I enjoyed the affirmations and reminders that I am not expected to be perfect, I am a young professional with minimal experience starting out, it’s okay not to know everything. It is reassuring to know that all of us young professionals are in this together and will learn and grow together as we go. — 2024 ELP Program Participant

The Soil and Water Conservation Society Emerging Leaders Program is an immersive, interdisciplinary leadership experience designed to nurture the next generation of conservation leaders. This initiative blends virtual learning modules, mentorship, and hands-on projects to foster resilient professionals. Participants will network with and receive guidance from peers and leaders across disciplines to develop their leadership style and build confidence in their roles.

Program Benefits:
- One year of complimentary SWCS membership and all associated member benefits
- Complimentary registration to the 80th SWCS International Annual Conference
- Conservation Events Planning Certificate
- Recognition through SWCS media platforms

WHAT skills will participants learn?
- Leadership
- Communications
- Time management
- Event planning
- Public speaking
- Building community

WHO should apply?
- Professionals in the first 5 years of their career in the conservation field, post-graduation

WHERE does the program take place?
- This program is hosted primarily online and can be completed from anywhere
- There are opportunities for participants to host a local conservation activity, and may be additional, optional in-person opportunities like the SWCS Annual Conference

WHEN is the program?
- The 2025 program will kick off September 2024 and run through August 2025

Learn more at www.swcs.org/growconservation
Applications open July 1 - August 15, 2024

Contact renee.bouldin@swcs.org with any questions or to support the program.
MODULE 1: YOU AS A LEADER
September - October 2024
(~ 4-5 hours)
- Program Kickoff Webinar
  - Define leadership and your leadership style
  - Address barriers to leadership
- Establish a Leadership Vision with your goals
- (Optional) Virtual Networking Session
- Time Management Webinar
  - Learn how to manage and prioritize your workflow

MODULE 2: LEADING OTHERS
November - December 2024
(~ 3 hours)
- Leading Others Webinar
  - Insights into working with different personality types and backgrounds
  - Storytelling and persuasion tools
  - Serving the historically underserved
- Effective Communication Webinar
  - Public speaking and presenting skills
  - Receive a media toolkit

MODULE 3: COMMUNITY BUILDING
January - April 2025
(~ 2-4 hours)
- Community Building and Events Planning Webinar
  - Understanding the value of social capital
  - Connect with SWCS industry professionals
  - Receive an activity planning toolkit
- (Optional) Two Virtual Work Sessions with SWCS Staff
- (Optional) Virtual Networking Session

MODULE 4: KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION
March - August 2025
(time varies)
- Host a Conservation Activity or Event
- Program Wrap Up Webinar
  - Learn about opportunities to stay engaged with SWCS
- (Optional) Participate in Networking and Learning Sessions at the 80th SWCS International Annual Conference

GRADUATION!
- Reflect on the program and provide feedback
- Use your new skills and network to advance conservation!

This outline is subject to change to meet the needs of program participants. Times listed are estimates only.