

Attending WEFTEC as a student can be challenging, both on the financial and educational side. This guide provides you with step-by-step instructions for getting to WEFTEC 2021 and all the events as economically as possible.

Registration

WEFTEC Registration is FREE for WEF Student Members!

- If you are a WEF student member, register for WEFTEC [online](#).
- If you are not a WEF member, [become a member](#) before registering for the conference.

As you register for WEFTEC, be sure to indicate if you will be attending the [WEF Community Service Project](#) on Saturday, October 16. Transportation will be provided from the Hilton Chicago Headquarters Hotel (720 S. Michigan Ave) for a beach cleanup. Buses will begin loading at 8:15am and will be departing as full. Buses will arrive back at the Hilton by 4:00pm.

Airfare

Book air reservations early to get the best deals. Visit the [WEFTEC site](#) for information on airports and ground transportation.

Hotel

Rooms specifically for university students and academics are available at the **Royal Sonesta Chicago Riverfront** until August 13, 2021, or until they sell-out, whichever occurs first.

Call a WEFTEC housing customer care agent at 1-888-301-4933 (toll-free U.S. and Canada) or 1-415-979-2298 (globally) to reserve through this dedicated block. Reference group code "STUD." Customer care agents are available Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm EDT.

- **Royal Sonesta Chicago Riverfront @ \$221+/night (including occupancy tax):** Indulge in some of the largest guest rooms in Chicago. Browse the shops of the Magnificent Mile. Relax over locally sourced cuisine at Hoyt's American Tavern. Step outside directly onto the Riverwalk for a jog or enjoy the hotel's state-of-the-art fitness facilities. Complimentary fitness center access and basic guestroom internet are included with accommodation booked through WEFTEC Housing.

Events

Below is a [summary of events](#) throughout WEFTEC that are hosted or sponsored by the SYPC.

Friday, October 15

Virtual Water Palooza

Manierre Elementary School loved Water Palooza so much in 2017, that they partnered with us to help pivot this year's event to a fun virtual experience. The 2021 Virtual Water Palooza event will be occurring on Friday, October 15th at Manierre Elementary, with 350 kiddos in attendance. We will be providing content from multiple organizations, including MWRD's "Where Does it Go" virtual journey

through the depths of Chicago's infrastructure, the US Coast Guard, and Shedd Aquarium, among others. We have also shared the content from the Water Palooza Resource Center:

<https://www.wef.org/membership/students-and-young-professionals2/waterpalooza/waterpalooza-2020/>, an online educational video/content repository for educational leadership, teachers in school and online, and parents who have suddenly become full-time educators to access during the fall/winter of the 2020 school season, filled with resources including educational videos, hands-on activities, demonstrations, creative exercises, and competitions to help students learn about the water environment and the value of water. Want to provide content? Contact WEF Staff [Megan Livak](#).

Saturday, October 16

WEF Community Service Project, 8:00am – 4:00pm. Location: **12th Street Beach Natural Area** 1521 S. Linn White Drive (12th Street at Lake Michigan on Northerly Island).

The 2021 WEF Community Service Project, ***“Life is Better by the Lake, 12th Street Beach Restoration”*** will be held on Saturday, October 16th in collaboration with the Chicago Parks and the Shedd Aquarium, located at 1521 S. Linn White Drive (12th Street at Lake Michigan on Northerly Island). This year, our group of volunteers will be cleaning up the beach and removing invasive species from the area. The 12th Street Beach Natural Area is part of the Chicago Park District. It is home to the dune grasses and native flowering plants that play an important role for the habitat of the shore birds. In 2019, the Shedd Aquarium volunteers collected 460lbs of trash from this beach. For more information on the 12th Street Beach Natural Area please check out their [website](#).

Registration for the service project is free and open to all WEFTEC participants. Volunteers will receive transportation to and from the worksite, a t-shirt, lunch, and a WEF Community Service Project ribbon for their WEFTEC badge. Service Project volunteers will also leave a lasting mark on the water environment in Chicago.

The project will serve as an educational platform for the community to learn about water, the environment, and green infrastructure. To volunteer at the event, add the “WEF Community Service Project” to your WEFTEC Registration.

**Buses will pick up volunteers at the Hilton Chicago Headquarters Hotel (8th Street South entrance). We will begin loading at 8:15am and will be departing as filled. Buses will arrive back at the Hilton by 4:00pm.*

Sunday, October 17

Student Design Competition, 8:00am – 4:00pm. Location: **McCormick Place Chicago**, Illinois Rooms S105abc, South Building – Level 1

Students from across the Federation will present their design projects in both the wastewater and environmental topic areas. For more information, visit the [WEF Student Design Competition](#) webpage.

Monday, October 18

Annual Student Chapter Meeting, 10:00am – 11:00am. Location: **McCormick Place Chicago**, Illinois
Room N230, North Building, Level 2

Network with other student chapters, share ideas, and learn how we can help as you begin your professional career.

Students & Young Professionals Committee Meeting, 11:00 – 12:00pm. Location: **McCormick Place Chicago**, Illinois
Room N230, North Building, Level 2

Young Professionals, Students, Academics, and Member Association Leaders are invited to attend this meeting held annually at WEFTEC. Come join in on helping shape WEFTEC programs for students & young professionals.

Career Fair, 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Location: **McCormick Place Chicago**, Illinois
North Exhibit Hall

Network with multiple companies on the leading edge of the water sector looking for new graduates to hire!

HINT: Send your resume to blovett@wef.org by October 11th so that it can be added to the resume book that is handed out to participating companies.

Meals

Often there are a number of receptions and events that are held throughout WEFTEC where a student member can eat for free while networking with peers and other industry professionals.

HINT: Visit the exhibition floor to network with the exhibitors and consultants. Ask a YP to give you a tour of the exhibition floor if you are not comfortable venturing out there for the first time.

Saturday, October 16

Service Project, 9:00am – 4:00pm. Location: **12th Street Beach Natural Area**
1521 S. Linn White Drive (12th Street at Lake Michigan on Northerly Island).

Lunch will be provided to volunteers at the service project site. Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to keep hydrated and help us reduce the disposal footprint.

Sunday, October 17

Student Break Room, 8:00am – 3:00pm. Location: **McCormick Place Chicago**, Illinois
Room S106, South Building – Level 1



Feel free to relax, network, and meet fellow students and WEF young professionals throughout the day of the Student Design Competition.

Student Design Competition Awards Reception, 5:00 – 6:00pm. Location: **McCormick Place Chicago**, Illinois, S105abc

Enjoy light dinner fare and conversation with SDC competitors and WEF Young Professionals. Stay for announcements of the SDC winners, 6-6:30!

[Monday, September 23](#)

Exhibit Hall Reception: Hall A, South Building, Hall B, North Building, McCormick Place

Mingle with exhibitors and WEF members.