

NATIVE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



THE
WILDLIFE
SOCIETY



The Wildlife Society's Native Student Professional Development Program supports Indigenous wildlife professionals by providing mentorship and professional opportunities for Native American and First Nations students pursuing careers in wildlife sciences.

Program Information:

- Participants attend the 2026 TWS national conference, November 1st-5th, in Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.
- Participants receive complimentary conference registration, specialized workshops, conference mentorship, one-year TWS & NPWMWG membership, access to wildlife career panel discussion, networking events, and engagement with TWS leadership.



Eligibility:

- Member of a Native American, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or Indigenous Tribe with political or legal recognition, or individuals who are actively engaged with Indigenous-led organizations (e.g., Native Hawaiian Organizations or Alaska Native Corporations)
- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in a relevant academic discipline.
- Display a record of academic excellence
- Students within 6 months of graduation are eligible.

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 transcripts (Unofficial are fine)
- Essay (500-750 words) explaining why you would like to participate and how this program might benefit your career development.

To apply, please fill out this Google Form: [2026 NSPD Application](#)
Application deadline: August 15th, 2026

Please email any questions about the program or application process to Steele Searce at TWSNSPD@gmail.com

Thank you to this year's sponsors:

USDA APHIS TWS Canada Section TWS Western Section Jeff Alvarez TWS Montana Chapter Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists

For more information on how to support the program, **contact Lauren Ruotolo at lruotolo@wildlife.org**