

NATURAL AREAS ASSOCIATION



STUDENT CHAPTER PROGRAM

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Introduction

The NAA's mission is to support the community of natural area professionals. We help members reach their professional goals, promote natural areas management based on sound science, work to raise awareness about the need for natural areas conservation, and support natural areas research.

THE NATURAL AREAS ASSOCIATION

The Natural Areas Association (NAA) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to advance the preservation of natural diversity. The Association works to inform, unite, and support persons engaged in identifying, protecting, managing, and studying natural areas and biological diversity across landscapes and ecosystems. The NAA has been serving natural areas professionals, and volunteers, since 1978.

THE NATURAL AREAS ASSOCIATION STUDENT CHAPTER

The NAA Student Chapters program was launched in October 2010 to encourage students to continue study in the Natural Area Management sciences, provide opportunities to meet with other students interested in Natural Area management, interact with prominent natural area managers at national meetings, and provide career information and guidance in the field of natural area management.

Section 1. STUDENT CHAPTER PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

The NAA has established a Student Program Committee (SPC) with a Chair who supports and manages the recruitment and maintenance of Student Chapters. The Committee Chair is a member of the Natural Areas association and serves as a liaison to the Board of Directors of NAA. The Committee Chair establishes, implements, and directs developing programs with the help of the members of the SPC.

Section 2. STUDENT CHAPTER MOU WITH NAA

The NAA Board of Directors has approved a "Model" Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for NAA Student Chapters. Each Student Chapter must submit an MOU to the NAA Board for approval before the NAA Board grants a charter to that Student Chapter. Student Chapter Officers are urged to become familiar with their MOU and the listed terms. The SCC will negotiate changes with each Student Chapter prior to the recommendation for approval.

Section 3. STUDENT CHAPTER OVERVIEW

A Student Chapter may be established at any post secondary school that supports natural area management, biology, ecology, or related subjects. The Student Chapter Start-Up Application form must be filled out and returned to NAA. Student chapter members receive the benefits of regular NAA members.

Each Student Chapter requires a Faculty or staff Advisor (faculty or staff member from same institution) who provides continuity and direction to the chapter, and who serves as the link to the NAA Student Program Committee and NAA headquarters. The Advisor is strongly encouraged to be a current NAA member.

Student members and the faculty/staff advisor are encouraged to participate in local NAA chapter meetings, field trips, lectures, and other NAA activities. Student Chapters and their members are also encouraged to become involved with their state natural areas program or other natural area programs in their region.

Section 4. STUDENT CHAPTER BENEFITS & OPPORTUNITIES

4.1) Leadership Skills:

Develop leadership skills by serving as a Student Chapter officer.

4.2) Technical Information:

Student Chapters will receive one copy of the Natural Areas Journal. Chapter members will have access to Natural Areas Association products and special publications.

4.3) Information exchange:

Student Members will have opportunities to plan NAA chapter meeting activities and contribute to NAA conference activities and symposia. Student Chapter members are encouraged to network with other NAA student chapters.

4.4) Promotion:

The NAA will promote Student Chapters by posting information on the NAA website and creating links back to Chapter websites.

4.5) Conference and Education Event Fees:

Student Members will be allowed first opportunity at NAA student scholarships for substantial discount on registration fees for any NAA Technical Program or Pre-conference field trip.

4.6) Collaboration:

Student members will be provided opportunities for collaboration with other NAA Student Chapters.

4.7) Publishing in NAA:

Active students chapter members can request page charges be waived to publish in the Natural Areas Journal. Waived page charges are a one-time student benefit.

Section 5. STUDENT CHAPTER RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1) Chapter Meetings and Field Trips:

Chapter meetings shall be held at least six times per academic year including four meetings and two field trips.

5.2) Officer Elections:

Each Chapter shall establish a student governing board including at minimum a president and secretary. Each Chapter shall hold an election at the start-up of the chapter and at the end of any officer's term for the election of Chapter officers. Chapter officers will direct the activities of the chapter.

5.3) Membership Lists:

Each Chapter shall maintain a chapter membership list. The membership list and students' contact information shall be provided to the NAA for communications purposes.

5.4) Chapter News:

One member of the Student Chapter shall be the designated reporter for submitting Chapter News to the NAA Headquarters for the NAA News and the NAA Web site.

5.5) Annual Chapter Report:

Each Student Chapter shall submit an Annual Chapter Report, including a list of members for the current year and past year, a list of activities, photos of chapter meetings and activities and a list of the new Executive Committee for the upcoming year. These reports shall be submitted to NAA Headquarters by May 30 of each year. If Student Chapter funding is available, funds will be sent to the Student Chapter on a yearly basis following the submission of the Annual Chapter Report to confirm active chapter status.

5.6) Chapter Fees:

Student Chapters shall submit an annual fee of \$50.00 to the NAA.

5.7) Individual Student Membership to NAA:

Student members who wish to join NAA as individual members may join on-line at www.naturalareas.org/get-involved/become-member

Section 6. STUDENT CHAPTER MEETINGS/PROGRAMS

Suggestions for meetings might include:

6.1) Natural Area Promotion:

Develop a familiarity with the NAA, its mission, goals, and overall programs.

6.2) Chapter Promotion:

Prepare a poster or display of university information for NAA events

6.3) Literature Circles:

Discuss NAA publications or specific articles.

6.4) Field Trips:

Visit natural areas in the geographic area of the Chapter.

6.5) Invited Speakers:

Invite speakers to make technical presentations at your meetings several times a year.

6.6) Volunteer/Community Service:

Student Chapters are encouraged to complete one service project each year with a local, state or regional natural areas organization.

Section 7. Student & Advisor Attendance at the NAA Conference

The NAA encourages all students to attend the Annual Natural Areas Conference. We also encourage students to submit abstracts for either an oral presentation or a poster to the conference committee as specified by NAA guidelines (sent out each year in the summer in preparation for the conference each fall. All accepted student papers and posters will qualify for the Student Oral Presentation and Poster Competitions. The winners of the yearly competitions will receive a monetary award.



Natural Areas Association

Student Chapter Application

1. **College or University:** _____

2. **Accreditation:** _____
(Specify state, region, or national accrediting organization)

3. **Faculty/Staff Advisor:** _____

Title: _____

School Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ **Fax:** (____) _____

E-mail: _____

4. **Student Leader:** _____

Grade Level: _____

School Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ **Fax:** (____) _____

E-mail: _____

I have read and understand the conditions for establishing an ASCD student chapter and affirm that our chapter meets all the criteria outlined in the NAA Student Chapter Guidelines.

Faculty Advisor: _____ **Date:** _____
(Signature)

Student: _____ **Date:** _____
(Signature)

Please fax or mail completed application, chapter constitution, and school/department letter of chapter recognition to:

Natural Areas Association
C/o Student Program Committee
P.O. Box 1504
Bend OR 97709
USA

Tel: 541 317 0199
Fax: 541 317 0140

Appendix II

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Natural Areas Association and the

_____ **Student Chapter**
of the Natural Areas Association

The mission of the Natural Areas Association is to advance the preservation of natural diversity. The Association works to inform, unite, and support persons engaged in identifying, protecting, managing, and studying natural areas and biological diversity across landscapes and ecosystems.

Background:

The Natural Areas Association (NAA): Natural areas managers inventory, manage, monitor, and study representative protected natural populations and ecosystems. The NAA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a vital resource, providing natural areas 'defenders' with the tools and information they need to be successful. The NAA has been serving natural areas professionals, and volunteers, for over 35 years.

In October, 2010, the NAA Board of Directors resolved to support the establishment and operation of student chapters by piloting a program with two universities, University of Wisconsin – Stout and Southern Illinois University - Carbondale.

Student and faculty representatives of both institutions met with NAA board members in Osage Beach, Missouri on October 27th, 2010 to discuss the benefits of Student Chapters to students and to NAA. From these discussions, the NAA board now resolves the following:

Students at institutions of higher learning, colleges and universities, are an important constituent and their pursuit of careers in the natural areas profession is critical to sustaining natural areas into the future. To this end, NAA as a professional organization would like to provide a framework for students to:

- Engage with natural areas professionals
- Connect with students interested in natural areas professions from other parts of the country.
- Participate in NAA sponsored events such as the Natural Areas Conferences and workshops
- Publish in NAA publications such as the Natural Areas Journal and Natural Area Newsletter.
- Find jobs through the NAA network.
- Belong to a professional organization.

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to outline the terms of agreement between the Natural Areas Association (NAA) and the **(Chapter name)**.

Whereby, NAA and (**University**) recognize the mutual benefits of building upon this relationship by forming a Student Chapter of NAA. To guide this process, NAA and the (**Chapter name**) Student Chapter agree to the following terms:

The (**Chapter name**) Student Chapter agrees to:

1. Uphold the mission of NAA.
2. Have a Faculty/Staff Sponsor from the same institution.
3. Establish a student governing board including at minimum a president and secretary.
4. Hold a minimum of 2 meetings and 1 field trip per semester.
5. Maintain a chapter membership list. Provide this list and students' contact information to the NAA so that NAA can keep individual members informed of activities.
6. If possible establish a Facebook page or other student chapter web presence that connects to NAA's website and Facebook page. Chapter members are also encouraged to actively contribute to and participate with NAA's Facebook page.
7. Be listed on the University's website as one of the student clubs available to join.
8. Establish a link to the NAA website (www.naturalareas.org) from the University's website.
9. Join the NAA as a Student Chapter member at the annual student institutional fee of \$50/yr.

The NAA further recommends that the Student Chapter:

1. Hold other events as desired or needed
2. Actively recruit students to the NAA chapter
3. Encourage members of the student chapter to join NAA as student members
4. Have members attend NAA conferences as often as possible
5. Submit poster and paper presentations to the annual Natural Areas Conference as often as possible
6. Hold fund raising events to support both relevant local activities and to support NAA programs.
7. Encourage your university's library to become a Natural Areas Journal subscriber.

NAA agrees to:

1. Provide membership benefits as accorded to student members (electronic copy of the Natural Areas Newsletter (NAN), reduced registration fee for the annual NAA Conference, access to conference proceedings on the NAA website, etc.).
2. Provide an NAA liaison who would act as the main point of contact between the student chapter and the NAA board.
3. Provide opportunities at the NAA conference for the NAC Student Chapter to conduct business, such as meeting space, program announcements, display space, or other assistance as approved by the Conference Organizer.
4. Provide a reduced registration fee for NAA student chapter members to attend the national conferences.
5. Provide opportunities for reporting on chapter news in the NAN.
6. Facilitate, to the extent possible, contact with local NAA members who may provide speaking engagements, field trips, volunteer work days, mentoring, or other cooperative activities.

Limitations:

Whereby, this MOU formalizes a partnership between NAA and the (Chapter name) Student Chapter for one year from the date of signing by both parties and according to the terms of this agreement. This is a one-year pilot project to facilitate the creation of at this and other university's Student Chapters. This MOU can be terminated by either organization within 30 days notice, may be modified only by written amendment agreed to by both NAA and the (Chapter name) Student Chapter, and shall not be construed as requiring any expenditure of funds by either party.

Randy Heidorn, President, Natural Areas Association

Date

(Chapter designee)

Date