

July Webinar 500WS Pod Leaders

Agenda:

- Update from June leadership meeting
 - Refining our mission and vision: developing a statement about being inclusive, but focusing on science (and improving the way that it is done)
 - Bringing women together who had not met in person but united around shared values from the beginning (exciting to see faces of those we had only talked on the phone with)
 - Ice-breaker exercise that can be used in teaching and workshop facilitation
 - Trust-building and getting to know each other (shared activities: yoga, hike, bbq)
- Overview of past activities.
 - Post-election blues and pledge document drafting
 - Moving into becoming an organization with roots and continuity, building off of what was expressed in our pledge to each other and to all women scientists
- Future activities
 - 52/52
 - Pilot in Weld County, CO
 - Changing hearts and minds in an agricultural, more rural setting
 - Doing research to understand what the science needs are
 - Taking pod activities to the national level
- Summer of Op-Eds: writing has always been one of the core activities we've focused on
 - Honing in on issues that are important to science at the US national level, as well as for other communities and local-level concerns
 - Creating an exchange hub for shared editing, knowing that the pieces will improve with multiple eyes on them
 - Pod participation
- Expanding leadership and advisory board
 - Organization leadership rotations from pods
- Diversity in our pods
 - Reach out to other disciplines and backgrounds.
 - We don't have a "silver bullet" to address these issues, but it is very important to us to push in that direction. (persistence and diligence)
 - Speak up when inclusion is not valued.
 - Sometimes it helps to reach out directly to those we want to involve.
- Improving communication among pods and between pods and leadership
 - Two ways to make your voice known
 - A survey is being designed to ask pods what their needs are, and to be able to see what other pods are doing and add local activities
 - Also use slack and email (feel free to ping us or Angie)
 - What are your needs?
 - What are your ideas for how to do this?

- Expect a survey soon
- More questions and suggestions

QUESTIONS: (Please add your questions below so we can streamline the phone call)

Will there be a way to listen/read transcript of this new pod leader webinar after the fact?

Im having a lot of difficulty with getting pod members to be active. Previously, some members would come to meetings, but I've had times when no one has shown up. How do I organize? -Claire B, NOLA pod

I am having this same problem - Tanya (Philly).

Me too (Reilly--Laramie, WY), especially getting participation at the leadership level. I think we have good interest, but getting people to commit has been a challenge. Advice?

Thanks Claire for the Question! We will chat about this.

Pick an activity so members feel connected. Make meetings regular. Continue to invite new people.

Make sure to have range of members so that one person doesn't have to do everything. Ideas from London - core leadership that plans events for members to attend,

What are you guys doing at your meetings? I don't know exactly how to "pitch" this to potential members?- Jodie

Our first few meetings were just planning, but we are looking forward and trying to make them more entertaining. We are going to try an escape room at Franklin Institute and some evening meetups

Our (Wageningen) meetings our first and foremost about networking. And often this can be a good icebreaker. Then in later meetings, we discussed a 'mission' for our pod. Next we will choose activities to focus on that address our mission. - Kelly

We just had a Women in Stem night at a bar - three women scientists from our group gave presentations about their research while audience members enjoyed a drink. - Maria from NYC pod

What is the role of the advisory board?

Bounce ideas off of them, including men as allies. These are more senior career members who weigh in on activities based on their experiences.

What is happening in Knoxville pod with regard to 52-in-52?

Presentations to rural schools, and "imagine a scientist" exercise. This has been a positive experience to reach out to students who may have never met a scientist, or have expectations about who they are and what they do.

This is a great example of something that could be translated to the national level, if we have some guidelines set aside for it. Other pods can learn from each other!

Suggestions for summer of op-eds

- Get someone from your newspaper to come give a talk
- Check out webinars

<https://500womenscientists.org/500ws-summer-of-opeds/>

How can we have pod leaders bounce ideas off each other

- On slack
- On monthly webinars
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Keep track of your activities:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13B16cB2Y3o_GDvd8VpMAJDBQvE82BWQb8a_WikqUbLw/edit#gid=0