



VIRTUAL TRAINING
STARTING AN SWCS
STUDENT CHAPTER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 | 3 - 4 PM CT

Our mission is to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation.

When you join SWCS, you join a community of conservation professionals who care about the future of natural resources. Our members engage in important conversations about soil and water, support the sustainability of our working landscapes, and serve as conservation leaders.



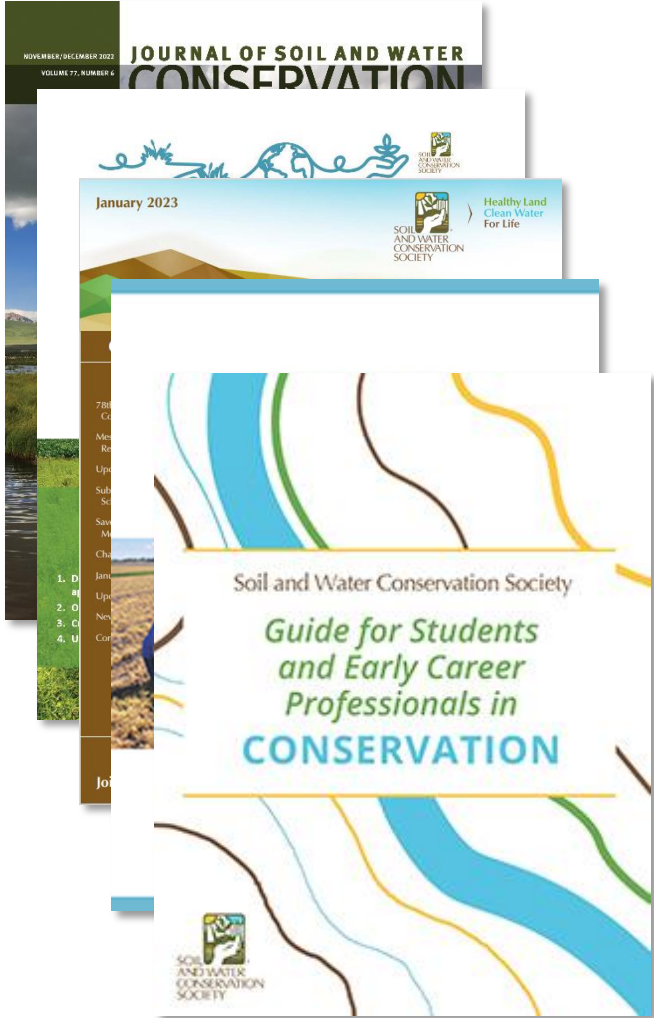
Professional Societies

As a professional society, we advocate for and support students and professionals on their conservation career paths. Our platform empowers you to align your local efforts with a global movement, amplifying your influence and multiplying your impact.

- Connect members with resources and opportunities
- Career support and professional development opportunities
- Community and a network building
- Advocate for our industry and it's professionals and students
- Enhance your resume and LinkedIn profile

What We Do

- **Advance Knowledge** – *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, Special Projects, Programs
- **Support Learning** – International Annual Conference, Virtual Events, Chapter Events, Awards and Scholarships
- **Foster Communication** – Conservation Media Library, Conservation NewsBriefs, Conservogram
- **Advocate** – Science and Policy Committee, Advisory Sessions, Conservation Practitioner Poll, CEO in DC
- **Build Community** – Chapters, Networking, Students

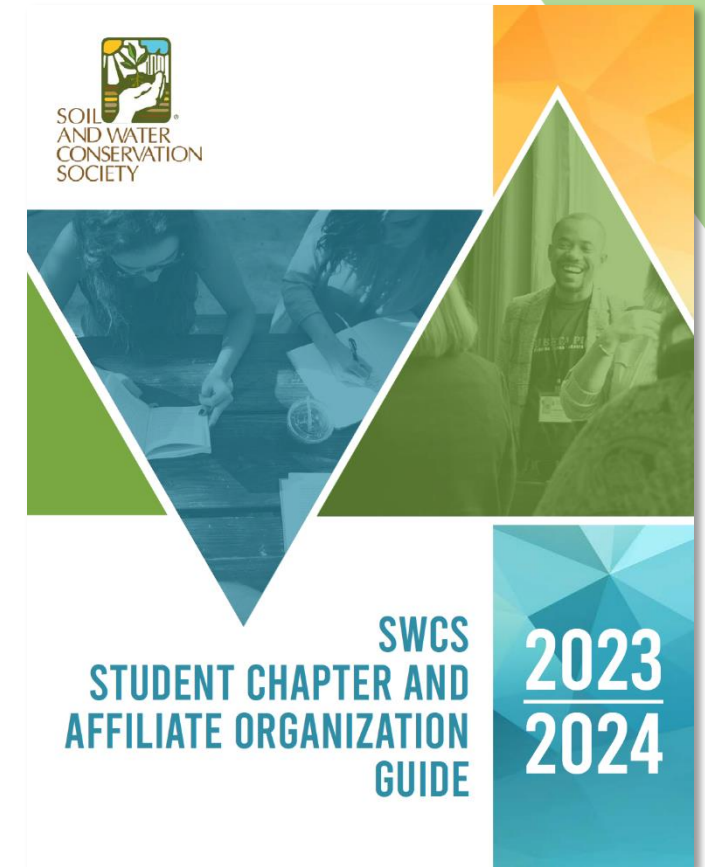


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SWCS Student Organizations

Why should you join or start a student group through SWCS?

- Networking and Career Growth
- Resume Building and Leadership Development
- Educational Resources and Support
- Community Impact



Potential Affiliate Student Clubs

- Agronomy/Agriculture
- Environmental Science
- MANRRS Chapters
- Sustainability
- Climate and Society
- Conservation
- Women in STEM
- Ducks Unlimited
- Community Garden
- Ecosystem Science
- Sierra Club
- Young Farmers and Ranchers
- Soil Conservation
- Water Conservation
- Green Innovation
- Leadership in STEM

Program Timeline



SEPTEMBER

- Host an initial interest meeting
- Fill out the [primary contact form](#)

OCTOBER

- Participate in Fall SWCS Student T-Shirt Competition

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- Receive swag from headquarters
- Brainstorm conservation event ideas

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- Begin planning your conservation event (with resources from headquarters)

MARCH/APRIL

- Host a conservation event!

MAY

- Fill out the [end-of-year survey](#)

Benefits of SWCS Affiliation



SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

Affiliate Organization



SOIL
AND WATER
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SOCIETY

Student Chapter

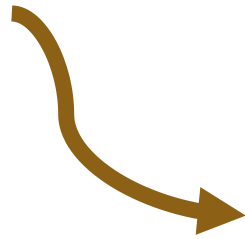
- Listing on the SWCS website
- Use of the SWCS student chapter logo/affiliate logo
- A swag package from SWCS headquarters
- A potential chapter feature on SWCS media platforms
- Resume building tools and support
- \$150 reimbursement for meeting/event expenses (must complete the end-of-year survey)

Affiliation Checklist

1. (By November 1) Fill out the primary contact form
2. (At each meeting/event) Ask attendees to fill out the digital sign-in form to track event attendance. To be eligible for affiliation, at least ten students must fill out this sign-in form.
3. (Optional) Obtain official student organization standing at your school.
4. (Optional) After your event, send in photos and a brief description of your event to staff for a chance to be featured on SWCS social media platforms.
5. (By May 15) Take the end-of-year survey to provide feedback on your year with SWCS.

Student Governance Resources

Available at
swcs.org/studentchapters



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Month by Month Breakdown

September - Kickoff

GOAL: Hold your first meeting.

So you have decided you want in?
Host a kick off meeting to
determine your campus
community's interest in SWCS!
Search for an advisor and review
the governance resources at
www.swcs.org/studentchapters.
Provide information to SWCS so we
can support you with resources.

TO DO:

- Use the [SWCS flyer template](#) to create a meeting flyer and share on your campus and on social media.
- Use the [SWCS meeting agenda](#) suggestions to help structure your first meeting.
- Ask attendees to fill out the digital [sign-in form](#) at any meetings or events you have, even initial planning meetings! SWCS staff can provide you with records from these sign-ins for your use. Alternatively, you can have attendees sign in with their names and email and provide that information to headquarters staff via email to renee.bouldin@swcs.org.
- Fill out the [primary contact form](#). The person filling out this form and those they list as co-leaders will receive the leadership and planning resources from SWCS monthly. We recommend having an advisor fill out the form.

October – Build Momentum

GOAL: Start gaining official SWCS affiliation.

You started—that's awesome! Let's keep up the momentum and make sure you're on a path to success for this year. Didn't have a chance to find an advisor last month? Didn't get to hold your kickoff meeting? That's okay, try again this month!

TO DO:

- Fill out the [primary contact form](#) and make sure at least 10 students fill out the digital [sign-in form](#) at any of your meetings to be eligible for initial SWCS affiliation. Chapters and groups who complete these two steps by November 1 will be provided with official affiliation resources. These include SWCS affiliate logos and free swag!
- Determine your governance structure using the [governance resources](#).
- Participate in the Fall SWCS Student T-Shirt Competition! SWCS staff will send additional resources on how to enter the contest. Winners get free t-shirts for their group featuring their design.

November – Finish the Semester

GOAL: Win the t-shirt competition!

You're officially settled into this year—congratulations! Next step? Win the t-shirt competition! Send in your designs and vote on your favorites. The winning chapter or group will be announced in December. In the meantime, keep hosting meetings and build up a strong group of students and friends. Start discussing holding a conservation event in the spring and gauge what types of events and topics interest your organization.

TO DO:

- Host a meeting to discuss a spring event. Determine your group's interests and options. This is the pre-planning phase, so just get some ideas flowing and have an open conversation on what you would like to accomplish with your event!
- Vote on your favorite t-shirt designs and hopefully win the t-shirt contest!
- For those chapters who applied for SWCS affiliation, you should receive your free SWCS swag this month to the address you gave on your [primary contact form](#)!

DECEMBER

Ace those finals and remind folks to keep a lookout for your next meeting in the spring semester!

January/February – Event Planning

GOAL: Plan your conservation event!

Welcome back for the spring semester—let's get into the planning phase! In January and February, choose what type of event you want to host and set a time and place! SWCS staff will send planning resources to help you make your event a success! Some options for events include:

Professional Development Activity

Speaker Panel

Networking Event

Office Tour

Site Visit

Cleanup or Service Event

Workshop

... *and more!*

TO DO:

- Determine the type of event you'd like to host. What will be most valuable to your group?
- Find a location to host your event. This will depend on the type of event you choose. Confirm your location and set a date and time for your event.
- Decide if you'll need to find speakers or guides to help you with your event. Send out requests and confirm their participation.
- Determine if you'll need participants to register for the event ahead of time. Will there be a limited number of spaces available? Will you need to coordinate carpooling? If so, set up a form to collect their information.
- Start spreading the word about your event! Share information on social media and tell your friends!

March/April – Make a Difference

GOAL: Host your conservation event!

It's time to host your event! This is it, what you've been working toward! Use coming SWCS resources to help make your event a success. Don't forget to take lots of photos!

TO DO:

- Send out event reminders to your co-planners, your speaker(s) or guides(s), and your participants! What should they know before attending your event? Will they need to be dressed to work outside or are you hosting a business casual event? What will they need to bring? Will there be any food?
- Prepare using the SWCS event planning resources sent to you at the beginning of the semester!
- At your event, make sure folks use the [digital sign-in form](#)! Take lots of photos you can share with headquarters for a chance to be featured on SWCS social media platforms.

May – Wrap Up Your Year

GOAL: Submit the end-of-year survey.

You did it! Before you roll into summer, don't forget to reflect on the work you've accomplished this year. Use the end-of-year survey to let headquarters know what you've been up to and set yourself up for next year. If you've received SWCS official affiliation, by taking this survey you will also be eligible for a \$150 expense reimbursement. Additionally, this form will allow us to help you kick things off smoothly next year!

TO DO:

- Determine who will be the primary contact for your group in the next school year.
- Fill out the [end-of-year survey](#) by May 15. You will receive instructions for how to receive your \$150 reimbursement if you are eligible.
- Communicate to your group that you will be continuing next year! SWCS will have renewal resources available in the fall.

SUMMER

Enjoy your summer! Congratulations on all you've accomplished this year!



Additional Student Resources

Available at www.swcs.org/students



Virtual Events



Career Guidance



Annual Conference



Leadership Roles



Scholarships



Virtual Events



SWCS hosts educational virtual events for students and those beginning their conservation careers.

View upcoming virtual events and archived recordings at www.swcs.org/studentevents.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR SERIES

WEDNESDAYS AT 5 P.M. EST VIA ZOOM

SESSION 5: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023	TIME MANAGEMENT
SESSION 6: OCTOBER 25, 2023	MANAGING BURNOUT
SESSION 7: NOVEMBER 29, 2023	EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SPEAKING
SESSION 8: JANUARY 24, 2024	COMBATTING IMPOSTER SYNDROME
SESSION 9: FEBRUARY 21, 2024	CREATING A PERSONAL MISSION

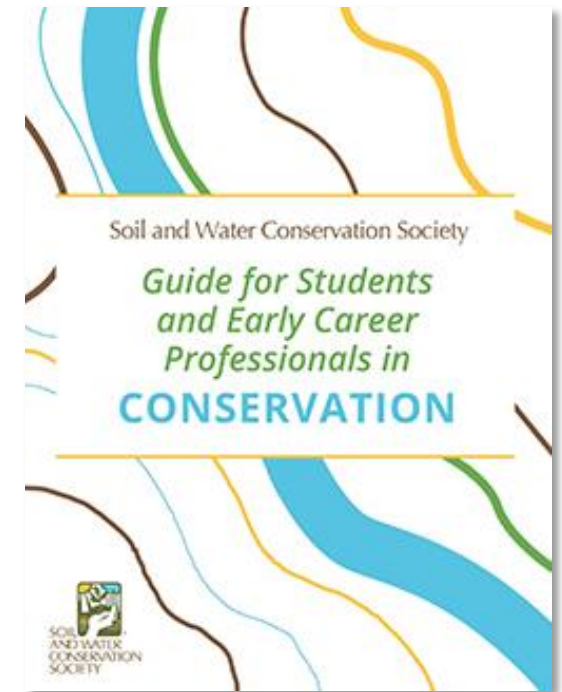
HOSTED BY:





Career Guidance

- SWCS Guide for Students and Early Career Professionals in Conservation
 - Transitioning into graduate school or a job
 - Making and maintaining professional connections
 - Advice from SWCS members
 - Conservation funding opportunities
 - And more!
- Career Center
- Conservation Career Profiles





SWCS International Annual Conference



- **Attend** – Learn about the latest research, implementation, and policy
- **Make Connections** – Student Networking Session
- **Present Your Work** – Posters, Oral Presentations, Symposia
- **Assist as a Student Moderator** - Assist with breakout session moderation and room support, in exchange, SWCS provides free conference registration and three free hotel room nights
- **Apply for the Student Leader Internship** - Assist with a variety of projects and take an active role in the conference, part-time and remote optional work



Leadership Roles

- Student Summer Internship
- *(once you graduate)* SWCS Emerging Leaders Program
- Student Chapter Leadership
- Science and Policy Committee Student Representative



Scholarships

In 2022, SWCS and our chapters gave out over
\$30,000 in scholarships!

SWCS has three scholarship opportunities for all members.
Contact your local chapter directly for information regarding
chapter scholarships.



Questions?

Thank You!



Renee Bouldin

Chapter and Community Builder

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