

**Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award 2025**

The Student and Early Career Professional (SECP) Subsection of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is currently soliciting applications for the 2025 Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award (UTAA) to attend the annual AFS meeting. This award is designed to help introduce undergraduate students to AFS meetings and increase participation at the Society level. The UTAA will help undergraduates offset the cost of travel to the AFS Annual Meeting held in San Antonio, Texas this year (August 10–14, 2025).

**Background and Purpose:** Up to four recipients will be selected to receive $500 USD. As this award is funded by the Education Section, recipients will receive award checks at the business meeting of the Education Section and will also be recognized at the SECP Subsection business meeting. Selection will be based on involvement in student and professional organizations and reason(s) for attending the AFS meeting. Attending the AFS annual meeting provides an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students to network with peers and professionals in AFS and gain exposure to the variety fisheries science and research that will be shared at the meeting.

**Expectations:** UTAA recipients are expected to attend and participate **all** student-centered and networking annual meeting events including, student networking events/socials/meals, awards luncheon, and the mentor-mentee match up. Recipients are also expected to attend the Education Section business meeting and the SECP Subsection business meeting. Travel funding will be withheld if these requirements are not met.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must currently be enrolled in (or enrolled in at the time of the annual meeting) an undergraduate degree program to be eligible for this award. Applicants must also be AFS members in good standing (i.e. dues have been paid to the Society).

**Application Instructions:**

* Applicants should complete and return their responses to the questions below. Each question has a 200-word limit. Responses in excess of 200 words will not be scored.
* Applicants will be evaluated based on their: 1) involvement in student or professional organizations, and 2) reasons and plans for attending the AFS annual meeting.
* A mentor must endorse an applicant’s application with a signature. Electronic signatures will be accepted. Mentors may be a faculty advisor, agency employee, graduate student, or other fisheries or aquatic science professional.
* Application forms must be received no later than **May 1, 2025,** at midnight ET.
* Please complete the application and email to afsstudent@gmail.com by the due date. Late applications will not be accepted.
* Application email subject lines should follow the format “UTAA 2025 Application – Your Name Here”.
* Questions about the UTAA may be directed to hadley.boehm@state.mn.us.
* Recipients will be notified by **May 19, 2025**.

**Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award Application**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current University/College:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Degree Program:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Graduation Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Mentor Endorsement**

By endorsing this student, you agree that the applicant is deserving of an undergraduate travel assistance award to attend the upcoming AFS conference. You also endorse the student’s ability to conduct themselves as a professional, responsible conference attendee who will follow through with the UTAA expectations of attendance.

Name of Mentor:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mentor’s Position (Job title):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mentor Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following questions must be completed, by the student applicant. Examples of involvement need not be limited specifically to fisheries-specific groups or organizations*. EACH question has a 200 word limit. Answers in excess of that limit will not be scored.*

1. Describe your past and current involvement in student and professional organizations.
2. Describe why you want to attend the AFS Annual Meeting.
3. Describe your future career plans and how receiving this award will help you achieve your professional aspirations.