

PLAN IT FOR THE PLANET

an environmental summit



FUND FOR

TEACHERS

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Fund for Teachers is grateful for planning support from

**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

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Professional Development and Education

**THE FLORIDA
AQUARIUM** 

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Fund for Teachers' **Plan It for the Planet** aims to inspire educators teaching all grades and content areas to provide current, relevant environmental information that engages students and empowers them to design and implement authentic plans of action.

The Summit will be conducted virtually and is open to all educators. FREE of charge.

Educators are encouraged to invite one or more students to join them in participating. Presenters will share information about their agency programs and related educational materials available for student and teacher access. All portions of the Summit will be webinar based with chat room and polling opportunities. All presentations will be videotaped and available for participants.

SUMMIT AGENDA

all times eastern standard time

Welcome	12:00-12:15PM
Keynote Speaker Danni Washington, Science Communicator	12:15-1:15PM
Presenter Introductions	1:15-1:25PM
Breakout Session #1, National Agencies	1:30-2:20PM
Breakout Session #2, Regional Agencies	2:30-3:30PM
Student Advocate Speaker Anna Cerosaletti, Climate Activist	3:35-3:45PM
Closing Plan of Action Summit Survey Final Comments	3:45-4:00PM

Registration instructions can be found on page 13.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Danni Washington



Danni Washington is a TV host and science communicator, the first African American woman to host her own nationally syndicated science television series. She is deeply passionate about inspiring the next generation to connect with and understand the natural world. She has spent the last 10 years finding exciting and creative ways to communicate her passion for the ocean and science.

Danni was featured as a correspondent during the first season of *Unstoppable* on CBS. Danni has also hosted a variety of STEM productions including “Xploration Nature Knows Best”, “Untamed Science” and “Ocean Gems”.

In 2017, Danni was selected as one of the 10 young rising innovators profiled in CA Technologies #STEM10. She served as the 2018 spokesperson for the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, DC, and was a featured speaker/host at EarthX.

Danni is a graduate of the University of Miami with a degree in Marine Science and Biology. At the age of 21, Danni co-founded “Big Blue & You” to educate youth in the Miami community about ocean conservation using arts and media. Danni is also the co-creator of the Sea Youth Rise Up initiative.

STUDENT ADVOCATE: Anna Cerosaletti

Anna Cerosaletti is a junior at Penfield High School where she leads the school’s environmental club. She mainly works with the New York Youth Climate Leaders as its Rochester Field Organizer and as a producer of their podcast, *2 Degrees*. Anna also works with the Rochester Youth Climate Leaders and Color Penfield Green. Aside from climate activism, Anna loves to hike, ski with her school’s Nordic Ski team, and rock climb. She also plays the cello in the Hochstein Youth Symphony Orchestra and especially likes playing in chamber groups.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Registration is open through March 26, 2021, and is free of charge. To register, follow the link on page 13 indicating your registration information and your **break-out session preferences**. Educators may sign up for sessions about agencies located anywhere in the country, not just in their approximate regions. Sessions are being crafted around the participants who register by March 26. During the first week of April, participants will receive verification of their registration, break-out session assignments and instructions for Zoom links to all portions of the day.



BREAKOUT SESSION 1: NATIONAL AGENCIES

SESSION 1A - National Network of Ocean and Climate Change Institute (NNOCCI)

NNOCCI is a network of individuals and organizations with a common focus on climate sciences. Their mission is to conduct research and take action that will result in collective solutions for marine mammal conservation and climate science education. NNOCCI collaborates with more than 200 institutions including state and national parks and science centers. This session will provide information about ways in which teachers can access and share information with their students about climate science and climate solutions.

Session 1B - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA's scientific work is the foundation for its educational content that includes investigations of patterns, features and interactions of the Earth's oceans, coasts, Great Lakes, weather and climate. This session will feature a panel of presenters, each describing a specialized NOAA program. Descriptions will include The Teacher at Sea program for K-12 teachers to conduct research with scientists on a two-week voyage, details about virtual dives in National Marine Sanctuaries for protected lands and oceans, and information about Planet Stewards action-based grants.

Session 1C - North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE)

The mission of NAAEE is to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement through global networks of "environmental champions". Teachers are invited to join a community of educators formed through webinars, training courses and conferences. Equity and inclusion are integrated in all their work through their Resources, Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (RJEIA) program focus.

NAAEE maintains a comprehensive collection of peer reviewed, researched programs that result in K-12 positive environmental literacy outcomes. Participants will visit their eeLEARN series of online learning modules that explore foundational concepts of environmental education.

Session 1D - US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The USFWS collaborates with zoos and aquariums as places where conservation and wildlife protection intersect. Their National Conservation Training Center educational programs include offerings such as Conservation Connect videos and broadcasts, Eaglecam live streaming weekly updates for teachers and students, and the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program integrating art and science as students study migratory birds. Conservation History features an interactive timeline with segments such as Native American Roundtable and Conservation Heroes.

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Session 2A - Beardsley Zoo (CT), The Maritime Aquarium @ Norwalk (CT)

Beardsley Zoo focuses on showing the delicate balance that exists between living things and their environment. The zoo is committed to the preservation of endangered animals and actively develops strategies that will protect species in their habitats. Multiple programs are available for students and teachers, often utilizing their ZooMobile to provide information about conservation and species

protection for audiences from young learners to senior citizens. Beardsley Zoo partners with numerous regional agencies, including Bridgeport Public Schools and area universities.

The Maritime Aquarium leads visitors through ecosystems depicting the rivers that feed Long Island Sound, salt marshes that serve as coastal fish nurseries and deep-water “race” areas where sharks and rays navigate the transition to the Atlantic Ocean. Their hybrid-electric research vessel enables

children as young as eight to see what lies below the surface and monitor species diversity and abundance, water quality and weather. The Aquarium's cradle to career approach begins with a preschool serving the city's lowest income neighborhood with a marine themed curriculum. Professional development programs offer teacher workshops on climate change, early childhood STEM, and interpretation.

Session 2B - Buttonwood Park Zoo (MA), Mystic Aquarium (CT), Roger Williams Park Zoo (RI)

Buttonwood Park Zoo features a variety of animals native to Asia, Africa, Europe and North and South America. Its mission is to inspire the region to create a better future for wildlife through the use of engaging and educational experiences that connect the community to the natural world.

Mystic Aquarium is a marine science and education institution designed to inspire people to care for and protect our ocean planet through conservation, education and research. This presentation will focus on the threats affecting sea turtles. Suggested projects for

students and teachers include reducing the use of single use plastics, conducting debris clean-up events, conducting beach patrols and volunteering for animal rescue programs.

Roger Williams Park Zoo aspires to engage program participants as active partners in conservation. Using unique resources such as giraffe feedings and armadillo encounters they provide experiences that advance scientific literacy, while inspiring wonder, awe, empathy, curiosity and an emotional connection to wildlife, wild places and each other.

FLORIDA REGION

Session 2C - Brevard Zoo, The Florida Aquarium, ZooTampa

Located in Melbourne, FL, Brevard Zoo is home to animals from Africa, the Caribbean, rainforests and Florida ecosystems. Programs include zoo camps and teacher resources. Their core values focus on animal wellness and restoration of shoreline areas through conservation and education.

The Florida Aquarium provides an opportunity to see over 8,000 aquatic and terrestrial animals. Visitors explore complex ecosystems, engage in dynamic educational programming and look for wild dolphins in Tampa Bay aboard the

Bay Spirit II catamaran. The aquarium works to protect and restore our blue planet on many conservation fronts, including research and rescue efforts that help restore Florida's sea turtle and coral populations. In August of 2019, The Florida Aquarium, in partnership with Project Coral, became the first to successfully spawn critically endangered pillar coral in the laboratory. In person and virtual programs provide educational experiences for all ages from Aqua Tots for ages 3 and 4 to lifelong learning programs for seniors.

Rescue and rehabilitation animals are the focus at ZooTampa. Their unique exhibits include African Painted Dogs, Pygmy Hippos, Aldabra Giant Tortoises, Southern White Rhinos, African Elephants and Penguins and Florida Panthers and Manatees. Educational programs include Toddler Tuesday, sleepovers and summer camps. ZooTampa's participation in the Great American Teach-In will be described in their presentation.

Session 2D - SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment and The Lemur Conservation Foundation

Discovery Cove at SeaWorld provides interactive experiences with exotic

free flight birds, tropical fish, river otters and dolphins. This session will be presented by the SeaWorld Vice President for Zoological Design and Interpretation overseeing SeaWorld Parks in Orlando, San Antonio and San Diego.

The Lemur Conservation Foundation is an organization where art complements science, research dovetails with education, and a breeding program provides a genetic safety net for lemurs on the brink of extinction. The LCF partners with communities bordering protected lemur habitats in the northeast region of Madagascar. Their keystone education program, Ako Conservation Education, helps foster an appreciation for the natural world. Lesson plans, games, books and posters immerse students in the world of lemurs and allow them to acquire age-appropriate skills to address conservation concerns.

CHICAGO REGION

Session 2E - Chicago Zoological Society (IL), Cosley Zoo (IL), Racine Zoo (WI)

The Chicago Zoological Society, located in Brookfield, IL, is dedicated to inspiring conservation leadership by engaging people and communities with wildlife and nature. It houses 450 species on 216 acres. Programs are offered for toddlers through adults including Family Play Programs as well as Spring, Summer and Winter Camps for preschool through grade 8. The King Conservation Scholars program engages high school students, internships are available for college students and adult education supports teacher professional development, as well as a master's degree program.

Cosley Zoo, located in Wheaton, IL, is home to farm animals and native wildlife in their natural habitats, including white-tailed deer, red fox, Blanding turtles, a bobcat and a coyote. Their center for education and conservation offers educational programs for children ages 3 and older so they can learn how to care for the world around them through practices such as biomimicry and habitat design.

Racine Zoo covers 28 acres on the shore of Lake Michigan and houses over 75 species of animals. Their multifaceted grant funded programs at K, 3, 4, 7 and 9 grade levels are aligned to state and national standards. High school internship programs provide local students with experiences related to global conservation. Their Bringing the Zoo to You webpage includes nature challenges, crafts and a 13-episode TV series that takes viewers behind the scenes at the zoo.

Session 2F - John Ball Zoo (MI), Lincoln Park Zoo (IL), Shedd Aquarium (IL)

Located in Grand Rapids, MI, the John Ball Zoo utilizes trails, a farm, and an aquarium to exhibit animals from the Americas and Africa. Their ZooLIVE webcams provide real time observation of animal behaviors. Art at the Zoo is used to train visitors to use careful observational skills. Core education topics include: (preschool) animal body coverings and senses, (grades 1-3) animal classifications and habitats, and (grade 4 and above) predator/prey adaptations and plant/animal ecosystem connections.

Lincoln Park Zoo is located on 49 acres in the heart of Chicago. It is the home of over 200 species of animals as well as an arboretum with over 1,200 cultivated species of plants. Their educational programs, currently offered virtually, include Zoo Investigations where primary grade students take on the role of zoo scientists and investigate care challenges for animals including polar bears and gorillas. Middle school students become field researchers in their Partners in Fieldwork yearlong program. High school students create artwork about vulnerable species in their Canvas for Conservation program.

The Shedd Aquarium in Chicago provides windows into the aquatic animal world. Beluga encounters, beach clean-ups and 300 virtual dives with Caribbean reef sharks deepen understandings of the aquatic natural environment. Programs and resources are aligned with Amplify Science, NGSS and Common Core Standards. Live from Behind the Scenes Virtual Field Trips introduce listeners to penguins, sharks, Amazon animals and turtles. The Stay Home with Shedd video series includes recommended home-based activities.

TEXAS REGION

Session 2G - Dallas Zoo (TX), El Paso Zoo (TX)

The Dallas Zoo was named one of the nation's Top 10 Zoos, and it is the largest zoo in Texas featuring a 106-acre park. Zoo educators provide teacher resources and school programs to inspire conservation action, including Dallas Zoo Corps, a customizable project-based learning partnership. Teachers receive training and resources for facilitating student-led groups focused on wildlife conservation.

The El Paso Zoo contains over 220 species of animals from the three major areas of Africa, Asia and the Americas. Their Wild About Art program, inspired by the wolf sculpture located at the zoo entrance, launched an Art as a Conservation Tool program inviting students to create artwork related to the Mexican wolf and efforts underway to save this species from extinction through reintroduction efforts.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

Session 2H - Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (WA), Seattle Aquarium (WA)

The habitats at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium include Rocky Shore Marine Mammals and Seabirds, a South East Asian Forest Sanctuary, the Arctic Tundra and Red Wolf Woods.

Educational programs include Critter Club (ages 3-5), Animal Systems (Gr K-2), Ecosystems (Gr 3-5) and Climate Change (Gr K-5)/(MS/HS). Their mission is to foster empathy for animals through movement, role-playing and literature.

The Seattle Aquarium houses six major exhibits: Window on Washington Waters, Life on the Edge, Pacific Coral Reef, Birds & Shores, the Underwater Dome and Marine Mammals. Their Community Science program designed to spark students' interest in marine science engages high school students in collecting near-shore monitoring data and studying defensible species at nine local beaches. Collected data is shared with government and environmental agencies. The Cedar River Salmon Journey informs students about local salmon and the challenges of their return to their rivers of origin. The aquarium has embraced empathy for animals as the key motivator for their Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment program.

Session 21 - Northwest Trek & Wildlife Park (WA), Oregon Coast Aquarium (OR), Oregon Zoo

The Pacific Northwest Trek & Wildlife Park features regional wildlife species experienced through walking paths, as well as a vehicle tour through their 453-acre free roaming area habitat to view bison, big horn sheep, mountain goats, moose, Roosevelt elk, black-tailed deer, and caribou. Their online Wildlife Academy features live and virtual programs covering a variety of conservation topics.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium offers K-College lab program sleepovers and Behind the Scenes tours. Virtual programming includes career chats and information about job shadowing opportunities.

The Oregon Zoo is the oldest zoo west of the Mississippi River. Located near downtown Portland, this 64-acre facility is home to 230 species of animals, including 19 endangered and 9 threatened species. Keepers share the natural history of the animals, as well as their care and feeding. The zoo website includes activities for families to deepen their understanding of highlighted species.



STUDENT ADVOCATE

Anna Cerosaletti

The Rochester Youth Climate Leaders (RYCL) is an inter-school group of students that advocates for effective policy to reduce carbon emissions and educate people on how to make a positive impact individually. Founded in 2015, RYCL has hosted annual climate summits in the Rochester, NY area where in 2019 students and educators and were honored with the Environmental Innovation Award from the Seneca Park Zoo Society.

Anna Cerosaletti is a senior member of the leadership team for the RYCL and serves as the director of operations for the New York Youth Climate Leaders. Anna, a junior at Penfield High School, Penfield, NY, helped develop the Color Your School Green program in conjunction with the Climate Solutions Accelerator, based in Rochester, NY.

Anna is also the student of four-time Fund for Teachers Fellow Chris Dolgos.

REGISTRATION

To register for Plan It for the Planet, [click here](#).

Have ready your 1,2,3 choices for each session, as well as your contact information. If you are bringing student(s), please have their first and last names and grade(s) available. All communication for student participation will be sent to the teacher.

Participants must register by March 26. During the first week of April, participants will receive verification of registration, break-out session assignments and instructions for Zoom links to all portions of the day.



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