



# YP Connections

## The YP Springboard Program Experience at Midyear

For 4 days at the end of January (Jan. 25-28), Coral Gables, FL was buzzing with industry professionals from across the globe, there to attend the annual WEF Midyear Meeting. Among these, was a group of 14 excited WEF Students and Young Professionals Committee members (SYPC), selected to participate through the YP Springboard Program.



Midyear offers WEF committees a chance to meet with each other face to face, as well as to start planning their contributions to the Water Environment Federation's Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference, WEFTEC®. For Springboard participants, it is a rare opportunity to get a first-hand glimpse at what it means to be part of a national-level committee and an excellent opportunity to connect with other professionals (seasoned professionals and YPs) who are eager to help you get more actively involved in their committees.

## WEF's Young Professionals Debut an Emerging YP Leadership Workshop

For over a decade, WEF and AWWA have collaborated to organize an annual Young Professionals Summit. This year, the YP Summit occurred in warm, sunny Tampa, FL on February 7th. Breaking from the typical forms of years past, WEF debuted a unique, half-day leadership workshop dubbed the Emerging Young Professionals Leadership (EYPL) Workshop that preceded the YP Summit on Monday, February 6th.



The EYPL Workshop was designed as a forum for students and young professionals to hone skills to carve out their distinct path to success within the water industry. The program was carefully curated to include Member Association (MA) success stories and discussions about emerging challenges such as work-life balance and unconscious bias.

### Upcoming Events:

4/18:  
Registration Opens for WEFTEC 2017

4/20:  
Turn Up Your Volume with Social Media Webcast

4/26-4/28:  
WEFMAX Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio

5/1:  
Student Chapter Annual Reports Due

5/10-5/12:  
WEFMAX Meeting,  
Winnipeg, Canada

[See all events](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

YP Connections is brought to you by the WEF Students and Young Professionals Committee. To join us or learn more, visit us online at [www.wef.org/syp](http://www.wef.org/syp)

### Submissions:

Have news to share? Please contact us at [ypconnections@wef.org](mailto:ypconnections@wef.org)

## [A Young Professional's Perspective on the 2017 YP Summit and Utility Management Conference](#)

Do you ever wonder what it's like to attend the AWWA/WEF YP Summit or speak at a National Conference for the first time? Jamie Langer, from Colorado's Young Professionals group, shared with WEF her experience at this year's YP Summit and Utility Management Conference.



"I can honestly say that this conference truly surprised me and exceeded all expectations. The caliber and motivation that the next generation has in the water and wastewater industry is exciting. The agenda was full of presentations and trainings with topics that included work-life balance, career planning, member engagement, and personality profiles. I left this training with tools to improve myself as a leader as well as how to improve my own young professionals organization back home." -Jamie Langer, Rocky Mountain WEA.

---

## [Preview the WEFMAX YP Summit in Cincinnati](#)

As a kick-off to WEFMAX in Cincinnati, the Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA) has collaborated with its South West Section (SWOWEA) to host a YP Summit on Wednesday, April 26th, 2017. The YP Summit aims to promote the exchange of skills, experiences, and knowledge from professionals with wide-ranging backgrounds uniting in a common understanding that Regardless of Job Title, We Are All Professionals!



Presentations will be given from OWEA leaders from all backgrounds followed by roundtable discussions where attendees will be encouraged to actively discuss challenges and opportunities of their jobs. Attendees will be asked to keep their minds open, their expectations high, and their time investments worthwhile.

---

## [New England Young Professionals Host their Inaugural YP Summit](#)

The NEWEA Young Professionals Committee hosted its first annual YP Summit at the NEWEA Annual Conference on January 22nd with a tremendous turnout of nearly 70 attendees. The idea for the summit arose from NEWEA's campaign to increase young professional engagement throughout the organization. The summit was structured to provide a welcoming forum for YPs to engage with their peers as well as leading members of the industry. The summit consisted of two industry-related presentations and a Q&A session, followed by a networking reception with the NEWEA Executive Committee.



## **More News for Students and Young Professionals**

[Site Selected for the 2017 WEF Community Service Project](#)

[Is your school or Member Association getting ready for the WEF Student Design Competition?](#)

[Don't forget: WEF Student Chapter Reports Due May 1](#)

[EPA Publishes Request for Comments in Federal Register](#)

[WEF Introduces the Volunteer Service Recognition Program](#)

[WEFTEC Registration Opens April 18](#)

[Mark your calendar for an April Webcast](#)