Water Environment Federation
Student Paper Competition
Undergraduate & Master Divisions

Guidelines

Revised February 2009
INTRODUCTION

The WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition is intended to promote the education of undergraduate and master students in water pollution control, water quality problems, water-related concerns, hazardous wastes or related areas. It also is intended to provide an opportunity for national recognition of these students. This competition tasks students with researching and writing a paper dealing with one of the subject areas aforementioned.

The WEF Students & Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) offers two programs under the WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition that give an opportunity to students in the undergraduate and masters programs to compete and achieve recognition for their research. Winners are recognized annually at WEFTEC. It is the intent of the WEF SYPC to promote this competition at the MA level as well as at the WEF level. With the help of the MAs, the SYPC hopes to achieve the following goals:

- Standardized rules for MA Undergraduate Paper Competitions and MA Masters Paper Competition.
- Promote development of a MA Undergraduate Paper Competition and Masters Paper Competition with MAs currently not conducting a paper competition.
- Provide opportunity for the first place winner of each MA Undergraduate and MA Masters student paper competition to compete at the WEF Level.

BENEFITS

WEF and the WEF Student & Young Professionals Committee feel this competition has proven to be extremely valuable in both educating students as well as promoting student involvement in WEF. Although the SYPC realizes not every MA will be able to participate, the schematic below represents the intent of this competition.
The first WEF Undergraduate Student Paper Competition was held in 2004 and the winner was recognized at WEFTEC. Of course, it will not be possible to do this with standardized rules, but WEF’s SYPC believes that there is enough in common between the MAs that a fair competition has been implemented. In 2007, the SYPC approved expansion of the competition to continue with the Undergraduate Paper Competition and to also include a first place winner from MAs who host a Masters Paper Competition.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition**

**Undergraduate Paper Competition** - Entries will be the first-place undergraduate papers from participating MA student paper competitions. MAs will be responsible for notifying their winning author of the submittal requirements for the WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition. It will be the student’s responsibility for completing the submittal requirements. Entrants must be members of WEF.

**Masters Paper Competition** – Entries will be the first-place Masters papers from participating MA student paper competitions. MAs will be responsible for notifying their winning author of the submittal requirements for the WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition. It will be the student’s responsibility for completing the submittal requirements. Entrants must be members of WEF.

**Winner Selection** - The SYPC will appoint a sub-committee to review papers submitted for the undergraduate and masters divisions. One winning paper from each division will be selected from the entries. Announcement of winner(s) will be given out September 1 of each year. The MA will be given a courtesy call, followed by a phone call and formal letter with award money to the winning author(s).

**Award / Recognition** - The winning authors will receive from WEF a monetary award along with a formal certificate, an invitation to participate in the WEF Awards and Presidential Celebration at WEFTEC and an invitation to present his/her paper in the Poster Symposium presentation. In addition, all authors who submitted a paper to WEF have the option to retain copy write or may choose to have their paper included in the WEFTEC proceedings. This offers students a prestigious recognition opportunity and MAs are encouraged to send their student winner(s) to WEFTEC. The SYPC will continue to develop additional means for recognizing the winner and participating MAs. One such way will be seeking corporate sponsorship to support the monetary award given out for this competition.

**MA COMPETITIONS**

The success of the WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition will be contingent on the organization and standardization of the MA Undergraduate & Masters Student Paper Competitions. The SYPC is dedicated to helping MAs develop these competitions. Preliminary rules for the WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition are enclosed.
Prizes and Recognition – from the MA

The following are possible prizes that can be awarded by the MA:

- Scholarship
- Plaque
- Money to attend MA annual conference
- Money to attend WEFTEC
- Free MA & WEF student membership

The following are possible opportunities the MAs can recognize the student’s achievement:

- Publish paper or abstract in MA publication
- Recognize student in the Award Ceremony during the MA annual conference
- Allow student to present paper/poster at the MA annual conference.

It should be noted that these are just ideas for prizes and opportunities for recognition. However, MAs should seriously consider covering travel expenses for the first place winner(s) to attend WEFTEC. The MA might consider seeking sponsorships from local industries, municipalities, and consulting firms in order to help the winner attend WEFTEC.

The deadline for submitting the papers to WEF is **July 1**.

QUESTIONS: SYPC CONTACTS

Should you have question regarding the competition or the guidelines, please contact:

**Chris Wilson**, WEF SYPC– Student Paper Competition Sub-Committee Chair  
cwilson@greeley-hansen.com

**Kelsey Brown**, WEF Staff  
703.684.2400 ext. 7738 | Kbrown@wef.org

Furthermore, the WEF Students & Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) is always looking for interested persons to help further the activities supported by the committee. If you are interested in helping or becoming a member, please contact Kelsey Brown.
Below is a sample announcement for the WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition. MA’s are encouraged to use this announcement as a reference when developing their own announcement to distribute to student chapters, faculty, and student wishing to compete in the paper competition at the MA level.

ANNOUNCEMENT
Beginning in 2008
WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

TOPIC: Any paper dealing with water pollution control, water quality problems, water-related concerns, hazardous waste, or related areas is invited.

PAPERS: The paper submitted shall be limited to ten (10) total typed pages of less than 5,000 words, including an abstract of less than 350 words, tables, and figures (references will be allowed and not counted in total words). Six (6) copies of the paper must be submitted. All information that identifies the author (such as name, address, telephone number, and the name, address and telephone number of the school) must be omitted from five (5) copies of the paper. Include one (1) copy with all pertinent personal information.

DEADLINE: To be eligible, the paper shall be received at the following address by July 1 of each year.

Kelsey Brown
Awards Program Coordinator, Governance & Association Programs
Water Environment Federation
601 Wythe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1994

SELECTION CRITERIA: The WEF Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) will appoint a sub-committee to review the papers and select one winner from the Undergraduate and one winner from the Masters division. Selection will be based on: Originality of Work-20%, Technical Content-20%, Completeness of Work-20%, Clarity of Paper-20%, Relevancy-10%, and Abstract-10%.

NOTIFICATION: The author of the winning paper(s) and their affiliated Member Association will be notified by September 1st of each year.
**PRESENTATION:** The winner will present his/her paper in a poster presentation at the annual Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC). The student will be responsible for his/her own travel, housing arrangements, and meal expenses.

**AUTHORSHIP:** Those eligible for this competition must be a member of WEF and a current student in an undergraduate or masters program or recently graduated (within one calendar year of WEFTEC). Faculty advisors cannot be listed as co-authors. However, they may act in an advisory capacity.

**AWARDS:** The winner will receive a certificate, and a monetary award to be determined. Winner will be invited to attend the WEF Awards & Presidential Celebration at WEFTEC.

**PUBLICATIONS:** The winning paper will be published on wef.org under Student Programs and Services.
Below is a sample scoring sheet for the use by the MA and the WEF SYPC when reviewing the entries.

**SCORING SHEET**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION Student Paper Competition**

Name of Author: ____________________________________________________________

Title of Paper: ____________________________________________________________

Name of University: _______________________________________________________

|SCORE| Originality of Work | 0 | 10 | 20 | ________ |
|Notes: |

|SCORE| Technical Content | 0 | 10 | 20 | ________ |
|Notes: |

|SCORE| Completeness of Work | 0 | 10 | 20 | ________ |
|Notes: |

|SCORE| Clarity of Paper | 0 | 10 | 20 | ________ |
|Notes: |

|SCORE| Relevancy | 0 | 5 | 10 | ________ |
|Notes: |

|SCORE| Abstract | 0 | 5 | 10 | ________ |
|Notes: |

TOTAL SCORE ________