



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



Call for S&YP Poster Competition Entries

Abstract submission deadline: Monday March 30th, 2026

The [Montana Section of the American Water Works Association \(MSAWWA\) & Montana Water Environment Association \(MWEA\) Joint Annual Conference](#) is the premier event for water professionals in Montana, offering professional programs covering a variety of industry related topics including water resources, water quality, engineering, stormwater, wastewater, and water treatment.

The [Joint MSAWWA-MWEA Student & Young Professionals \(S&YP\) Committee](#) would like to invite students and young professionals to submit a poster and give a short presentation on a project or topic from the world of water, wastewater, or water resources.

Step 1 – Submit an Abstract

Directions for Abstract Submission:

- Complete the Student and Young Professionals (S&YP) Fresh Ideas Poster Competition Abstract Form on the next page.
- All submittals will be evaluated for invitation to the conference.
- For questions regarding the competition please contact your S&YP Committee Chair: Alex Ciessau (aciessau@sehinc.com)

Step 2 – Prepare a Poster

Judging Criteria (see attached scoring rubric):

- Technical Content: Scored based on application of engineering and/or scientific principles, ensuring a sound and logical solution.
- Benefit/Relevance to the Water Industry: Scored based on benefit/relevance to the water industry.
- Organization of Poster: Scored based on organization, legibility, and ease of understanding.
- Overall Presentation and Q&A: Scored based on presentation quality and ability to field questions.

Step 3 – Compete at the Joint Conference

Posters:

- Presenters will be expected to prepare a poster and attend the conference in Butte, MT on Wednesday April 29th, 2026, for the poster presentation session.
 - Presenters are expected to bring all presentation materials (easel, tape, clips, etc.)
- Plan to attend the banquet Wednesday evening, at which time the winner will be announced.

Prizes*

- The winner will receive free registration (\$1,000+ estimated value) to attend the AWWA Annual Conference (ACE) and compete in the ACE Fresh Ideas Poster Competition. Travel and lodging reimbursement (up to \$2,500) will also be provided.
- [ACE 2026](#) will be hosted in Washington D.C from June 21 - 24, 2026.

**Past winners are invited to participate in the poster session but cannot win the prize to present at ACE.*

**MSAWWA & MWEA
Student & Young Professionals (S&YP) Committee
2026 Fresh Ideas Poster Competition Abstract Form**

Submit forms by email to S&YP Committee Chair, Alex Ciessau (aciessau@sehinc.com).
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.)

Topic:-----

Author:-----

Business/Organization:-----

Mailing Address:-----

City:----- State (or Province):----- Zip:-----

Phone:----- E-mail address:-----

Abstract – Fill in below or provide an attachment (Please limit to 500 words or less):