

Proposal for TWS Virtual Student Engagement Initiative

The 2020 TWS Virtual Conference set a record for attendance with over 2,500 attendees from 30 countries, all 50 US states, and 10 provinces and territories of Canada. This year we're using the expanded reach of our second virtual conference to invest in the future of TWS by convening leaders from across each of our **140+ student chapters**.

Objective

Increase opportunities for student professional development, networking, and engagement at **#TWS2021** while building a foundation for future TWS leaders at all levels of the organization.

Need

- Minimize barriers to participation
- Enhance value of **#TWS2021** program for students
- Create opportunities for broad connections

Key Results

- Attendees from all student chapters
- Engaging/informative student activities
- Strong organizational participation and support for students

Impact

- Engaged & expanded TWS student network
- Increased Org Unit membership
- Empowered future leaders of the Society at all levels

The Plan

The Wildlife Society will extend the early registration rate for all student chapter TWS members, work to ensure student representation from each of our 140+ student chapters, partner with the **National Association of University Fisheries and Wildlife Programs** to develop new student chapters and increase student conference participation, create exclusive student networking and engagement opportunities, and spotlight TWS student-led initiatives. Help us show broad organizational support for students and connect with student chapters from across the globe.

The Ask



REGISTRATIONS — Help introduce the next generation of wildlife leaders to TWS. Connect with a local student chapter and consider sponsoring a first-time conference attendee.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT — Contributions to this initiative will help TWS expand student events and resources. Donate [here](#) or send a check to the address below (*Memo: TWS2021 Students*).



LOCAL NETWORKING EVENTS — If safe to do so, consider hosting a local watch party or networking event for members and students. Let's reconnect responsibly.



NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT — Sometimes all it takes is a little nudge and an open door. Let students know how important they are to TWS. Send Mariah a brief note of support or a snippet about what TWS means to you, and we'll share those messages with students at **#TWS2021**.