



Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society

"Excellence in Wildlife Stewardship through Science
and Education"

Nomination Form for: Professional Development Award

The Virginia Chapter of the Wildlife Society will award \$1,000 to an undergraduate (any level) enrolled at a Virginia college or university during 2026-2027. The award can be used to fund a wide variety of activities, including support (travel, equipment, supplies, housing, and/or wages) for a research project, travel to give a presentation at a conference, or any other professional development-related expense the student can reasonably justify.

The award is intended to benefit students who show promise as wildlife educators, researchers, and/or managers. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Virginia Chapter in Lexington on March 10, 2026. The recipient will be expected to attend the meeting to receive their award.

Eligible students must be majoring in a natural resources program that may include wildlife, outdoor recreation, environmental studies, biology, forestry, or a related field. They must also be in good academic standing and be a member of The Wildlife Society (any level) or a similar campus club.

To apply, applicants must submit a cover letter (no more than one page) that includes 1) a brief summary of the activity the funding will support, 2) a synopsis of wildlife-related organization(s) or campus club(s) they participate in, and 3) the name, institution and email address of the faculty member who will provide a letter of support (see below). Applicants should also provide a transcript from their home institute (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).

The applicant's cover letter may also describe what influenced their entry into the wildlife field and how participation in a professional society can enhance their career.

The applicant also should arrange for a current faculty member of a Virginia college or university to send a letter of support directly to the Awards Committee. The letter should address the need for and the significance of the activity that will be supported by this funding, as well as provide a candid appraisal of the student.

In addition, each applicant must provide a statement that answers the following three questions:

- What will you use this funding for (be as specific as possible including costs and justification)?
- What are your short-term and long-term career goals?
- How will this funding help you achieve those goals?

Applicants may choose their communication mechanism— either in writing or via video/audio submission. For answers submitted in writing, there is a two-page limit. For answers submitted as video or audio recording, there is a 4 minute limit.

Application Checklist:

- ◇ Cover letter
- ◇ Transcript
- ◇ Statement
- ◇ Letter of recommendation

Please submit your cover letter and statement via email to katie.martin@dwr.virginia.gov no later than **February 9, 2026.**