

WAYNE SANDFORT STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION

CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Central Mountains and Plains Section (CMPS) of The Wildlife Society (TWS) is offering travel grants for students who plan to attend TWS's Annual Conference. Travel grants of **up to \$500** per individual (additional funding may be available for groups) will be awarded to a limited number of CMPS (CO, KS, ND, NE, SD, UT, or WY) students to assist with expenses incurred while attending the **2026 TWS Annual Conference**.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Be a member of a State or Student Chapter within CMPS.
- 2) Be a member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section (you are automatically a member by belonging to one of the 7 states within CMPS: CO, KS, ND, NE, SD, UT, or WY).
- 3) Be a member of The Wildlife Society (<https://wildlife.org/>).
- 4) Currently reside in the CMPS geographic boundary
- 5) Qualify through one of these options (A or B):
 - A. Be a recent Baccalaureate graduate or enrolled at least half time in a program leading to an undergraduate degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field at a college or university within the geographic boundary of CMPS.
 - B. Be a current or recent Master's or PhD student enrolled at least half time in a program leading to a graduate degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field at a college or university within the geographic boundary of CMPS.
- 6) Provide a trusted academic mentor's signature or email confirmation acknowledging your application and qualifications.

We encourage all that are eligible to apply, however general preference will be given to the following:

- 1) Undergraduates and/or first time TWS Annual Conference attendees
- 2) Students who are currently or recently have been involved in activities of TWS, CMPS, a State Chapter and/or Student Chapter of TWS
- 3) Group applications with 3 or more individuals
- 4) Additional pending or secured sources of verified funding

Each individual applicant (including individuals within a group application) must submit the following electronically by midnight on Friday September 4th to the CMPS Student and Early Career Professional Committee Chair, Rachel Shively grants@cmps-tws.org:

- 1) A completed, fully filled out, typed application form signed by the student and academic mentor *ex: academic advisor, committee member, or trusted professor. Note: electronic signatures are acceptable, or a complete email string from the student to the mentoring professor is acceptable.*
- 2) A typed, one-paragraph narrative describing the student's involvement in The Wildlife Society activities (Student Chapter, State Chapter, Section, /or TWS).
- 3) A typed, one-paragraph narrative explaining why you should receive a CMPS Student Travel Grant.
- 4) Sign a statement of understanding that you will submit a 1-page post-conference report of your conference experience by the end of the year to grants@cmps-tws.org
- 5) Successful applicants will submit receipts for registration, lodging, travel, /or related expenses to receive reimbursement of **up to \$500** each (or the amount of funding

approved to a group).

Incomplete applications (empty responses), applications not typed, and applications not submitted electronically will be disqualified. Application available below.

Successful recipients will be notified as soon as possible after the application deadline.

Payment will be made as reimbursement when the CMPS Treasurer receives a receipt confirming payment of registration fees for the TWS conference (forwarding an electronic copy of registration confirmation from TWS will meet this requirement). Award recipients must also submit a 1-page post-conference report.

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
Street Address, P.O. Box, Apartment Number	Daytime Phone	
Number City, State, Zip Code		
E-mail Address		

Is your application part of a group application? ____Yes ____No

Names of the other students in your group: _____

Are you a member of your college or university Student Chapter of TWS? ____Yes ____No

Name of the Student Chapter:_____

Are you a current member of a CMPS State Chapter (CO, KS, NE, ND, SD, UT, WY)? ____Yes ____No _____State

Are you a current member of the Central Mountains and Plains Section? ____Yes ____No

(If you pay State chapter dues or pay \$5 to CMPS on the TWS membership portal, you are a CMPS member)

Are you a current member of The Wildlife Society? ____Yes ____No

Have you ever attended a TWS Annual Conference? ____Yes ____No

If yes, when was your most recent attendance? _____

Do you have a passport or other acceptable travel document to visit Canada? Yes ____No ____

Are you an undergraduate student *currently enrolled* at least half time in a program leading to a Baccalaureate degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field at a college or university within the CMPS? ____ Yes _____ No

Have you recently (*within the past 6 months*) graduated with a Baccalaureate degree in wildlife biology or closely related field at a college or university within the CMPS? _____Yes _____No

College/University	Degree Sought	Graduation Date

Graduate Student:

Are you a graduate student *currently enrolled* at least half time in a program leading to a Master's or PhD degree in wildlife biology or a closely related field at a college or university within the CMPS? _____Yes _____No

▪	▪	▪
College/University	Degree Sought	Expected Graduation Date

Have you recently (*within the past 6 months*) graduated with a Master's degree or PhD in wildlife biology or closely related field at a college or university within the CMPS? _____Yes _____No

▪	▪	▪
College/University	Degree Sought	Expected Graduation Date

INVOLVEMENT WITH THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Student Chapter Activities:

Do you currently or have you held an office or chaired a committee in your Student Chapter?
_____Yes _____No

List Student Chapter *offices* held and/or *committees* chaired, and approximate dates. List other activities if you have not held an office or chaired a committee:

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State, Section and/or TWS Activities:

Are you currently or have you recently been involved in State, Section, or TWS activities? _____Yes _____No

One to two paragraph narrative describing your involvement in Society activities (Student Chapter, State Chapter, Section, or TWS) and approximate dates.

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2026 ANNUAL TWS CONFERENCE

One-paragraph narrative explaining why you should receive a Student Travel Grant to attend the 2026 Annual TWS Conference and what you hope to gain from your attendance.

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Are you presenting a paper, poster, or attending a workshop, and/or having an official volunteer role at the upcoming TWS Conference?

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Paper/Poster/Workshop/Volunteer Role

ESTIMATED CONFERENCE EXPENSES

Total projected expenses \$ _____

Expenses: Please list details on the estimated conference registration, workshops, training, lodging, travel or other related expenses).

Itemized Expenditures	Estimated Expenses (\$)	Notes / Details
Conference Registration		
Workshop(s)		
Training		
Lodging		
Travel (airplane, vehicle, etc.)		
Other		

Total funds secured or pending from other sources (Please attach details) \$ _____

Outstanding travel needs requested from CMPS (\$500 maximum per individual, additional funds available to groups with demonstrated need \$_____

VERIFICATION

I, _____, the undersigned, understand that there is a required post-conference report due by **December 15th, 2026**. A minimum 1-page report of conference experiences, session attendance, workshop/trainings taken, photographs, and overall impressions will be submitted to grants@cmps-tws.org, agree that your report may be included in the CMPS Winter Newsletter or highlighted on the CMPS Facebook account.

The undersigned will submit vendor receipts by **December 15th, 2026** for reimbursement of **up to \$500** per individual (or amount awarded to group of students) for registration, workshops, training, lodging, travel, or other extraneous expenses related to attending the TWS Annual Conference.

The undersigned represents that the information supplied above and on attached documents are true.

The undersigned represents that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements as stated herein and that the financial need as stated is accurate.

Failure of the undersigned to submit a report by December 15, 2026, or insufficient information, or lack of proof of paid expenses will result in forfeiting part or all of the travel grant.

▪	▪
Student's Signature	Advisor's Signature **

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Advisor's Name and School Address (Please Print)

▪	▪
Advisor's Daytime Phone Number	Advisor's Email Address

** If an academic mentor's signature (physical or electronic) cannot be acquired, please include an email confirmation from them that they have reviewed and approve of your application.