

VAEE Board Code of Ethics



Core Principles:

As a member of the Virginia Association for Environmental Education (VAEE) Board, you share in the responsibility of supporting environmental education in Virginia and contribute to the ethical success of this organization.

Intent and Guidelines:

By serving as a VAEE Board member, you are accepting a position of public trust. In order to meet this obligation and uphold the dignity of the profession, VAEE Board Members will:

- Respect and obey the law as set forth by local, state, and federal governments.
- Comply with standard Board practices and exemplify ethical conduct towards our membership, donors, educators, partners, community members, and students.
- Safeguard academic freedom.
- Demonstrate personal integrity and exemplify honesty.
- Extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession.
- Continually work with community partners to improve environmental education opportunities in Virginia.
- Encourage the use of sound environmental education principles in management decisions.
- Strive for a just and sustainable world where environmental and social responsibility drive individual, institutional, and community choices.

I. Professional Practice – VAEE Board Members will:

- Promote competence in the field of environmental education by supporting high standards of education, performance, and employment practices.
- Accurately and adequately represent the facts and results of research and not base decisions on theological or religious beliefs, political pressure, or client or supervisor pressure.
- Endeavor to avoid situations where a conflict of interest may arise and address the Board openly and honestly with any potential conflict of interest concerns.
- Protect confidential information of staff, volunteers, students, and colleagues.

II. Professional Conduct – VAEE Board Members will:

- Act honestly, truthfully, and with integrity and transparency in all transactions and dealings.

- Accept responsibility for behavior and decisions.
- Possess an adequate basis for professional judgment.
- Respect the fundamental rights, dignity, and worth of staff, volunteers, students, and colleagues as well as our environment.
- Be aware of how personal belief systems may affect professional activities.
- Not accept nor offer gratuities, gifts, or favors that impair professional judgment or to obtain special advantage.

III. Social Responsibility – VAEE Board Members will:

- Listen and learn in order to better include individuals and groups from a variety of backgrounds regardless of age, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or socio-economic status.
- Practice professional behavior that is free from sexual harassment or discrimination with respect to religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, national origin, age, or physical restrictions.
- Respect and exhibit the respect we have for the communities with which we work and serve.