



The Wildlife Society expresses gratitude to its partners, who made the 2025 Student Travel Grant Program possible for wildlife students nationwide. This year's program provided 25 students with complimentary admission and travel grants totaling \$18,000, as well as monetary assistance for student networking events throughout the conference.



98% of participants were satisfied with the program

100% of participants would recommend the program to others

96% of participants shared that the program improved their professional skills

Student Travel Grant Program: elevating wildlife students in need by providing financial assistance essential for attending The Wildlife Society's Annual Conference to help launch their professional endeavors in wildlife conservation.



Reduce Financial Barriers

The first steps in wildlife conservation are the hardest. By providing travel, accommodations, and waived conference fees, this grant supports students in need from a diversity of life experiences.



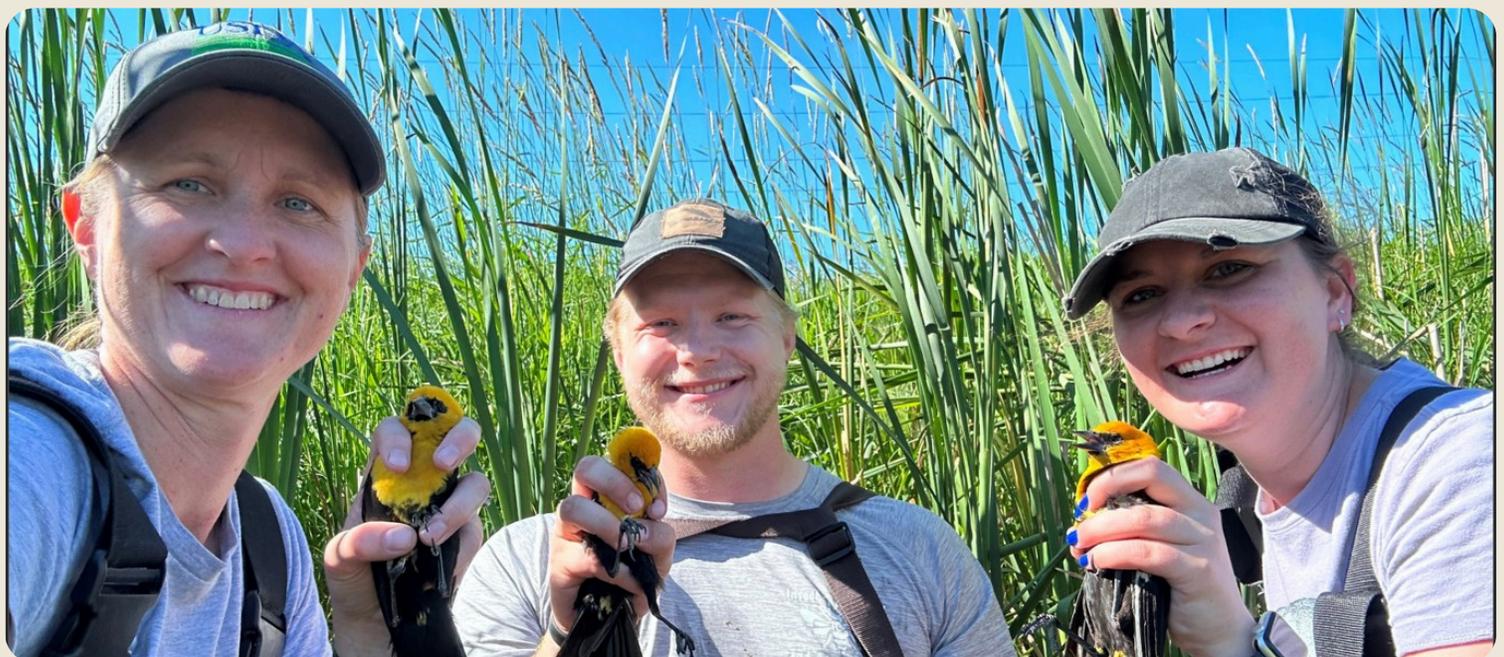
Educational Experiences

Supporting students pursuing their passions to make meaningful contributions to the world of wildlife education, science, and conservation.



Professional Networking

Your contribution was integral to providing experiences and network connections that will impact student participants for a lifetime.



Testimonials

McCaide Wooten, Ph.D

“The Annual Conference provided an excellent opportunity for me to connect with other wildlife professionals, including many who were not specifically focused on wildlife health —my primary area of expertise. This experience broadened my understanding of wildlife science as a whole and opened new avenues for future collaboration. Some of the best aspects of the program were the wide variety of talks that showcased diverse research topics and the valuable networking opportunities that facilitated meaningful professional connections.”



Cara Yocom-Russell, M.S.

“The student travel grant was easy to apply for and offered at just the right time, making it possible for me to attend the Annual Conference. The financial support helped cover my travel expenses, allowing me to fully participate in the event. Attending the conference was an incredible experience—I met new people, networked with professionals, and had the opportunity to see the amazing research being conducted across the field of wildlife.”

Testimonials

Ali Dimitriou, B.S.

“Attending the Annual Conference was a valuable experience that helped me clarify my professional goals by exposing me to the wide range of career paths within wildlife research and management. Through conversations with professionals from government, academia, and non-profit organizations, I gained a deeper understanding of how my interests in applied conservation research fit into different sectors. The opportunity to connect with experts working in diverse areas of wildlife conservation also opened my eyes to potential career paths I hadn’t considered before.”



Gabby Barnas, B.S.

“I made many valuable connections with professionals who have conducted or are currently conducting research similar to mine, and discussing my work with these experts was incredibly helpful in shaping the direction of my graduate research. I also had the opportunity to meet wildlife professionals from across the country who work on a wide range of conservation issues, in different sectors, and with diverse species. These conversations broadened my understanding of the field and introduced me to career paths I hadn’t known existed—many of which I’m now eager to explore further.”

Testimonials

Koby Pearson-Bortle, B.S.

“The Student Travel Grant program greatly reduced my financial stress, allowing me to focus on learning and fully engage in the Annual Conference experience. It also helped ease my anxiety, making it much easier to network and connect with professionals and other graduate students in my field. As a result, I was able to participate more confidently and take full advantage of the opportunities the Annual Conference offered.”



Laura Dykstra, M.S.

“Attending the conference helped me reflect on post-PhD career paths and build connections to assist in finding a future career. Conversations with postdocs inspired me to continue pursuing a research-focused career, and I've gained an idea of potential mentors and research areas that align with my interests. I also spent time at the Certified Wildlife Biologist help session, where I learned about consulting careers - particularly in the area where I hope to live and work after my PhD. The conversation helped me understand the types of roles available in consulting, and I've decided to apply for the Associate Wildlife Biologist certification after completing my plant systematics course this semester.”



Thank you to our 2025 funders!



WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



Carl Wolfe
Family Estate

The Wildlife Society seeks additional funding to support this program and cultivate the next generation of wildlife leaders. Every donation you provide will make a meaningful difference. Please reach out to learn more about partnership opportunities.

Program support:

- Monetary Donations
- In-kind (wildlife gear)
- Conference Sponsorship

Contact Us

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