

Suggestions for Organization of AFS Student Unit Meetings

Below are a few simple suggestions of how to organize activities at your AFS student meeting. We hope you will use these suggestions as a springboard for other creative ideas.

1. Graduate students (if present at institution) could present their research. This activity allows undergraduates to learn about research going on at the university and may help connect grad students needing help in the field with undergrads looking for experience.
2. Bring in professionals to talk with students about opportunities in the fisheries field.
3. Set aside one meeting to go over the hierarchy of AFS. Invite officers across the AFS hierarchy to speak to members about how AFS is organized at various levels.
4. Invite local fisherman/bait shop owner to give a talk about a topic related to fishing (i.e., tying flies, fly-fishing demonstration, archery fishing).
5. Invite volunteer organizations in to give a talk about restoration projects currently being undertaken in the area.
6. Each meeting focus a few minutes on a local fish species/population. Highlight a fish unique to the area, endangered/threatened, or one of particular interest historically to that specific area.
7. Dedicate a portion of each meeting on a person who was instrumental in the local area or region. Give a few highlights of this person's career.
8. If feasible, schedule a meeting for a weekend, and make it an electrofishing/collecting, camping weekend. For example, many professors have long term studies that are being conducted. The student unit can use this experience as collecting/camping trip.
9. If feasible, collaborate with another institution that has a student chapter, and make the meeting a social between the 2 chapters.
10. Invite students to submit their best fishing/fish pictures, and have a meeting with a picture slide show. Each person could describe the situation in which the picture was taken.