wef | Student Paper Competition

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE DIVISONS

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Revised April 2011

Water Environment Federation®
the water quality people®

INTRODUCTION

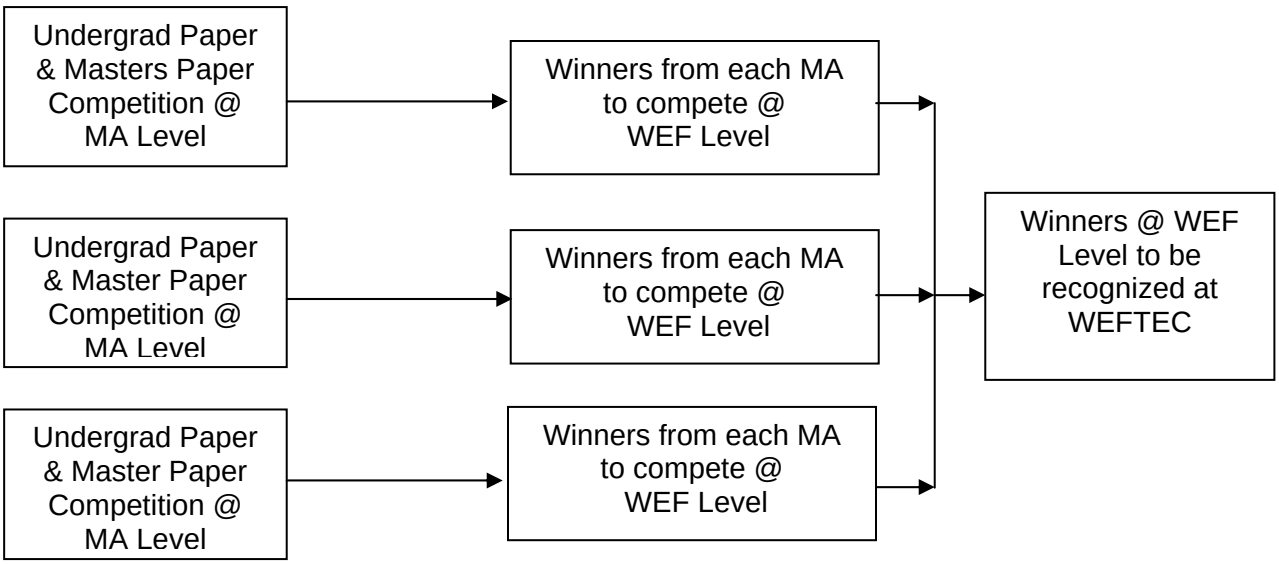
The WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION (WEF) Student Paper Competition is intended to promote the education of undergraduate and graduate students in water pollution control, water quality problems, water-related concerns, hazardous wastes or related areas. It also is intended to provide an opportunity for national recognition of these students. This competition tasks students with researching and writing a paper dealing with one of the aforementioned subject areas.

The WEF Students & Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) offers the WEF Student Paper Competition in order to provide opportunities for students in undergraduate and graduate programs to share and achieve recognition for their contributions to our collective understanding of the global water environment. Winners are recognized annually at WEFTEC. It is the intent of the WEF SYPC to promote this competition at the Member Association (MA) level as well as at the WEF level. With the help of the MAs, the SYPC hopes to achieve the following goals:

- Standardized rules for MA Undergraduate Paper Competitions and MA Graduate Paper Competitions.
- Promote development of a MA Undergraduate Paper Competition and Graduate Paper Competition with MAs currently not conducting a paper competition.
- Provide opportunity for the first place winner of each MA Undergraduate and MA Graduate student paper competition to compete at the WEF Level.

BENEFITS

WEF and the WEF Student & Young Professionals Committee feel that this competition has proven to be extremely valuable in providing educational and networking opportunities for students as well as promoting student involvement in WEF. Although the SYPC realizes not every MA will be able to participate, the schematic below represents the ***intent*** of this competition.



The first WEF Undergraduate Student Paper Competition was held in 2004 and the winner was recognized at WEFTEC. While student paper competition rules may vary among MAs, the WEF SYPC believes that there is enough in common between the MA competitions that a fair national level competition has been implemented. In 2007, the SYPC approved expansion of the competition to include the Undergraduate Paper Competition and also to include a first place winner from MAs who host a Masters Paper Competition. In an interest to further expand this year's 2011 WEF Student Paper Competition, the Master's level competition will now include students in Doctoral programs. The expanded competition will be hence forth referred to as the Graduate Paper Competition.

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition

Undergraduate Paper Competition - Entries will be the first-place undergraduate papers from participating MA student paper competitions. MAs will be responsible for notifying their winning author of the submittal requirements for the WEF Student Paper Competition. It will be the student's responsibility for completing the submittal requirements. Entrants must be members of WEF.

Graduate Paper Competition – Entries will be the first-place Masters or Doctoral papers from participating MA student paper competitions. MAs will be responsible for notifying their winning author of the submittal requirements for the WEF Student Paper Competition. It will be the student's responsibility for completing the submittal requirements. Entrants must be members of WEF.

If an MA does not host a competition at either the Undergraduate or Graduate Level, a paper may be submitted to compete in the WEF Student Paper Competition at the corresponding level, assuming that the lead author is an eligible entrant to the competition as defined in the competition Announcement. The paper must be endorsed by the presiding MA for submittal in lieu of holding a MA paper competition. Only one submittal to each the Undergraduate and Graduate Level Competition will be accepted from each MA.

Winner Selection - The SYPC will appoint a sub-committee to review papers submitted for the Undergraduate and Graduate Paper Competitions. One winning paper from each competition will be selected from the entries. Announcement of winner(s) will be distributed September 1 of each year. The winning Author will be notified by formal letter. The MA supporting the winning paper will be notified by phone of the selection.

Award / Recognition - The winning lead author will receive from WEF a monetary award along with a formal certificate, an invitation to participate in the WEF Awards and Presidential Celebration at WEFTEC and an invitation to present his/her paper in the WEFTEC Poster Symposium. In addition, all authors who submitted a paper to WEF have the option to retain copyright or may choose to have their paper included in the WEFTEC proceedings. This offers students a prestigious recognition opportunity and MAs are encouraged to send their student winner(s) to WEFTEC. The SYPC will continue to develop additional means for recognizing the winner and participating MAs.

MA COMPETITIONS

The success of the WEF Student Paper Competition will be contingent on the organization and standardization of the MA Undergraduate & Graduate Student Paper Competitions. The SYPC is dedicated to helping MAs develop these competitions. Preliminary rules for the WEF Student Paper Competition are enclosed.

Prizes and Recognition – from the MA

The following are possible prizes that can be awarded by the MA:

- Scholarship
- Plaque
- Money to attend MA annual conference
- Money to attend WEFTEC
- Free MA & WEF student membership

The following are possible opportunities the MAs can recognize the student's achievement:

- Publish paper or abstract in MA publication
- Recognize student in the Award Ceremony during the MA annual conference
- Allow student to present paper/poster at the MA annual conference.

It should be noted that these are just ideas for prizes and opportunities for recognition. However, MAs should seriously consider covering travel expenses for the first place winner(s) to attend WEFTEC. The MA might consider seeking sponsorships from local industries, municipalities, and consulting firms in order to help the winner attend WEFTEC.

MAs competitions should be held so that winning papers can be submitted to WEF by the July 1st deadline.

QUESTIONS: SYPC CONTACTS

Should you have question regarding the competition or the guidelines, please contact:

Chris Wilson, WEF SYPC– Student Paper Competition Sub-Committee Chair
cwilson@greeley-hansen.com

Dianne Crilley, WEF Staff
703.684.2445 | DCrilley@wef.org

Furthermore, the WEF Students & Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) is always looking for interested persons to help further the activities supported by the committee. If you are interested in helping or becoming a member, please contact Dianne Crilley.

ANNOUNCEMENT
WEF Student Paper Competition

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

TOPIC: Any paper dealing with water pollution control, water quality problems, water-related concerns, hazardous waste, or related areas is invited.

PAPERS: The paper submitted shall be limited to ten (10) total typed pages of less than 5,000 words, including an abstract of less than 350 words, tables, and figures (references will be allowed and not counted in total words). Six (6) copies of the paper must be submitted. All information that identifies the author (such as name, address, telephone number, and the name, address and telephone number of the school) must be omitted from five (5) copies of the paper. Include one (1) copy with all pertinent personal information.

DEADLINE: To be eligible, the paper shall be received at the following address by July 1 of each year.

Dianne Crilley
Association Leadership Center
Water Environment Federation
601 Wythe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1994

SELECTION CRITERIA: The WEF Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) will appoint a sub-committee to review the papers and select one winner from the Undergraduate Paper Competition and one winner from the Graduate Paper Competition. Selection will be based on: Originality of Work-20%, Technical Content-20%, Completeness of Work-20%, Clarity of Paper-20%, Relevancy-10%, and Abstract-10%.

NOTIFICATION: The author of the winning paper(s) and their affiliated Member Association will be notified by September 1st of each year.

PRESENTATION: The winner will have the opportunity present his/her paper at the annual Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC) Poster Symposium. The student will be responsible for his/her own travel, housing arrangements, and meal expenses.

AUTHORSHIP: An eligible entrant into this competition must be a current member of WEF and a student in an Undergraduate, Master's, or Doctoral degree program. Recent graduates who have completed their degree program within one calendar year of WEFTEC are eligible for entry into the WEF Student Paper Competition. Papers may have multiple authors; however, the lead author must be an eligible entrant into the WEF Student Paper Competition as described above. Faculty advisors may only act in an advisory capacity in the development of the paper. The lead author of the winning paper will be considered as the winning author for the purposes of award and recognition.

AWARDS: The winner will receive a certificate, and a monetary award to be determined. Winner will be invited to attend the WEF Awards & Presidential Celebration at WEFTEC.

PUBLICATIONS: The winning paper will be published on wef.org under Student Programs and Services.

All authors who submit a paper to WEF Student Paper Competitions have the option to retain copyright or may choose to have their paper included in the WEFTEC proceedings.

MA's are encouraged to use this announcement as a reference when developing their own announcement to distribute to student chapters, faculty, and student wishing to compete in the paper competition at the MA level.

Below is a sample scoring sheet for the use by the MA and the WEF SYPC when reviewing the entries.

SCORING SHEET
WEF Student Paper Competition

Name of Author: _____

Title of Paper: _____

Name of University: _____

		SCORE
Originality of Work	_____ 0 10 20	_____
Notes:		
Technical Content	_____ 0 10 20	_____
Notes:		
Completeness of Work	_____ 0 10 20	_____
Notes:		
Clarity of Paper	_____ 0 10 20	_____
Notes:		
Relevancy	_____ 0 5 10	_____
Notes:		
Abstract	_____ 0 5 10	_____
Notes:		

TOTAL SCORE _____