2024 CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED FORUM CALL FOR POSTER SESSION PROPOSALS

Submission Deadline: 11:59 PM on Friday, July 12, 2024

Background and Theme

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will hold the 19th Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum on October 18-20, 2024 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV. This watershed-wide event reaches up to 400 restoration and conservation practitioners annually to inspire and empower local action towards clean water. **The poster session will be held at 7:00 PM on Saturday, October 19 at NCTC.** The poster session is a juried event, with awards handed out for best poster in the new professional and professional categories.

Our theme for 2024 is "Making it Last: Proven Tactics for Building Enduring Projects, Partnerships, and Organizations."

Grant funding, budget cycles, terms of elected office, legislative policies, and other externalities are key drivers that heavily influence our collective conservation and restoration efforts. As such, many projects, partnerships, and organizations operate by necessity within 2 to 5-year timelines that parallel these cyclical processes. These abbreviated timelines, however, rarely set us up to create the lasting and positive impact necessary to equitably and inclusively engage all people who live, work, and play in the region and restore the lands and waters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

With this year's theme, we seek to showcase the projects, partnerships, and organizations that have continued to flourish for at least five years after establishment. We hope to learn about scientific research, technology, alternative funding streams, internal and external capacity building, community engagement techniques, and other approaches that foster their long-term success.

The Alliance is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all partnerships and recognizes that systems have historically left out underrepresented communities. Therefore, we will emphasize partnerships that prioritize equity and justice in their decision-making processes and elevate examples of long-term partnerships that are committed to creating equitable and sustainable solutions for all.

Note, posters do not have to fit the Forum's theme.

Poster Session Guidelines

Proposal Evaluation:

Poster abstracts that successfully relate to the field of interest listed below will be accepted. Poster proposals that describe organizational activities or are otherwise incomplete will not be accepted.

Each proposal must include/answer the following:

- Title of proposed poster (15 words or less).

- A short summary/abstract (200 words or less)

- Under which field of interest does your poster fall? You must select one.
    - Environmental Education
    - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice
    - Outreach (Community Engagement, Stewardship, Volunteerism)
    - Restoration/Conservation
    - Science (Methods, Monitoring, Evaluation)
    - Advocacy
    - Professional Development (Holistic Well-being)
    - Organizational Development

- Which category below best describes yourself, and why?
    - New Professional (post high school to less than 5 years work experience)
    - Professional (greater than 5 years work experience or volunteer work)

Presenter Expectations:

- Poster dimensions should be 3' x 4'. Presenters are expected to print their own posters and bring them to NCTC. Easels will be provided.
- Remember to keep good design practices in mind when assembling your poster. More resources and examples will be available once proposals are accepted.
- Poster presenters are expected to "host" (stand next to) their poster for at least the first hour of the poster session to interact with and answer questions from attendees.
- For more information about the 2024 Chesapeake Watershed Forum, click here.

Where do I go to submit my poster proposal?

Click Here to submit your proposal. Please plan to prepare your proposal ahead of submitting via the online portal.

For further information or questions about guidelines, contact Lauren Sauder at lsauder@allianceforthebay.org.