



Requests for Proposals

Come Together • In-Person Conference, Roanoke, VA • September 20, 2021

About VPOST and Our Conference

At the Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST), our vision is that of a Virginia where all children and youth have access to high-quality out-of-school time programming that prepares them to be successful in school, work, and life. As the state-wide OST network, we pursue this vision through professional development and policy initiatives. Our annual conference and our virtual and in-person trainings provide professional development and networking for hundreds of practitioners across the Commonwealth. We disperse information, tools, and resources via our monthly newsletters, and Resource Exchange site, which is in alignment with local and national efforts, as we are the state affiliate for the Afterschool Alliance and the National Afterschool Association. Lastly, we support local and state-level policy initiatives that lead to the elevation and sustainability of out-of-school time programs.

This year's conference theme, "Come Together" is inspired by the hope that reconnection brings. Just as many of us are reuniting with our loved ones thanks to vaccinations and dropping COVID-19 cases, many out-of-school time programs have or are beginning to return to in-person settings. It is a time to celebrate that we can gather with our participants and colleagues with reduced risk and truly cherish one another's presence. But there is no denying that we can't just go back to where we were. If we are to *come together* in an authentic way, we must also address the impact and trauma of interrupted learning and social isolation. We must reaffirm our commitment to creating more equitable and inclusive out-of-school time programs that truly invite everyone to *come together*. Finally, we must hold space for ourselves and others to process our journey in navigating these complex times. The need for the out-of-school time community to coalesce and be guided by leaders in the field is crucial to serving the young people of Virginia. VPOST is looking for those that have expert insights, proven strategies, inspiration, and innovations in the field to meet this challenge!

Our Audience

Approximately 175 active leaders in education and out-of-school time from across the Commonwealth, representing 190,000 youth from 130 communities. Our conference is designed for Afterschool/Summer Learning Programs, Schools, Community Centers, Libraries, Parks & Recreation Departments, Faith-Based Programs, Early Childhood/Childcare Leaders, Nonprofit Organizations, and Business Partners.

Presentation Details

All workshop presentations are 60 minutes in length and should have an effective mix of information and interactivity. Presentations should reflect the conference theme, strands and align with [VPOST's Best Practices](#). In order to be considered as a potential workshop presenter, content must fulfill a professional development need for attendees and may not be profit promoting. VPOST encourages individuals or businesses seeking product or service promotion to apply as a vendor for our exhibit hall. VPOST will accept only one proposal per individual or organizational department. Please email Christine at Christine.jones-monaccio@v-post.org for more information on sponsorship and exhibition.

Workshop Strands

- **Activities and Environments for the Whole Child**
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- **Social-Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Care**
- **Relationships and Connection**
- **Policy, Advocacy, and Pandemic Relief Funding**

Submitting your Proposal

Proposals should include:

- A description of the workshop and title
- A session outline, including a timeline for the 60-minute session
- Clearly stated goals
- Relevance to selected strand, conference theme, and Best Practices

Selection

Every workshop proposal will be evaluated and scored by the Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST) Conference Committee. Priority points will be given to those that have not presented at VPOST's conference in the year prior, in order to provide new content to attendees. If selected, you will be notified by close of business, **August 6, 2021**.

Logistics to Note

Technology: Presentations will be recorded and made available to those that cannot attend in-person events due to the pandemic.

Conference Admission: Workshops presentations receive one complimentary conference registration. The presenter(s) will have access to the entirety of the conference.

Dates at a Glance:

July 30: Workshop proposal deadline

August 6: Workshop Proposal notification

August 30: Final Workshop Presentations due

September 19: Pre-conference networking social

September 20: Conference

When and Where to Submit

Please complete the RFP form at:

<https://forms.gle/TTME7pMKmTF7tIDy9>

Questions may be directed to Christine Jones Monaccio, Professional Development and Quality Coordinator at christine.jones-monaccio@v-post.org. The proposal deadline is close of business on **July 30, 2021**.