

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual REAP Symposium

Dear Prospective Symposium Attendee,

We are writing to invite you to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Research & Evaluation of Adventure Programs (REAP) Symposium, scheduled to take place in Atlanta, Georgia, March 18- 20, 2009.

The purpose of the REAP Symposium, which is co-sponsored by the Association for Experiential Education and Project Adventure, is to:

- Advance the adventure programming field through the production of evidence-based practices and related research
- Connect funding agencies with programs/researchers
- Involve a diverse group of people in an ongoing dialogue about evidence-based research and practices

For AEE, which accredits adventure education programs and has a research arm (the Council on Research & Evaluation or CORE), the symposium also provides an ideal forum for us to scrutinize the standards and best practices on which the AEE Accreditation Program process are based, as well focus and take action on CORE's annual agenda.

For Project Adventure, the symposium is a way to forward our mission of supporting and sustaining facility-based adventure programs. REAP helps us increase our own understanding of research and evaluation, while also helping our clients and the field do the same thing.

What began in 2004 as a small gathering of researchers, evaluators and program administrators, has grown into a symposium that last year drew more than 70 people to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to focus the collective vision around the need for research in the adventure education field, as well as advance the practical understanding of evidence-based research. The 2009 symposium will feature nationally recognized speakers, as well as presentations by researchers, program evaluators and program administrators. You will benefit from attending this symposium if you are currently interested in or currently engaged in program evaluation, evidence-based research, or searching for funding for any of the above.

We are also currently seeking presenters to share their research findings, funding opportunities and related topics. Benefits of presenting include the opportunity to expose your work to a broad audience that is heavily invested in the field; professional presentation experience; and contributing to the ongoing dialogue around evidence-based research and practices. The REAP Call for Proposals can be found on the AEE website.

We know finances will be tight for many of you this year, but we firmly believe that attendance at this symposium will allow many of you to better position your organization for financial sustainability. Relating your programs to evidence-based research and evaluation is increasingly important to all of us.

The symposium schedule will be finalized by late January. In the meantime, you can find more information about and register for the symposium at [www.aee.org](http://www.aee.org). If you have questions that cannot be answered by the documents posted online, please contact Alison Rheingold at [alisonrheingold@gmail.com](mailto:alisonrheingold@gmail.com).

We hope to see you in Atlanta!

Sincerely,

Paul Limoges, Chief Executive Officer, Association for Experiential Education  
Dick Prouty, President, Project Adventure, Inc.