Environmental Division 2024 Student Poster Contest Overview and Guidelines

Overview

At each SME Annual Conference, the Environmental Division (ED) holds a student poster session contest as a way to encourage and foster the next generation of Geologists, Geological Engineers, Environmental Engineers and Environmental Scientists, and to support the students' academic achievements. The ED welcomes both graduate and undergraduate participants from a diversity of universities. Students submit their abstracts via email, and then display their posters at the ED Luncheon held during the SME MINEXCHANGE Annual Conference & Expo. They explain their research in person to a panel of judges selected from industry, academia and the ED leadership, who review the quality of abstracts, posters and presentations to determine the winners.

Students have the opportunity to show off their work and a chance to put cash in their pockets to further their education. The first-place winner receives $1,000; the second-place $500; and the third-place $250. In addition, each poster submission receives a complimentary ticket to the ED Luncheon.

Beyond the monetary incentive is the invaluable chance to network. Held just before the ED luncheon for all SME members to attend, the poster presentations provide a platform for professionals to talk with the students about their work. Business cards are often exchanged, providing students with a professional contact that might be able to provide some insight into their research as well as a point of contact with a company or organization that could be helpful when advancing their career.

2024 ED Student Poster Contest

SME's ED invites all interested students to participate in its Student Poster Contest in conjunction with the 2024 SME MINEXCHANGE Annual Conference & Expo in Phoenix, AZ.

Contest Details:

- There will be one level of judging: graduate students and undergraduate students. However, consideration will be given to experience and level of education in regards to the subject matter.

- Two phases of judging will occur: abstracts and poster presentations.

- Prizes for each level: $1,000 for 1st; $500 for 2nd; and $250 for 3rd. Each poster submission will receive a complimentary ticket to the ED Luncheon on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. Luncheon tickets will be for the author only.

Contest Format:

- Participants will submit a 1-page abstract by January 31, 2024 to the ED Program Planning Chair at evd-poster@smenet.org.

- Poster presentations will be the morning of Tuesday, February 27, 2024. Each student will have 5 minutes to explain their research to a panel of judges, followed by Q&A with the judges.

- Judging will focus on the quality of abstracts, posters and presentation.

- Winners will be announced during the ED Luncheon.

To Qualify and Enter:

- To qualify, you must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at an accredited university, a member of SME, and will make plans to attend the 2024 SME Annual Conference & Expo in Phoenix, AZ.

- To enter, submit your 1-page abstract to evd-poster@smenet.org no later than January 31, 2024.

- All entries must be from individual students (i.e., co-authors may only be research advisors).

Timeline:

- 1-page abstract submitted by January 31, 2024.

- The ED Poster Session is scheduled for February 27, 2024 in Phoenix.

- We recommend posters are prepared and approved by research sponsors by February 9.

- Failure to follow the guidelines and due dates listed herein may result in ineligibility.

Formatting Requirements:

Abstract Format

- 1 page (including text and graphics); 8.5" x 11" paper size; 1" margins.

- You must submit as a PDF file; the file name should be "last name_first name_EDContest_2024.pdf"

- Send your PDF file to evd-poster@smenet.org.

Template Poster Format

- A poster size of 35" x 44" is recommended, but not required.

- Many helpful guides to poster design are available and can be found online.

- Directions for hanging your poster in the session area will be provided at a later date for those poster abstracts selected to participate.

Helpful Dos and Don'ts

- DO use at least 16-point size font for any text you mount. Most viewers will be at least three feet away from your poster, and smaller fonts will be difficult to see.

- DO NOT mount the text of your paper as the poster.

- DO NOT be absent from your scheduled poster time! The purpose of a poster session is to create additional opportunities for you to interact with your colleagues.

Points to consider when putting your poster together:

- Divide the contents of your poster into appropriate sections. For instance – title of paper, author, institutional affiliation, abstract, methodology, data, results, conclusions, etc.

- Use larger than 16-point font lettering for the poster's title, author and institutional affiliation.

- Avoid fonts that are script or difficult to read.

- If hand lettering is required, use a black felt-tip pen (Sharpie).

- Be concise with your written material. Save elaborative points for discussion/interaction with viewers. For conclusions, focus on a central finding that lends itself to informal discussion.

- Use graphs, charts and/or tables (color if possible) to show results. Graphics help make your poster interesting.

- A neutral poster or matte board is more amenable to the eye than a brightly colored background. A splash of color here and there, perhaps highlighting central findings or exciting results, will make your poster "stand out" from the others.

- A mailing tube or portfolio case is recommended for transporting your poster.

Judging criteria (up to 30 points total possible):

- Abstract technical content – scored 0 to 7 points.

- Professionalism of abstract and alignment with these guidelines – scored 0 to 3 points.

- Poster appearance (organization, layout, alignment with these guidelines) – scored 0 to 10 points.

- Presenter's presentation of poster (speaking, ability to respond to questions) – scored 0 to 10 points.

- Presenters will each be allotted 5 minutes to explain their research to a panel of judges; scores will be reduced if time is exceeded.