

Earth Educators' Rendezvous 2026

July 20-23, 2026 | Columbia, SC

https://serc.carleton.edu/earth_rendezvous/2026/index.html

Conference Chairs:

- Barbra Sobhani barbra.sobhani@colorado.edu
- Alix Davatzes alix@temple.edu

Program Planning Committee Members:

Contributed program:

- Annie Klyce, Vanderbilt University
- Ginny Isava, California State University-Fullerton
- Jabari Jones, Bowdoin College

Workshops lead: Megan Plenge, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Share-a-thon lead: Angela Daneshmand, Santiago Canyon College

Exhibits and sponsorships: Adam Ianno, Anne Egger

Local Hosts:

Katherine Ryker, University of South Carolina

Michelle Hardee, University of South Carolina

Liaison to Southeastern Section: John Knox, University of Georgia

Website Support Staff: Monica Bruckner, Science Education Resource Center

Executive Summary

Our goals for this meeting were to successfully execute a new four-day format for the Rendezvous and maintain the spirit of programming intent, appealing to a wide range of participants. The planning committee was restructured as a result of the large changes to the EER format. Each member of the committee had well-defined roles and a set timeline which kept committee members engaged throughout the extended two year planning process. This re-structure was successful and it is strongly recommended to continue, with only minor changes to some roles.

Measures of success

The overall feel of the meeting did not change, despite the change in budget and the needed adjustments. Committee members reported many positive comments and feedback throughout the meeting. Overall results of the participant surveys indicate the same level of satisfaction with many aspects of the meeting: communication, facilitation and design as in prior years. See result from participant survey below.

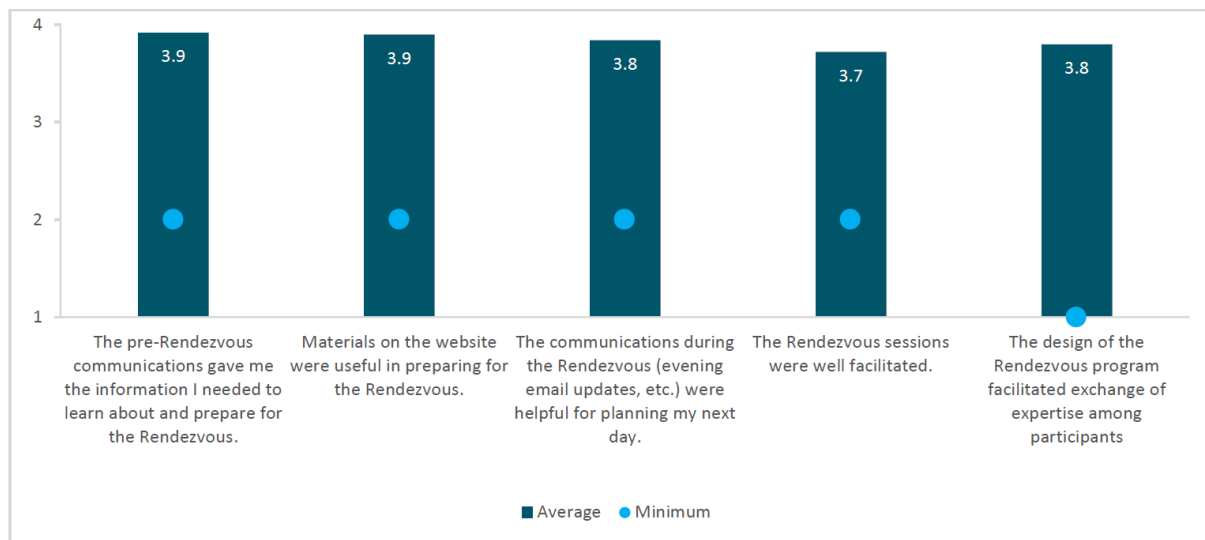


Figure 2: The agreement ratings (with minimum values shown with light blue dots) for general statements about Rendezvous facilitation and execution. All maximum values are 4.

Future recommendations

Participants liked the four day meeting structure, we should continue, but re-evaluate some of the aspects of scheduling. Having the poster session and share-a-thon at the same time should be re-evaluated. Having the drawing each day was a great way to bring everyone back together at the end of the day. The exhibitor showcase was well attended. Should re-evaluate the four day workshops in the future as it seemed to isolate the participants somewhat. For the committee, we recommend adding a second workshop lead, as that work is a significant load for one person. We need to look at advertising and marketing of the meeting to increase the attendee count. We recommend that the past co-chair be involved in the following meeting committee if possible. It was also helpful to have a past meeting host as a co-chair.

Demographics

Total participants: 210

University with Graduate Programs	60%
Primarily Undergraduate Institution	19%
Two-year College	13%
K-12	4%
Former K-12	3%
Informal Education	5%
Other	6%

Female	70%
Male	23%
Do not identify as male or female	3%
Prefer not to answer	1%

Native Indian or Alaska Native	2%
Asian	5%
Black or African American	5%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%
White	85%

Themes

The program was designed to make sure participants from different disciplines and career phases had an opportunity to interact and access programming that matches their interests. The contributed program had three broad themes: curriculum and instruction, geoscience education research, and building strong programs.

Program: https://serc.carleton.edu/earth_rendezvous/2026/program/index.html

Next Year's contact for report: Alix Davatzes alix@temple.edu