

# 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 if the profession is to grow and meet the nation's conservation challenges. The indigenous community has enormous potential to enrich diversity within the wildlife profession.

TWS has an active Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group (NPWMWG) composed of wildlife professionals and students, tribal and non-tribal, who recognize native people's cultural, spiritual, and biological connections to the land. TWS and the NPWMWG have been exploring ways to promote the early development of Native American and indigenous wildlife professionals.

The Wildlife Society 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 – the largest gathering of wildlife professionals in North America. The Society is therefore raising funds to enable indigenous students to attend the 25th Annual Conference, to be held in Cleveland, OH October 7-11, 2018 through the Native Students Professional Development (NSPD) Program.

**How the Program Works:** Individuals selected for this program will receive funds to help cover registration fees, lodging, meals, and transportation to and from the conference. Program participants will also receive a one-year membership in The Wildlife Society and become members of the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group.

Would you like to attend the 25th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society?



Join us at The Wildlife Society's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, to be held in Cleveland, OH October 7-11, 2018. There you can learn about cutting-edge research in wildlife biology, management, and conservation, as well as meet colleagues and receive mentoring from wildlife professionals in a wide range of fields. The conference offers hundreds of paper and poster presentations, half-day and full-day workshops, related field trips and many networking opportunities. Student attendees can also participate in a career fair and attend a host of student activities including a student-professional mixer and quiz bowl.



*TWS would like to extend thanks to Sundance Consulting, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, APHIS National Wildlife Research Center, the US Forest Service, the Shakopee Dakota Tribe and others for their generous financial contributions to this meaningful, worthwhile effort.*

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, and access to TWS' Member Directory, and more!

**Eligibility:** Candidates must be members of a Native American, First Nations, or Indigenous Tribe, or identify as Native Alaskan or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in a relevant academic discipline such as wildlife biology or ecology. Applicants must display a record of academic excellence and a strong interest in pursuing a career in wildlife management or conservation. Qualified applicants will be evaluated by a panel consisting of the Chair of the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group, two other working-group members, a TWS staff member, and representatives from other program partners.

Find out more information about the conference here: <http://twsconference.org/>

**Applications:** Submissions must include name, address, email, phone number, tribal affiliation, name of college or university, current level of study (undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate), field of study, and a copy of most recent *official* transcripts, showing courses and grades. Also include an essay (500-750 words) explaining why you would like to participate, how this program might benefit your career development, how your personal and cultural experiences and skills contribute to the wildlife profession, and any other special circumstances you may have. Mention any relevant extracurricular activities, societies, honors, or awards.

**Deadline:** Email all application materials to Ashley Archer [ashley.archer6@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.archer6@gmail.com) no later than **August 17, 2018.**