



The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) is proud to announce our **2026 NAFWS National Summer Youth Practicum (SYP)** application is open!

The NSYP is designed to provide Native American students (10th – 12th grade) an opportunity to gain hands-on and in-lecture experience in the interdisciplinary components of natural resource management and Indigenous knowledge. One of the goals of the NSYP is to educate Native America youth to understand the importance of professional natural resource management and the interconnectedness to culture, and encourage higher education and careers in natural resource fields.

- **PROGRAM DATES:** July 19, 2026 – July 25, 2026. Travel Days are July 19 and 25.
- **LOCATION:** Multiple Locations through Northern CO - Colorado State University, Estes Park and Denver.
- **COST:** FREE! Food, Travel and Lodging expenses covered.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 2, 2026 by 10 pm Mountain Time.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE. SUBMIT BY EMAIL TO: amueller@nafws.org

APPLICATION CHECKLIST: Make sure you submit the following materials and that they are all completed:

- Completed *Application for Admission*
- Creative Submission for Admission
- Student Emergency and Health Form*. Please review, complete and sign.
- Media Release Statement*. Please review, complete and sign.
- Student Contract*. Please review and sign.
- Parent/Guardian Contract includes NAFWS Liability Waiver / General Release*. Please review and sign.
- Proof of Tribal Citizenship/Enrollment. (i.e. Certificate of Indian Blood, Tribal Identification Card, BIA Form 4432).
- 1 Letter of Recommendation: Must be submitted by your recommender by email to Ashley Mueller (amueller@nafws.org) by the deadline date (May 2, 2026 10 pm MT).

For more information contact AND/OR to send complete applications to:

Ashley Mueller, NAFWS Education and Advancement Director

Email: amueller@nafws.org | **Office Phone:** (720) 983-1010 Ext. 203 **Mobile:** (505) 862-3779

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

STUDENT'S FULL LEGAL NAME: _____

STUDENT'S ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

BIRTH DATE: _____ AGE: _____ GENDER: _____ PRONOUNS (OPTIONAL): _____

STUDENT'S PHONE: _____ STUDENT'S EMAIL: _____

Please enter email that student checks frequently & will have access to during the summer

SCHOOL: _____ GRADE IN FALL 2026: _____

TRIBAL AFFILIATION: _____

FULL LEGAL NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____

PHONE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: CELL - _____ WORK - _____

EMAIL OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____

T-SHIRT SIZE (CIRCLE):

XS S M L XL XXL XXXL

*** STUDENT MUST BE IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION AS PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES ARE PART OF PRACTICUM ***

SHOE SIZE: _____, WOMEN SIZE MEN SIZE HEIGHT (ft., inch): _____ WEIGHT (lbs.): _____

(This will help us pair waders and wader boots for our Fisheries Day)

DOES YOUR STUDENT HAVE A REAL ID FOR TRAVEL? Yes or No?

On May 7, 2025, U.S. travelers must be REAL ID compliant to board domestic flights and access certain federal facilities, More information: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>

If no, I understand that if my student is accepted, we will need to get a Real ID in order to travel by airplane.

WHAT DOES TRAVEL PATH FOR YOUR STUDENT LOOK LIKE? NAFWS covers travel (airfare, mileage (up to certain cost)).

Is your student planning to take an airplane to Denver, CO? Yes or No?

If yes, please enter the nearest airport: _____

Is student planning to be dropped off at Denver, CO? Yes or No?

*Any special travel logistics or requests, may determine if travel is financially funded up-front or by reimbursement *

CREATIVE SUBMISSION FOR ADMISSION: INSTRUCTIONS & INFORMATION

NAFWS is incorporating a new idea of implementing a creative submission to allow student applicants to better express their interests in the 2026 NAFWS National Summer Youth Practicum. We hope that through this application process, that it will be more fun, inspiring, unique and motivating for student applicants to apply, express their interests, and exercise their creativity.

The selection committee will base their selections on student's efforts and answers to the **4 prompts** below.

YOUR CREATIVE SUBMISSION MUST ANSWER THESE **PROMPTS**:

1. Tell us about yourself (i.e. your family, community, extracurricular involvements)
2. Share your interests and/or involvement in activities regarding natural resources (i.e. outdoor recreation, cultural preservation, community events, fishing, hunting, harvesting)?
3. What does natural resources stewardship mean to you?
4. If funding was not an option, what is a project and/or program you would like to organize related to natural resources for your reservation and/or community? (note: you do not need to complete the project).

THE CREATIVE SUBMISSION OPTIONS ARE BELOW:

OPTION 1: ESSAY

You may submit an essay that is 250 – 500 words (maximum). Your essay can include or be a poem, a story, song lyrics, Native language (with English translation), wordle and etc. Essay can be typed or handwritten, please use eligible font(s).

Submission for Essay: Submit your essay as an email attachment with completed *Application for Admission* and documents (refer to checklist on Page 2)

OPTION 2: VIDEO

You may create a video of yourself that must be 2 - 3 minutes long. Your video can include or be you reciting a poem, telling a story, singing a song, interpretive dance, include Native language (with English translation) and etc. Ensure that song choice for singing, overlaying in video and/or dancing are appropriate (no foul language).

Submission Options for Video:

- Option 1: Tag us in your video caption. You can tag us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and/or YouTube. See social media handles on Page 5 (next page).
- Option 2: Email your video or a link to the Education and Advancement Director.

OPTION 3: ARTWORK

You may submit a painting, drawing, sculpture or collage that you created. If you do the artwork option, you must also submit a 250 word (max) explanation (can be bullet points). This is to ensure that we are interpreting your answers correctly, and that it addresses the four creative submission prompts.

Submission Options for Artwork:

- Option 1: Scan or take a good quality photo of your artwork and attach to an email with your completed *Application for Admission* and documents (refer to checklist on Page 2)
- Option 2: Email digital artwork to the Education & Advancement Director with your completed *Application for Admission* and documents (refer to checklist on Page 2).

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Native American Fish &
Wildlife Society



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esociety



nativeamericanfishandwildife
society



@nafws_insta



STUDENT EMERGENCY & HEALTH FORM

(To be filled out by parent or guardian)

STUDENT NAME: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT 1: Please ensure that the individual knows that they are an emergency contact.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT 2: Please ensure that the individual knows that they are an emergency contact.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

PHYSICIAN NAME & ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ MEDICAL COVERAGE: _____

IS STUDENT ELIGIBLE FOR CONTRACT HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FROM INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS): YES NO

IHS CLINIC NAME, LOCATION, PHONE: _____

DOES STUDENT HAVE ANY PHYSICAL DISABILITIES? (EXPLAIN): _____

DOES STUDENT WEAR GLASSES AND/OR CONTACT LENSES: YES NO

ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS/ALLERGIES OR ALLERGIES: _____

IS STUDENT CURRENTLY TAKING ANY MEDICATION(S)? _____

HAS STUDENT HAD ANY MAJOR ILLNESSES IN THE PAST 5 YEARS? _____

HAS THE STUDENT HAD ANY MAJOR SURGERIES WITHIN THE PAST YEAR? _____

DOES STUDENT REQUIRE ANY EMERGENCY MEDICATION? _____

PLEASE LIST ANY OTHER INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL IS IMPORTANT:



MEDIA RELEASE STATEMENT

I, _____ PARENT OR GUARDIAN, OF _____
give permission for Native American Fish & Wildlife Society and partnering organizations of the National SYP to take pictures, videos, of my student which may be shared with partnering organizations and/or used in newspapers, television, magazine articles, websites, NAFWS social media pages (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok, etc.), documentations, presentations and talks concerning the National SYP and NAFWS without compensation.

Parent or Guardian, I have read, understand, and accept all the conditions above:

Name of Parent (Printed): _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____



STUDENT CONTRACT

Acceptance of the 2026 National Summer Youth Practicum is an opportunity and privilege. To ensure a safe, fun and learning environment, we request students and parents/guardians to assume certain responsibilities.

STUDENT: I, _____, as part of the 2026 National Summer Youth Practicum accept the conditions stipulated below:

1. I will participate in and be on time to all session and activities, unless excused by a staff member.
2. I will conduct myself in an appropriate manner and be respectful and courteous as a representative of my Tribe.
3. I will sleep where assigned and realize that I may be roommates with students I have never met.
4. I understand that no one is allowed outside of sleeping quarters after 10:00 pm and that all lights must be out by 10:30 pm and that there will be a bed check every night by a chaperone. I understand that there must be quiet time between 10:00 pm and 6:45 am.
5. I will not use, bring or attain drugs or alcohol during the National SYP and I understand that by doing this, I will be sent home AT MY PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' EXPENSE.
6. I understand that I may be held responsible for any damage to National SYP equipment or facilities due to negligence, recklessness or destructive behavior.
7. I understand that no water balloons, firework, lighters, or fire matches will be allowed.
8. I understand that NAFWS is not responsible for any loss or stolen items.
9. I understand that there will be no smoking nor vaping allowed, tobacco is allowable for Traditional purposes only (as approved by staff member).
10. I understand that foul language and/or cursing will not be tolerated.
11. I understand that during National SYP sessions and activities, I will not wear (i.e. earphones hanging from shirt collar) any headphones, earphones, and/or air pods, UNLESS given permission by staff.
12. I understand that no visitations from family, friends, etc. is allowed during the entirety of the program. If parents/guardians want to pick up or drop off student at the program, pre-arrangements must be made.
13. I understand that bullying and/or hazing (physical, verbal, emotional, sexual, mental) is not acceptable. I understand that by doing this, I will be sent home AT MY PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' EXPENSE.
14. I will adhere to these and all other rules of the National SYP and Colorado State University Mountain Campus and YMCA of the Rockies.
15. I release and waive my right to bring any claims I may have against the NAFWS and their officials, employees and agents for personal injury or property damage due to my participation in the 2026 National Summer Youth Practicum.

Student, I have read, understand, and accept all the conditions above:

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian, I have read, understand, and accept all the conditions above and overviewed them with student:

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____



PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I have read, understand, and agree with the following terms. Permission is given for my child to participate in all activities and events, and for my child to receive all necessary medical attention should the need arise, with the understanding that I will be contacted immediately. Furthermore:

1. I understand that the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) or the chaperones will not be responsible for any theft, injury, or illness where my child is concerned.
2. I give permission for any chaperone or staff member to render first aid, if necessary.
3. I give my consent and permission for hospital staff to treat my child if needed in the case of an emergency, with the understanding that I will be contacted immediately.
4. I understand that NAFWS will not provide chaperones for, nor be responsible for, a child while in transit from the child's home to the location of the 2026 National Summer Youth Practicum (SYP) and the child's return trip home. I understand that the SYP participants will be chaperoned responsibly while attending the SYP, and that the NAFWS will endeavor to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
5. I understand that drugs or alcohol use are NOT permitted and that if my child is caught under the influence, I will pick him/her/them up immediately AT MY OWN EXPENSE.
6. I understand that bullying and/or hazing is NOT permitted and that if my child is caught bullying and/or hazing, I will pick him/her/them up immediately AT MY OWN EXPENSE.
7. I understand that if my child withdrawal's their participation within fourteen days prior to travel date, I will be responsible for returning travel costs that were sent by check. Further, I may be responsible for returning the travel costs that are associated with the purchased airfare ticket.
8. I understand that on the day of travel to the National SYP, if student's flight is delayed or cancelled, student's participation may be cancelled if student's arrival is after Monday, July 20, 2026 3:00 p.m. at Denver International Airport, student will be recommended to attend the following years NSYP if within age requirements and/or may receive opportunity to attend an alternative program (if eligible, and funding allows).
9. I understand that if my student misses their flight due to tardiness or any other excuse other than an emergency, I am responsible for notifying the Education and Advancement Director immediately. If failure to notify the Education and Advancement Director 48 hours before flight departure date and time, I will/may be responsible for returning the travel costs that are associated with the purchased airfare ticket and travel advance check that was sent.
10. I release and waive any claims that I may have against the NAFWS and their officials, employees and agents for personal injury or property damage due to my child's travel to and from, and participation in, the 2026 National Summer Youth Practicum.

Name of Parent or Guardian (Printed): _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____