



Getting Involved in WEAT Young Professionals

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WEAT Young Professionals,

WEAT is a great organization to join and provides valuable resources for Young Professionals (YP). Its community of water professionals is full of remarkable people shaping the future of our industry. I wrote this primer to help YPs get a taste of the amazing activities offered by WEAT.

Here's the menu:

Start Local: Much like the hipster foodie trend, I encourage you to become a “locavore”. WEAT has robust local sections with active YP groups. Each group organizes various activities including: technical presentations, happy hours, facility tours, and volunteering events. Reach out to your local YP representative for more information on the upcoming events.

Represent Your Alma Mater: Whether you Wreck'em, Hook'em, Pony up, or use some other school pride lingo, there are opportunities to represent your school in the water industry. Allison Hage (Allison.Blake@freese.com) and Elle Frier (Elle.Frier@freese.com) are leading the charge for university involvement in WEAT. Allison is working with universities across the state to develop student chapters. Elle organizes the student design competition, giving students a great opportunity to get real world design experience. Both university activities can use YP volunteers.

Seek Mentorship: Kaylee Dusek (Kaylee.Dusek@kimley-horn.com) is the Mentoring Program Co-Chair. Applications can be completed each year around March to join the WEAT/AWWA Mentoring Program. The mentor/mentee relationship is about companionship and the mentors/mentees can learn from each other. The opportunity is about sharing experiences and insights together.

Go to a Conference: If you can afford a break from the office, attend one of the many conferences that are organized by WEAT. Biosolids/Odor & Corrosion Control, Eckenfelder Lecture Series, Water Reuse Symposium, and Texas Water are just a few. Even if you can't spare the time for a full conference, webinars abound. All of the upcoming events can be found at weat.org/events. These are great opportunities to learn about emerging issues in the water industry.

Take it National: Every year AWWA/WEF hosts the YP Summit. The YP Summit is a water industry workshop specifically for YPs. Young leaders from across the continent meet to discuss the water sector at large. Pro tip: WEAT YPs can keep a look out for the Dodson's Drive Scholarship Application. WEAT sponsors 1 YP each year to represent Texas at the conference.

Join a Committee: WEAT has 32 Committees to get involved in. Your skills can be a great asset to these committees. Browse the committee list here: weat.org/committees

These are just a few samples of the ways YPs can get involved in WEAT. I look forward to seeing y'all join, learn, and engage in the water industry.



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