

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



STUDENT



SPONSORSHIP

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) is an organization whose members are the state agencies with primary responsibility for management and protection of the fish and wildlife in 24 states and Canadian provinces, an area covering nearly 3.7 million square miles of some of North America's most wild and scenic country, inhabited by over 1,500 premier wildlife species. Its objectives are to cultivate friendly relations and mutual understanding among officials engaged in natural resources conservation and to coordinate the programs they administer. WAFWA also promotes public understanding and appreciation of the importance of conserving natural resources and encourages the management of fish and wildlife resources. The primary goal of the Student Engagement Program is to increase opportunities for professional engagement by embracing individuals with various lived experiences and perspectives, and by supporting student leaders who have had to overcome barriers. SEP is actively seeking fellows to participate in the annual Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Summer Meeting on June 1-5, 2026, in Boise, Idaho. During the WAFWA Conference, SEP will conduct a student workshop that will provide valuable career development information. Students will participate in discussions and gain information on selected topics relevant to seeking employment in the natural resource field. There will also be opportunities for students to speak with professionals regarding employment prospects. For more information on the conference, go to <https://wafwa.org/StudentEngagement>

The following expenses will be awarded to student fellows:

- Hotel (2 fellows per room)
- Meals
- Conference Registration
- Airfare or reimbursement of gas with a receipt

Students are responsible for their means of transportation to and from their local airport (if flying) and personal miscellaneous expenses. Completed application and all materials are due March 2, 2026 and must be submitted electronically to StudentEngagement@wafwa.org.

Students will be notified by late March 2026 to confirm their registration status, where and what time to report to the conference.

Applicant Criteria:

Member states/provinces in WAFWA include: Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Northwest Territories, Oklahoma, Oregon, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Yukon.

To be eligible to participate in this program, at the time of application you:

- Must be living in a member state, either as a current college student (undergraduate or graduate), or a recent graduate (within the last 12 months);
- Must be pursuing a degree in a natural resources or a conservation-related field or have a career interest in conservation and natural resources; including GIS, Human Dimensions, etc.
- Must be at least 18 years of age;
- Have a 2.4 (recommended) cumulative Grade Point Average.

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2026 Student Stipend Application

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Mailing Address: _____

City State/Province Zip Code

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

School Name: _____

School Location: _____
City State/Province Zip Code

Classification: ☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Graduate Student ☐ Recent Graduate

Major/Minor: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____ Gender: _____

Have you been a previous SEP Stipend recipient? Yes No

How did you hear of this opportunity? *(If from a professor, advisor, etc., please provide that person's name, and department and spell out all acronyms)*

The following materials must accompany this completed application form:

- A copy of your most recent unofficial transcripts
- A copy of your current resume
- A letter of recommendation from a college advisor OR a faculty member

The primary goal of the Student Engagement Program is to increase opportunities for professional engagement by embracing individuals with various lived experiences and perspectives, and by supporting student leaders who have had to overcome barriers. Why does this program interest you? (300-450 words)

Explanations will be evaluated on the following criteria: student leadership experience, connecting this opportunity to education and professional goals, grammar, and spelling.

By signing below, I verify that all information provided in this form is true and correct.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Completed applications (including additional materials listed on page 2) are due March 2, 2026, and must be submitted electronically to StudentEngagement@wafwa.org. Letters of recommendation may be submitted separately by including your name in the subject line.