CALL FOR 2027 PROPOSALS

9TH ANNUAL EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

STUDENT AWARD

Submission Deadline: 1st April 2027

OMEP members who are currently sudents at the bachelor or graduate level
Are invited to submit proposals for the 2027 ESD Student Award.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) ranks among World OMEP's highest priorities. Since 2010 we have sponsored a competition for outstanding projects focusing on sustainability education for young children, with emphasis on holistic and children's rights perspectives. The results of this work since 2010 are impressive. Each year OMEP members from 5-34 countries have submitted projects. Over the years, these projects have and have included 244,359 children, 82,950 teachers, 93,784 families, more than 1,144 student teachers, and more than 6,809 others. We have reviewed nearly 1,300 applications and awarded projects in more than 30 countries.

2027 PROJECT EXPECTATIONS

For 2026 competition, we are looking for active, child- and play-centered sustainability education projects. Projects must focus on aspects of sustainability (society, economy and environment). *Children´s thoughts and ideas must play a leading role.* Projects must reflect children's rights perspectives, with preference for holistic approaches. The ideal project will contribute to innovation and transformation for participants and beyond.

Project requirements:

- Emphasizes children´s active and influential participation.
- Describes the context in which the project occurred, explaining why it was important and innovative in this place and time.
- Aims, activities, pedagogies, and outcomes relate directly to children and play.
- Focuses on one or more aspects of sustainability (society, economy, environment)
- Names and reflects one of more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (https://sdgs.un.org/goals).
- Must be of high quality and inspirational for other early childhood educators.
- May include families, communities and organizations.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES FOR THE 2027 ESD STUDENT AWARD

1. Projects must involve
   - (a) work directly with children between birth and age 8, with preference for children younger than 6 years of age; and/or
   - (b) work conducted during their teacher education studies.

2. Projects must be recent (started 2025 or thereafter) or be ongoing.

3. Projects must have produced substantial results or be fully completed by April 2027.

4. Proposals must be submitted in English, French or Spanish.

5. Narratives must be clear and concise, describing the project´s activities and outcomes, with clear information about how children participated in and influenced the project.

6. To be considered, the 2027 ESD Student Award Proposal Form (Appendix 1) must be complete and include a signature by the current OMEP national president. Change for new submission process

7. Proposals must be received via email to the persons named below by **April 1, 2027**. Proposals will not be accepted after the deadline.

8. Additional criteria for selection appear in the attached Project Quality Indicators (Appendix 2) that will be used for evaluation of the project. Change as necessary for new submission process.

The ESD Leadership Committee will review all proposals. Between 1 and 6 projects will be selected, with geographic representation as one selection criterion. Winner(s) will be **notified by May 5, 2026**.

THE AWARD

Winners will be invited to present their OMEP World Conference 2027 in Morocco. They will receive some support for their travel and the conference registration fees will be waived. Winning projects will be uploaded on the World OMEP website and ESD Resource Bank.

For inspiration and information, see previous winning projects:
https://omepworld.org/education-for-sustainable-development/

Send inquiries and submit proposal to both email addresses below:

Dr. Judith Wagner at jwagner@whittier.edu **and**

Dr. Adrijana Višnjić-Jevtić at adrijana@omepworld.org