



STUDENT/EARLY CAREER TRAVEL AWARD 2026

The Southern California Chapter of The Wildlife Society

The Southern California Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS SoCal) is offering an undetermined number of travel awards of up to \$1000 each to help qualifying students and early career professionals attend the [2026 Annual Meeting](#) of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society in Monterey, CA (2-6 February 2026). The awards may cover the costs of pre-conference symposia or workshops (see [here](#) for details). The Chapter will award grants up to a maximum of \$1,000 (depending on availability of funds) per individual per calendar year. There is no grant award minimum.

Applications are due **31 OCTOBER 2025** by 11:59 pm PDT. The successful candidate(s) will be chosen by the TWS SoCal Executive Board using the following evaluation criteria:

Eligibility

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of TWS SoCal (\$10/year; sign up [here](#))
- Be a student enrolled at an accredited college/university within the chapter's geographic boundary (San Diego, Imperial, Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties)
- OR be a recent graduate (within the past 3 years) who resides or works within the chapter's geographic boundary

Application Instructions

All applicants must submit electronic copies of the following:

- Complete application form [here](#) (see below for worksheet).
- Proof of TWS SoCal membership (copy of membership dues payment receipt).
- An essay (500 words maximum) describing your interest and career goals in wildlife, conservation, and management as a whole. Please include a statement of why you should receive this award.
- If you are planning to present, please include the abstract of your poster or oral presentation and proof of acceptance (acceptance letter from TWS-WS) if you have received it.

Applicants will be notified of the award results by 1 December 2025. The award recipient(s) will be reimbursed for covered expenses after the meeting and will be required to submit an expense form. The award recipient(s) is/are expected to attend the SoCal Chapter annual meeting (Wed, 4 Feb, 8-10 pm), and to submit a newsletter article/social media post about their experience before reimbursement. Attendance at the Welcome Reception, Breakfast Roundtable, Student/ECP Speed Networking with Wildlife Professionals (Thurs, 5 Feb, 4:30-6 pm), and Awards Banquet, are highly encouraged.

Please submit all application materials (or questions) to:

Colleen Wisinski

Student Affairs Committee Co-Chair

StudentAffairs@tw-socal.org

Please include "TWS SoCal Travel Award" in the email subject line.



TWS SoCal Student Travel Award Application Form

Please fill out the online [application form](#). This form is provided only as a worksheet, but if you need to submit it via email, please type or print neatly.

Applicant Information:

Name

Mailing Address

City State ZIP code

Email Phone (_____)_____

School Information (if current student):

College/University C

Degree Sought or Earned

Expected or Actual Graduation Date Name of Advisor E

OR

Work Affiliation (if early career professional):

Employer

Address

City State ZIP code C

Poster or Oral Presentation Information (If applicable)

Did you submit an abstract for a poster or oral presentation (X)? No _____ Poster _____ Oral _____ If so, are

you the first author (X)? Yes _____ No _____ Would you be making the presentation (X)? Yes _____ No _____

Presentation has been (X): Approved _____ Submitted (Waiting for response) _____

Presentation/Poster Title

Session/Symposium

TWS SoCal Student Travel Award Application Form



Requested Conference Expenses

Projected Expenses (and details)

Registration_____ \$ _____
(maximum \$325 for students and \$362 for ECP, may include early registration, Wed breakfast, and Wed & Thurs lunches)

Pre-conference events
Event registration_____ \$ _____

Accommodation _____ nights @ \$ _____ per night \$ _____
(please provide room rate with taxes included)

Travel_____ \$ _____

Other (specify) _____ \$ _____

Total projected expenses \$ _____

Total funds available from other sources \$ _____

details: _____

Outstanding financial needs \$ _____

The award recipient(s) must submit all receipts related to the travel award to TWS SoCal.

Verification

The undersigned assures that the information supplied above and on attached documents is true, that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements as stated herein, and that the financial need as stated is accurate.

Applicant Signature Date