

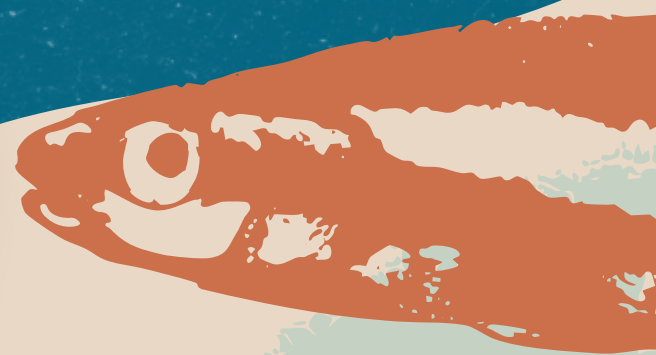


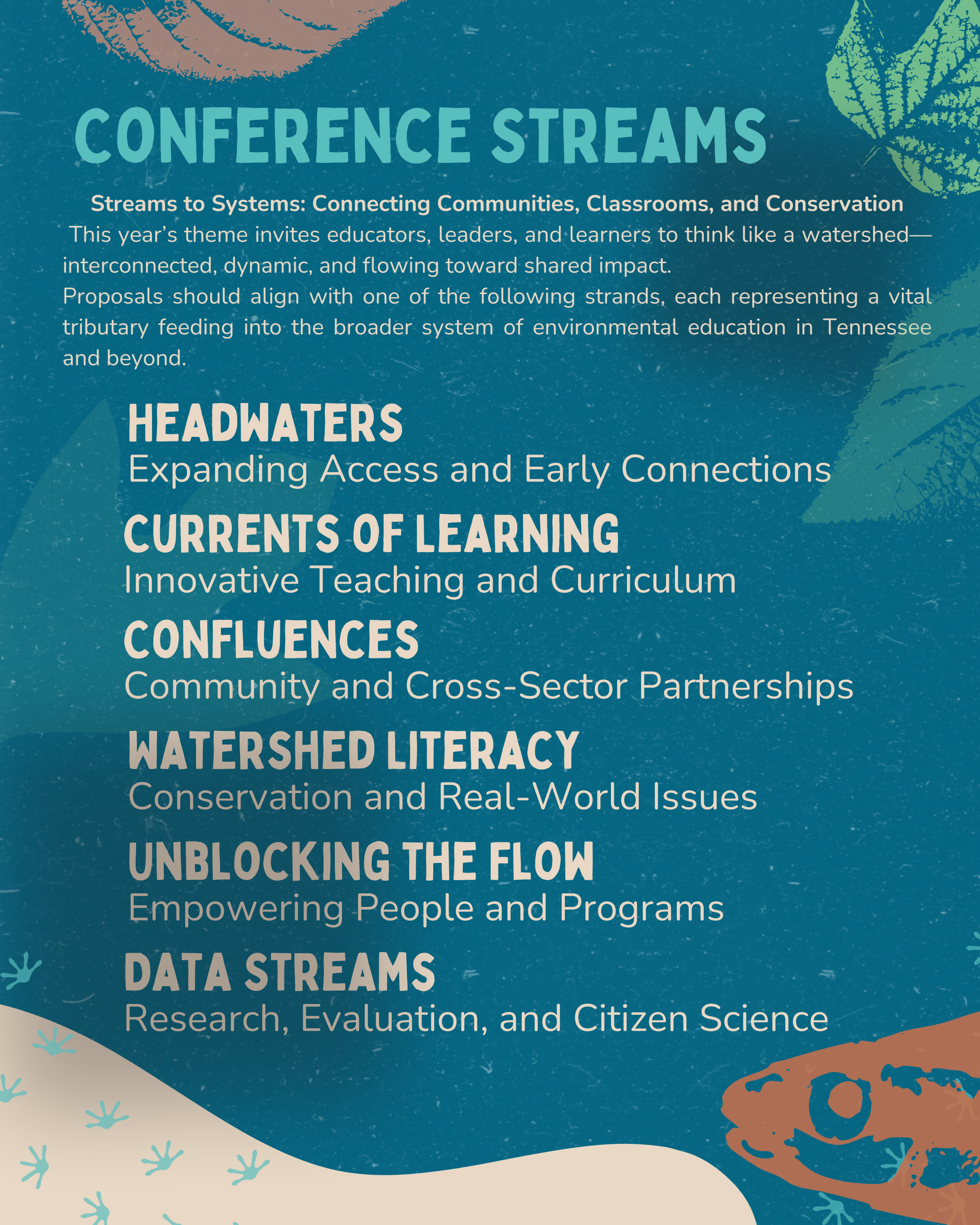
TEEA 49TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

STREAMS TO SYSTEMS

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES,
CLASSROOMS, AND CONSERVATION

Chattanooga, TN | September 25 - 28th, 2025



The background is a vibrant blue with a textured, water-like appearance. At the top left, a portion of a bright yellow sun is visible. In the upper right, there are green, leafy shapes representing trees or foliage. At the bottom right, the head of a large, orange fish with a white eye and a smiling mouth is shown. The bottom left corner features a light blue wavy shape with several small, light blue starfish. The main text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular sans-serif fonts in white and yellow.

CONFERENCE STREAMS

Streams to Systems: Connecting Communities, Classrooms, and Conservation

This year's theme invites educators, leaders, and learners to think like a watershed—interconnected, dynamic, and flowing toward shared impact.

Proposals should align with one of the following strands, each representing a vital tributary feeding into the broader system of environmental education in Tennessee and beyond.

HEADWATERS

Expanding Access and Early Connections

CURRENTS OF LEARNING

Innovative Teaching and Curriculum

CONFLUENCES

Community and Cross-Sector Partnerships

WATERSHED LITERACY

Conservation and Real-World Issues

UNBLOCKING THE FLOW

Empowering People and Programs

DATA STREAMS

Research, Evaluation, and Citizen Science

HEADWATERS

Expanding Access and Early Connections

The source of all systems is access.

This strand focuses on the first encounters with environmental education and strategies to reach more learners, more equitably.

Topics may include:

- **REMOVING BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION**
- **ENGAGING RURAL AND UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES**
- **BUILDING WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**
- **CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND PLACE-BASED PROGRAMMING**

CURRENTS OF LEARNING

Innovative Teaching and Curriculum

Education flows through classrooms and fieldwork alike. This strand features effective tools, methods, and models that energize environmental learning.

Topics may include:

- **STANDARDS-ALIGNED EE IN K–12**
- **OUTDOOR, PROJECT-BASED, AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**
- **STEM AND INTERDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATION**
- **EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN EE**

CONFLUENCES

Community and Cross-Sector Partnerships

Where waters meet, *strength* grows. This strand celebrates collaborative efforts that connect schools, nonprofits, agencies, and neighborhoods.

Topics may include:

- **SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**
- **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**
- **COLLABORATIONS WITH MUNICIPALITIES, BUSINESSES, OR LAND MANAGERS**
- **REGIONAL AND CROSS-SECTOR INITIATIVES**

WATERSHED LITERACY

Conservation and Real-World Issues

This strand focuses on using environmental education to illuminate natural systems and equip learners to care for the places they live.

Topics may include:

- **WATERSHED, ECOSYSTEM, AND BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION**
- **LAND USE, AGRICULTURE, AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**
- **TEACHING ABOUT WEATHER PATTERNS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**
- **NATURE-BASED PROBLEM SOLVING AND STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS**

UNBLOCKING THE FLOW

Empowering People and Programs

Like a free-flowing stream, thriving environmental education depends on removing barriers and reinforcing the systems that support it. This strand focuses on empowering individuals and strengthening the structures that carry EE forward. **Topics may include:**

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE PROGRAM GROWTH**
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATOR SUPPORT**
- **FUNDRAISING, GRANT WRITING, AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**
- **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT AND BOARD DEVELOPMENT**
- **EVALUATION AND LONG-TERM IMPACT TRACKING**

DATA STREAMS

Research, Evaluation, and Citizen Science

Knowledge feeds the system. This strand highlights the role of research and inquiry in shaping, supporting, and expanding environmental education.

Topics may include:

- **APPLIED RESEARCH AND PROGRAM EVALUATION**
- **CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE**
- **UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIONS**
- **FIELD-BASED INVESTIGATIONS AND DATA LITERACY**

STREAMS TO SYSTEMS

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Questions?

Reach out to

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