[Session Padlet](#)

21st Century Community Learning Centers and similar afterschool and summer school programs provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.

Discussion Questions

- Are there opportunities to expand access to environmental literacy programming using the program?
- How else can we ensure underserved populations have access to enrichment programs that see them learning and recreating in the outdoors?
- How can we cultivate partnerships that are collaborative and sustainable to benefit youth?
- How do we ensure that this is done equitably both within districts and across the state?
- How can we meaningfully advance this work using existing COVID-19 Economic Relief funding, and the potential for additional funding for pandemic recovery, infrastructure, and/or climate change efforts?

Three Things You Must Know:

- Out of school time is a valuable opportunity for enrichment opportunities
- Cultivating partnerships is a critical pillar for positive youth development
- The importance of evaluating and communicating the impact of this work to secure future funding and support

Background & Key Resources

- [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#)
- [NOAA-21st Century Community Learning Centers Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grants](#)
 - Please visit the [You for Youth](#) site for additional information on this partnership and to view an interactive map to learn more about each of the grantees.

Session Speakers

- Jeff Cole, Network Lead, [Beyond School Bells](#)
- Meredith Dash, VA Environmental Education Specialist, [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#)
- Miriam Lund, Group Leader for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- Chris Neitzey, Director of STEM Initiatives, [Afterschool Alliance](#)
- Jolynn Thaickal, Program Assistant, [New York Department of Education](#)
- Elizabeth Whipple, 21st CCLC SEA Coordinator, [New York Department of Education](#)