



Young Professional (YP) Springboard Program - Overview

Winter Meeting - Hyatt Regency Dulles - Herndon, VA - March 11-13, 2024

Application Deadline: *Wednesday, November 22, 2023, before 11:59pm Eastern Time.* Program participants will be notified by December 22, 2023.

Participation in the Springboard Program does **not** cover expenses for travel to WEFTEC; however, participant involvement in the Program Community can help justify attendance to your employer.

Program Goals:

Provide opportunities for Young Professionals to increase their active involvement in the WEFTEC Program Community. This involvement allows YPs to build their leadership and facilitation skills, expand their network to include technical experts and water industry leaders, and develop peer and mentor relationships while also providing valuable contributions to development of the WEFTEC program.

Program Details:

Consisting of over 150 water industry professionals who represent the many voices of WEFTEC attendees, the Program Community strives to build a well-rounded technical program encompassing the scope of WEF's vision and mission. The Program Community's duties are to review and score abstracts impartially, consistently, and without bias; to design creative and engaging sessions based on industry trends and WEFTEC attendee interests; and to moderate and/or facilitate the WEFTEC technical sessions.

The WEF YP Springboard Program was developed to further increase opportunities for SYPC members to become involved in WEF, with particular emphasis on integration of YPs into the WEF technical communities and the WEFTEC Program Community. **The 2024 WEF YP Springboard Program will be held at the WEFTEC Program Community Meeting in Herndon, Virginia from March 11-13, 2024** (<https://www.wef.org/membership--community/students--young-professionals/springboard-program/>). Previously called the Midyear Meeting, this event primarily provides an opportunity for key volunteer communities to meet face-to-face and develop programming for WEFTEC, which is the largest water conference in the world, offering water quality professionals from around the world with the best available water quality education and training. The 2024 WEFTEC Program Community Meeting allows this group to plan the technical content for WEFTEC.

The WEF YP Springboard Program will provide travel expense assistance for the selected YPs to attend the 2024 WEFTEC Program Community Meeting. Participation in this program is defined in the following section.

Participation:

- Interested YPs should complete and submit the electronic application form by **Wednesday, November 22, 2023, before 11:59pm Eastern Time**. (Student members are not eligible to apply).
- Applicants will be reviewed by the SYPC Chair, Vice-Chairs, Past-Chair, and WEF Staff.
- Selection of participants will be based on several factors including, but not limited to:
 - WEF member in good standing;
 - Commitment to engage with and participate in the WEF SYPC;
 - Ability to attend WEFTEC 2024 and participate in WEFTEC Program Community tasks;
 - Engagement with other WEF Community programs;
 - Diversity of “newer” and “seasoned” WEF YP members will be selected;
 - Previous participation; and
 - Diversity of industry representation and interests.
- Participants will be asked to volunteer to participate in the Program Community’s activities, e.g., assist Program Community members with planning and facilitation of technical sessions prior to and at WEFTEC.
- Participants will submit written feedback of their involvement, which may be shared with the WEF Board of Trustees and Staff to support continuation of the program.

2024 WEFTEC Program Community Meeting Details:

The 2024 WEFTEC Program Community Meeting will be held at the **Hyatt Regency Dulles in Herndon, Virginia on March 11-13, 2024**. The closest airport to the meeting site is Dulles International Airport (IAD). Hyatt Regency Dulles’ Complimentary Airport Shuttle Service is available 24/7 to and from Dulles International Airport. The shuttle departs from the hotel every 30 minutes.

Hotel reservations will be made by and billed directly to WEF; however, expenses for travel (e.g., airfare, taxi/Uber, etc.) and meals will need to be purchased by the participant and submitted for reimbursement through a WEF expense report after the Meeting. Alcohol will not be reimbursed by WEF. All receipts submitted for reimbursement must be itemized; otherwise, WEF cannot guarantee reimbursement. YP participants will be assigned single occupancy accommodations. Efforts will be made to cover all expenses to and from the Meeting; however, the budget will be equally allocated amongst all attendees.

Participants are only eligible for the YP Springboard Program once. WEF provides these scholarships for YPs to increase their engagement in WEF and the Program Community, and to support these efforts, each participant will be asked to adhere to participant guidelines during the Meeting while representing the SYPC.

There will be a virtual YP Springboard kick-off meeting held in February 2024, approximately one week in advance of the event (date TBD). It is encouraged that Springboard participants attend this meeting to understand the WEFTEC Program Community organization and Meeting format, along with other planned events.