



MSAWWA & MWEA
2026 Annual Joint Conference
Student & Young Professionals
Fresh Ideas Poster Competition
Copper King Hotel & Convention Center
Butte, Montana
April 28-30, 2026



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Abstract submission deadline: Monday March 30th, 2026

- When:
 - Afternoon Wednesday, April 29th
 - **Tentatively 2:30-3:15 pm** (Typically competition aligns with scheduled afternoon conference break)
 - We will release the presentation order at least one week before the conference. Please email Alex (aciessau@sehinc.com) if you have a request to present at a specific time/order.
- Where:
 - **Competition Location within conference venue TBD (map forthcoming)**
 - **Plan to display poster before and after competition in Exhibitor Area**
- Duration:
 - Per Poster:
 - 10 minutes to present.
 - 4 minutes to field questions from Judges and/or audience members.
 - 1 minute of scoring.
- Conference Registration & Cost:
 - Conference registration as a student (\$25) is encouraged ([Register HERE](#)) – this covers the cost for Wednesday afternoon lunch and evening banquet dinner.
 - Note: Registration website may state student pricing excludes banquet ticket, however this ONLY applies to students not participating in the Poster Competition. As a presenter your banquet cost is covered.
- Poster Dimensions & Materials:
 - **Presenters are expected to bring all presentation materials (easel, tape, clips, etc.) to display their posters.**
 - There aren't poster dimension requirements. Sizing is up to the presenter.
 - Landscape or portrait orientation are at the presenter's discretion.
 - Note: The winner of our competition gets free registration and travel to compete at [ACE 2026](#). Details have not yet been announced for the 2026 ACE Fresh Ideas Poster Competition but the [2025 Competition](#) page has helpful photos that may provide visual reference for poster size/orientation.
- How to Design & Delivery an Impactful Presentation:
 - Design:

- Focus on graphs, figures, and organization.
- Use concise and simple language to tell your story.
- Use color and graphics to highlight key points.
- Delivery:
 - Start With a Problem: Highlight a real-world issue.
 - Propose your solution: Introduce your work/research and how it addresses the problem.
 - Outline Approach: Explain your methods and why.
 - Use simple language.
 - Avoid overwhelming details - focus on the essentials.
 - Highlight Results: Connect findings to the problem and concisely show how the problem is addressed.
 - Finish With Impact: Reiterate key benefits and why the topic matters.

Note: Some details above are subject to change following publishing of the final conference agenda and the discretion of competition organizers.