

# NATIVE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## The Wildlife Society Announces a Professional Development Program for Indigenous Students Interested in the Wildlife Profession

As a scientific organization for professionals who manage and conserve wildlife and habitats, The Wildlife Society (TWS) is increasingly concerned about the lack of ethnic and cultural diversity within the profession. Diversity is essential for the profession to grow and meet myriad conservation challenges. The Indigenous community has enormous potential to enrich diversity within the wildlife profession.

The TWS Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group (NPWMWG) membership, composed of wildlife professionals and students, tribal and non-tribal, recognizes native peoples' cultural, spiritual, and biological connections to the land. TWS and the NPWMWG support the development of Indigenous wildlife professionals.

TWS believes that one of the most effective ways to support Indigenous wildlife students is to give them the opportunity to attend TWS's annual conference. Therefore, TWS and NPWMWG announce the 2024 Native Student Professional Development (NSPD) Program.

### How the 2024 NSPD Program Works:

Up to 10 individuals will be selected to attend the TWS national conference. Components of this year's program include complimentary conference registration, conference mentorship, one-year TWS & NPWMWG membership, stipend for trainings and books, wildlife career panel discussion, networking events, and engagement with TWS leadership.

As TWS members, NSPD participants will receive the bi-monthly magazine *The Wildlife Professional*, weekly electronic newsletter *The eWildlifer*, free online access to TWS' journals, access to TWS' Member Directory, and more!

Would you like to attend the annual conference of The Wildlife Society?



The TWS annual conference is the largest gathering of wildlife professionals in North America. There, you can learn about cutting-edge research in wildlife biology, management, and conservation. The conference runs October 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> in Baltimore Maryland and offers hundreds of paper and poster presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities. This year's agenda includes resume review and other student-focused sessions.



Find out more about the 31<sup>st</sup> annual conference here: <https://twconference.org>

Find out more about the NPWMWG here: <https://wildlife.org/npwmwg/>

### Eligibility:

- Member of a Native American, First Nations, or Indigenous Tribe, or identify as Native Alaskan or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in a relevant academic discipline such as wildlife biology or ecology
- Display a record of academic excellence and a strong interest in pursuing a career in wildlife management or conservation

Students within 6 months of graduation are eligible. Qualified applicants will be evaluated by a panel consisting of the Chair of the NPWMWG, two other NPWMWG members, a TWS staff member, and representatives from other program partners.

### Applications must include:

- Name, address, email, phone number, tribal affiliation, name of college or university
- Current level of study (undergraduate or graduate) and field of study
- Most recent *official* transcripts
- Essay (500-750 words) explaining why you would like to participate and how this program might benefit your career development. You may also address how your personal and cultural experiences and skills contribute to the wildlife profession. Mention relevant extracurricular activities, societies, honors, or awards

All application materials to submitted through this google form <https://forms.gle/jhcHNBEnVjrS4aQTA>

Questions? Email Remington Bracher  
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**Deadline: August 18, 2024**

*If you would like to support this program, please contact Lauren Ruotolo [lruotolo@wildlife.org](mailto:lruotolo@wildlife.org)*