

Call for Nature Experiences

2025 Conference of the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA (SSO:USA)

Theme: "Occupations and Nature: Connections and Transactions"

Nov. 6-8, 2025 - Galveston, Texas

Deadline for Submissions: March 14, 2025

[LINK TO THEME SUBMISSION SITE](#)

SSO:USA invites you to submit proposals for Nature Related Experiences as part of our upcoming conference, themed "**Occupations and Nature: Connections and Transactions.**" Building on SSO:USA's established *Call for Abstracts* and peer-review process for papers, forums, panels, and posters, we are excited to offer this opportunity for engagement with our conference's central theme. The theme concerns connections and interactions of nature and occupation. Just as nature-based contexts impact occupations that occur in various ecologies, human occupation has profound impacts on these and other ecosystems in the natural world.



Nature-related experiences will be integrated into the conference program, enhancing inquiry into topics such as nature as a transformative experience, inequitable access to nature, the influence or impact of nature on occupations, the influence or impact of occupations on nature, reciprocity and mutuality with nature, and the potential of contact with nature to enhance well-being, promote healing, and create supportive communities. Recent disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires also remind us of nature's destructive power and the need to attend to planetary health in order to protect humanity. The growing concern for environmental stewardship, coupled with the impact of human alienation from nature on well-being, highlights a critical juncture of environmental justice with occupations that re-engage with the natural world.

We acknowledge the breadth of nature contexts and topics related to nature and we therefore seek diverse and engaging proposals from various fields and interests. A dedicated sub-committee will thoughtfully select a *limited number* of nature-related experience submissions to ensure a balanced representation within our program. We eagerly await your creative contributions and the meaningful discussions they will inspire.

Mission: The SSO:USA is a research society that strives to build the body of knowledge in occupational science to benefit humanity. Contributions from all sciences and professions are welcome. The format of the conference emphasizes discussion and networking to enhance research.

NATURE RELATED EXPERIENCE SUBMISSIONS

We are seeking submissions that engage participants in nature related experiences that broaden and deepen understanding of the connections and transactions between occupation and nature in human experience. Each session will include time to reflect on how the experience engages with the theme “Occupations and Nature: Connections and Transactions”. Presenters must register to be part of the whole conference experience and discourse.

Presenters may participate in both the research and theoretical Call for Abstracts and/or the Call for Nature Related Experiences. Proposals must be submitted electronically by 11:59 PM PST on March 14, 2025. Submitters will receive email notification regarding their submission(s) status by mid April 2025.

Questions? ssoconference@sso-usa.net

The following are elements of the proposal

- Presenter(s) name
- Credentials (if applicable)
- Affiliation or partnership (if applicable)
- Title
- Linkage to nature
- Description of session activities and experiences
- Relevance to the theme: “Occupations and Nature: Connections and Transactions”
- Discussion/reflection questions to facilitate discourse about occupational concepts
- What participants may learn from the experience
- Space, environment needs (note available spaces within the Moody Gardens <https://www.moodygardens.com/>)
- Materials/Expendable Supplies (Supplied by presenter with possible reimbursement up to \$50 with receipt)
- Timing of session, inclusive of discussion portion (approximate timing: 15, 30, 45, 55 minutes)
- Maximum or minimum number of participants (if applicable)
- Institutional or religious limitations affecting availability on Friday or Saturday
- Funding acknowledgment (if applicable)

CRITERIA FOR REVIEW

At least three reviewers will rank each completed submission on the criteria listed below:

Criteria
Engaging experience for participants
Relationship to Conference Theme <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Nature● Ecology● Non-human made context● Nature & health● Sustainability of our natural world
Contribution to Occupational Science
Discourse / Learning Potential
Pragmatic within venue environment and program
Balance and fit within program