Requests for Proposals

Are We There Yet?!: Cultivating Joy on the Long and Winding Road
Virtual Conference • November 9-10, 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.

Originally, VPOST intended for our 2021 conference to be held in-person. However, 2021 had different plans and we quickly shifted to a virtual conference. It only seemed fitting that this year’s conference theme authentically spoke to the enduring journey we are all on. “Are We There Yet?!: Cultivating Joy on the Long and Winding Road” is humorous and honest nod to the collective fatigue from constant adaptation. Nevertheless, when you are in a place where the future seems unpredictable, the need to remain in the present moment, and find joy in the everyday becomes paramount. Last year our conference was themed around resiliency. To find joy in the face of enduring stress and uncertainty is nothing short of resiliency. Joy provides momentary respite on that long road refueling our service of the children and families looking to us. Finally, small moments of joy help lift ourselves and our colleagues up on our journey in navigating these complex times. Join us cultivating joy for the out-of-school time community in Virginia. VPOST is looking for those that have expert insights, proven strategies, inspiration, and innovations in the field to meet this moment!

Our Audience

Over 200 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

Our virtual conference format will consist of a combination of live, plenary/breakout sessions, and pre-recorded, on-demand sessions. You will have the option on the workshop proposal form to select live or on-demand.

All workshop presentations are 45 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 sponsor or 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, Connection, and Self-Care
- 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 45-minute session
- Clearly stated goals
- Relevance to selected strand, conference theme, and Best Practices
- Any virtual meeting features that will be utilized, such as breakout rooms and polling
Selection

Every workshop proposal will be evaluated and scored by the Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST) Conference Committee. Priority points for live presentations will be given to those who can emphasize connection to cultivating joy. Those who have not presented at VPOST’s conference/professional development events in the year prior will also be prioritized. If selected, you will be notified by close of business, September 27, 2021.

Logistics to Note

Technology: VPOST will be using Zoom meetings to deliver workshop breakouts. Presenters must be willing and comfortable using this platform (VPOST or conference partners will serve as hosts, no Zoom license is necessary). Presenters must have a reliable Internet connection and participate in a rehearsal with our conference platform vendor, to ensure smooth technological delivery, on November 5, 2021. Presentations will be recorded and made available, post-event. If selected for live presentation, all materials should be emailed to VPOST, with a PowerPoint presentation or final outline by October 4, 2021. If selected for pre-recorded presentation, hyperlinked recording should be emailed to VPOST by October 4, 2021.

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

Dates at a Glance

September 17: Workshop proposal deadline

September 27: Workshop Proposal notification

Sept 29: Speaker Confirmation of acceptance

October 4: Final Workshop Presentations due or final recordings on You Tube or Vimeo

November 5: Pre-conference rehearsal

November 9-10: Conference

When and Where to Submit

Please complete the RFP form at: https://forms.gle/16aoZ3xRLeRutESt5

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, September 17, 2021.