2026 Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Summit

Student Pitch Competition

https://www.sfpe.org/2026wuisummit/studentpitch

PROPOSALS DUE: MAY 1, 2026

ONE $10,000 USD GRANT + TWO $5,000 USD GRANTS

This PDF provides a list of the required questions and information for submitting a proposal for informational purposes only. Your proposal must be submitted via the Google Form link on the website.

If you cannot access Google Forms due to a firewall issue, please email: FoundationEvents@sfpefoundation.org for instructions regarding an alternative submission process.

One representative from each team should submit on behalf of the entire team.

Pitch Proposals must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, May 1, 2026.**

Eligibility: Teams must have a minimum of two and a maximum of five undergraduate student and/or graduate student team members. Post-doctoral researchers can serve as

project supervisors, but they cannot count towards your core team members. At least two different engineering subfields or specialties must be represented within the team, and it must be clear that the proposed project requires expertise from these subfields to be successful. Students can participate on more than one team. There is no limit to the number of proposals a team can submit.

Three finalists will be awarded. The grand prize-winning team will receive a $10,000 USD grant to support their project; two runners-up will receive $5,000 USD each.

Your proposal must be submitted via the Google Form link on the website.

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*required information

- **Email Address***

- **Student Project Proposal Title***

Primary Team Member

- **Primary Team Member's Full Name (First Name and Last Name)***

- **Primary Team Member's School Level ***
  - Undergraduate
  - Graduate
  - Doctoral

- **Primary Team Member's Email***

- **Primary Team Member's Address of Residence** (Street, City, State/Province, Postal Code, Country)*

- **Primary Team Member's College/University***

- **Our goal is to bring together students from various disciplines on the project team. Which major or discipline best describes your primary area of study?***
  Check all that apply.

    - Architecture
    - Landscape Architecture
    - Urban Planning
    - Data Science
    - Economics
    - Psychology
    - Sociology
    - Aerospace Engineering
    - Agricultural Engineering
    - Architectural Engineering
    - Chemical Engineering
    - Civil and Environmental Engineering
    - Combustion and Fluid Mechanics
    - Combustion and Fire Science
    - Electrical Engineering
    - Environmental Safety and Risk Engineering
    - Fire Protection Engineering, Fire Safety Engineering, Fire Science, or Fire Engineering
    - Industrial Engineering
    - Mechanical Engineering
    - Petroleum Engineering
    - Risk Engineering
    - Solid State Physics
    - Structural Engineering
    - Transportation Engineering
    - Thermal Science
    - Thermal Science and Power Engineering
    - Other

- **Primary Student/Project Supervisor's Full Name (First Name and Last Name)***
  Every project is required to have a primary supervisor who is a faculty member or post-doctoral researcher working directly in a supervisory capacity with one of the students listed on the project team. Multiple project supervisors are allowed. For example, a two-student team may have a primary supervisor who is the thesis supervisor for one of the two students, along with a secondary supervisor from an industry partner who is also advising the students on some aspects of their project.

- **Primary Student/Project Supervisor's Email***

- **Primary Student/Project Supervisor Organizational Affiliation***

- **Primary Student/Project Supervisor Job Title***

- **Upload a Letter of Support from a minimum of one (1) Student/Project Supervisor.** Multiple letters of support can be uploaded, but they should be combined into a single PDF document. The letter of support should indicate: the supervisor's relationship to the student team members; that the supervisor is aware of the proposed project and understands the scientific and practical value of it; the degree to which the supervisor believes these students are positioned to deliver on the project as proposed; and, confirms that the student(s) will have their support to undertake the project if awarded.* 1 Supported file: PDF Max 100 MB

Team Members

- **Team Member 2 (required) – repeat Questions 3-8***

- **Team Member 3 (optional) – repeat Questions 3-8**

- **Team Member 4 (optional) – repeat Questions 3-8**

- **Team Member 5 (optional) – repeat Questions 3-8**

Project Proposal Submission

- **Project Description/Summary (150 words maximum).** This will appear to the public if your team is selected to present at the 2026 WUI Summit.*

- **What knowledge gap(s) identified in _The Contributions of Fire Engineering in Addressing the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Problem [White Paper]_ will your project help close? Please be as specific as possible with references to the white paper linked above. (150 words maximum). ***

- **Full Abstract/Proposal (500 words maximum).*** 1 Supported file: PDF Max 100 MB
  Please upload a PDF document that includes the following components:

- **Cover Page (does not count towards the word limit):** title of the proposed project; name, email address, and affiliation of all student team members; name, email address, and affiliation of the primary project supervisor and any other project supervisors submitting letters of support; description of any prior financial support this project has received from any institution; and, the word count for the proposal content.
- **Proposal Content (counts towards the 500-word limit):**
    - Description of your proposed collaborative research project, tool, or educational offering, along with any specific aims or objectives.
    - Background and significance of your proposed project.
    - Any methods or procedures you will undertake.
    - Project timeline and anticipated deliverables.
    - Potential implications for research and practice, and overall potential for impact as a result of your findings.
- **Student Team Background** (does not count towards the word limit)
    - A description of the backgrounds of each student team member, highlighting the unique expertise that each student brings to the team. Successful proposals will do an excellent job of explaining why a collaborative research project bridging multiple engineering and research backgrounds is essential to yield the best possible project outcome.
    - Please also include a brief description of any support you expect to receive from faculty, post-doctoral, or industry supervisors that will contribute to your team's performance.

- **Project Budget.** Please upload a PDF document that explains in detail your project budget. The grand prize-winning team will receive a grant of $10,000 USD to support their project. Two runner-up teams will each receive a grant of $5,000 USD. Your project budget should explain what you will be able to accomplish with the full $10,000 USD award, as well as what can be accomplished with the $5,000 USD award. If your team has members from more than one university, your budget must detail how much of the funding is expected to go to each student at each university. Grant funds cannot be used to pay for travel or registration to attend the 2026 WUI Fire Engineering Summit. Grant funds should not be used to pay indirect overhead or similar administrative costs that are not directly related to the project. Three finalists will be invited to "pitch" their proposal at the 2026 WUI Summit; each finalist team may receive two complimentary student registrations and two travel grants ($1,000 USD each) to support their attendance and presentation at the Summit. * 1 Supported file: PDF Max 100 MB

- **Download and complete the SFPE Foundation's Conflict of Interest Form, available [here](). Then upload it here.***

- **If your proposal is selected as one of three finalists, you will be expected to have at least one (but no more than two) student team members attend the 2026 WUI Fire Engineering Summit and deliver a live "pitch" to a panel of judges and all conference attendees. Prior to the presentation at the conference, you will be required to work with SFPE Foundation staff and/or volunteers to complete virtual practice runs of your pitch to ensure you are prepared and can stay within the allotted time limit (5 minutes per pitch). Do you understand that all finalists are expected to attend and deliver their research project pitch presentation in person, and to participate in virtual practice rounds with SFPE Foundation staff?***
  - Yes
  - No
  - Maybe

- **If you answered "No" or "Maybe" to the question above, please explain your response. If you answered "Yes," please type N/A in the space below.***

- **If your proposal is selected as a finalist, you will be required to provide a downloadable handout for Summit attendees, such as a PDF of your proposal, which will be published on the SFPE Foundation website as a Summary of Proceedings. What type of materials do you plan to provide?***

- **We plan to record most of the sessions and will make them available to registrants and others after the Summit is over. If selected as a finalist, do you consent to having your pitch presentation recorded and shared through SFPE Foundation channels after the event has concluded?***
  - Yes
  - No
  - Maybe

- **If you answered "No" or "Maybe" to the question above, please explain your response. If you answered "Yes," please type N/A in the space below.***

- **Are you ready to submit? Please double-check your responses and click "Yes" below to submit your abstract for consideration.***
  - Yes