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ANCA *Directions* 2018 Call for authors and Newsletter Submittal Guidelines

Published quarterly since 1989, ***Directions*** is a collection of articles, announcements, and commentaries relevant to the nature and environmental learning center profession. We firmly believe that to succeed at highlighting innovative and impactful trends and best practices in the nature center field, we need voices from leaders like you! Please consider writing an article for *Directions*!

In the past, ***Directions*** has featured articles on everything from break-even budgeting to discussions about theories underpinning the mission of the nature center movement: connecting people to nature. In 2017 we reached out to our members to better understand what they need from ANCA and the following questions emerged. We would like to address these questions in the 2018 issues of *Directions* by telling your stories, specifically, how you have addressed these questions at your center.

- What impact should nature centers have in the communities they serve? How should this impact be measured?
- How should nature centers maintain relevance?
- What does diversity and equity look like at a nature center? How do we ensure nature centers are equitable?
- How are nature centers adapting to maintain excellence in environmental education and conservation?
- What does advocacy look like for nature centers at the local, national, and global levels?

If none of these topics spark any particular thoughts, we would love to receive any article that you find valuable as a nature center leader and think your peers could benefit from as well!

Submittal Deadlines

- Winter *Directions*: January 1st
- Spring *Directions*: March 1st
- Summer *Directions*: June 1st
- Fall *Directions*: October 1st

Text Submittal Requirements

- Text must be submitted within the body of an email or as an attachment.
- Text attachments must be in Word (.DOC or .DOCX) or Rich Text Format (.RTF).
- Text should be submitted with minimal formatting using upper and lower case. Use bold to indicate emphasis and italic for long quotes or publication names.
- Text should not contain titles in all caps.
- Text should be checked for spelling and grammar before submittal.
- Articles should be 700 - 1400 words.
- Technical language can be used as needed, but, remember your audience may not have your level of expertise in the subject.
- Fun, light-hearted articles are always welcome as well.

Image Submittal Requirements - Please include a visual component to your article: photos, artwork, etc, are welcome.

- Images must be submitted as separate email attachments – do not embed images in text documents.
- Images must be submitted in JPG, PNG format.
- Do not edit images in JPG format at any time as it will cause loss of quality.
- Images should be sent in as high quality and large size as possible.
- Include short captions and photo credit for each image.

Editing

- The editor reserves the right to reject material.
- Images will be adjusted, sized and cropped to fit newsletter layout and support quality reproduction.
- Text will be placed and formatted to conform to the newsletter design.

Editing will only be done to achieve the following:

- Correct spelling or grammar
- Improved clarity
- Communicate the same meaning with fewer words
- Conform to newsletter layout and style patterns
- Produce consistency & reinforce patterns
- Fit content within layout and space limitations

Contact Caitlin Fader at caitlinfader@natctr.org to submit your article or for inquiries.