

## **2013 Mississippi Chapter AFS Student Travel Award Information and Application Instructions**

The Mississippi Chapter AFS (MSAFS) Travel Fund will provide monetary travel awards for deserving graduate students to attend the 2013 American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas (<http://afs2013.com/>). MS AFS will fund up to ten \$500 awards for students. You must be a parent society member, and a currently enrolled student in an Institution of Higher Learning within the State of Mississippi to be considered for the award. Student applicants must be presenting either an oral or poster presentation to be considered for the award.

Awardees will be selected by a committee of MSAFS members. You will be evaluated based on five criteria: 1) AFS involvement, 2) Professionalism and leadership, 3) Reason to attend the Annual Meeting, 4) Abstract quality and completeness, and 5) Faculty advisor's input. All five criteria are weighted equally. Travel support of US\$500 will be made available to selected applicants. The committee can decide that no student awards will be approved if appropriate or that up to 10 awards can be divided among the best applicants regardless of application type (student or professional).

### **2013 Student Application Form Instructions**

#### **Applications must be received no later than midnight, 31 March 2013 CDT.**

There are two parts to the student application. **Part I** is the application form available on the MSAFS website in the "Chapter Forms" section. This form must be completed by each student applicant. The application contains four (4) sections. Complete each section based on the guidelines listed below. All information requested should fit within the space provided by the fillable fields on the PDF application. Additional material will NOT be considered.

AFS involvement: Describe your involvement in AFS chapters, sections, and divisions. Please indicate the levels of AFS to which you currently belong, the positions you currently hold (committee member, elected position, etc.), and any positions you have held in the past.

Professionalism and leadership: Describe your professionalism and leadership that make you an outstanding candidate for this award. This may include (but is not limited to): presentations and publications, memberships in other societies and/or committees (AFS involvement will be described in the AFS involvement section), manuscript reviews, symposia, awards, and other outreach activities.

Reason to attend: Indicate your reason to attend the AFS Annual Meeting. This may include (but is not limited to) attending a symposium or workshop, presenting a paper or poster, attending a committee or technical meeting, networking for job and graduate school opportunities, etc.

Abstract quality and completeness: The committee will evaluate the submitted abstract for quality of presentation, data analysis and conclusions. Funds will generally not be awarded if the project is considered preliminary in nature.

Once you have completed the application, save the file with your information and send to Dr. Wes Neal at the address provided below (preferably by email) and proceed to **Part II** below.

**Part II** of the application is a letter of recommendation from the student's major advisor. The **faculty advisor should send the recommendation letter separately from the applicant** to Dr. Wes Neal at the e-mail address below:

Direct questions and/or send application and recommendation letters to:

Dr. J. Wesley Neal  
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Box 9690  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
E-mail: [jneal@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:jneal@cfr.msstate.edu)  
(662) 325-8363