

2025 AFS Skinner Award – Application instructions

Overview

The John E. Skinner Memorial Fund was established in memory of John Skinner, former California-Nevada Chapter and Western Division AFS President. The fund provides monetary travel awards for deserving graduate students or exceptional undergraduate students to attend the AFS annual meeting.

Any student who is active in fisheries or related aquatic disciplines and has not previously won a full Skinner award is eligible to apply. Awardees are chosen by a committee of the AFS Education Section. Selection is based on academic qualifications, professional service, and reasons for attending the meeting. Travel support of up to (but not more than) US\$1000 will be made available to successful applicants. In the event of a student electing to attend virtually, their conference registration will be covered. Award winners will also receive a one-year paid membership to AFS. Ten students will be selected for the full award, and an additional five students will be selected for Honorable Mention. Students who receive an Honorable Mention will receive complimentary conference registration and a one-year membership to AFS.

There are two parts to the online application:

- **Part I**, completed by the student applicant.
- **Part II**, completed by the applicant's mentor/faculty advisor.

Detailed instructions on where and how to apply are below. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the John E. Skinner Chair, John Hargrove via email:

john.hargrove@idfg.idaho.gov

FOR STUDENTS

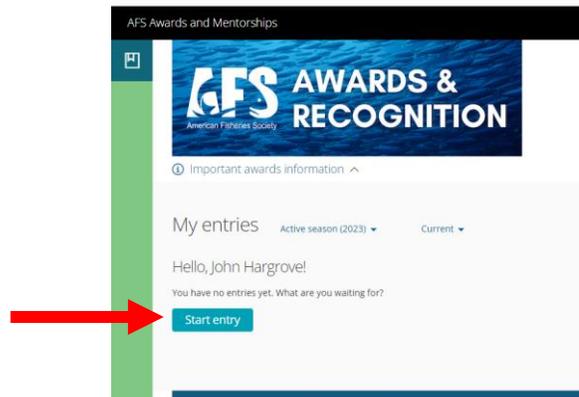
American Fisheries Society Awards applications are submitted online by visiting the following webpage and registering for an account.

<https://afsawards.awardsplatform.com/>

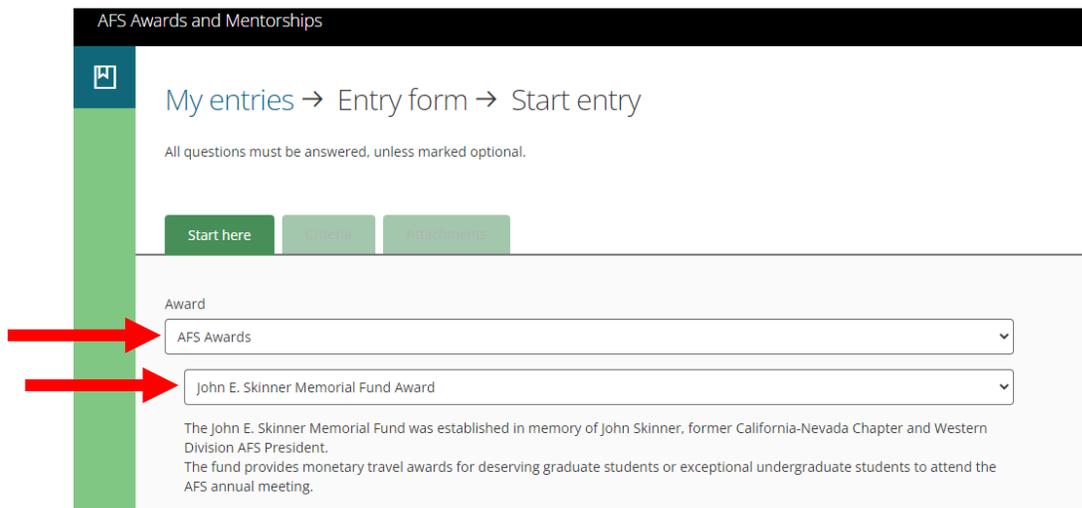
The screenshot shows the AFS Awards & Recognition website. At the top, there is a teal banner with the AFS logo and the text "AFS AWARDS & RECOGNITION". Below the banner, there are three main sections: "Welcome", "Register", and "Log in". The "Welcome" section contains a message and a list of steps to start a submission. The "Register" section contains a form with fields for "First name", "Last name", "Email", "Password", and "Confirm password". A red arrow points from the "Welcome" section to the "Register" form. The "Log in" section contains a form with fields for "Email or mobile ID" and "Password", and a "Log in" button. Below the "Log in" form, there are social media login options for Facebook, Twitter, and Google.

You will need to verify your email address before proceeding. Click 'Confirm account' in the email sent by no-reply@app.awardforce.com

Once you have registered and verified your email address, scroll down on the Awards & Recognition page and click on the link to 'Start entry'



This will bring you to the next page where you will select 'AFS Awards' from the first drop-down menu. Once you have done that a second drop-down below will appear. Select 'John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award'



From here you will fill in blanks with appropriate details (name, address, etc.). Once this is complete, click 'Save + next'

The next page requests a 'Cover Letter', 'Award Supporting Document 1 (optional)', 'Award Supporting Document 2 (optional)', 'Award Supporting Document 3 (optional)', and 'Staff upload (optional)'.

For the AFS Skinner Award you will need to address specific criteria outlined below. Please respond to Sections 1-4 (below) in a single Microsoft Word document and upload it under ‘Cover Letter’. The document with your answers is the only one that will be considered for your application (if you upload a CV/resume it will be ignored).

At the top of your response, please provide: 1) your full name, 2) current degree you are pursuing, 3) and the university you are attending.

Section 1. AFS Involvement and Leadership (WORD LIMIT FOR RESPONSE: 250 words) – Students will be evaluated on their level of leadership and involvement with AFS. This includes past and current involvement (including planned involvement for this year’s national AFS meeting). Please describe your level of past/current/future AFS involvement and leadership using the following questions:

- Have you founded or co-founded a student subsection or novel position/group within AFS?
- Have you served as an officer, committee chair, or committee member in AFS?
- Have you supervised a Hutton student or served as a mentor for a student subsection?
- Have you organized or co-organized a symposia or workshop at an AFS meeting?
- Have you organized events at the student subsection level?
- Have you served as a reviewer for an AFS journal?
- Have you volunteered to help with activities or events in AFS?
- Have you presented at an AFS meeting? Please describe at what level (state, regional, national).
- Are you currently an AFS member? If so, how long have you been a member?

Section 2. Relevant Professionalism, Leadership, and Academic Achievements (WORD LIMIT FOR RESPONSE: 250 words) – Students will be evaluated based on their level of leadership and involvement in professional activities and academic accomplishments outside of AFS. Please do not reiterate descriptions of AFS positions listed above. Please use the following questions as a guide to describe relevant examples of professionalism, leadership and academic achievements:

- Have you published a peer-reviewed journal article?
- Have you received a scholarship or merit-based award?
- Have you served as an officer, committee chair, or on a committee in non-AFS professional society or school organization?
- Have you engaged in mentoring activities?
- Have you organized non-AFS related events including symposia, workshops, or outreach activities?
- Have you presented at non-AFS meetings?

Section 3. Goals as a student of aquatic natural resources (WORD LIMIT FOR RESPONSE: 150 words) – Briefly describe your goals as a student of aquatic natural resources.

Section 4. Reason to Attend the Annual AFS Meeting (WORD LIMIT FOR RESPONSE: 200 words) – Describe the reason(s) you want to attend the annual AFS meeting (e.g., presenting a paper or poster, chairing a session, networking, business meetings, etc.). Please use the following questions as a guide to describe why you want to attend the annual AFS meeting:

- Are you organizing or co-organizing a symposia or event at this year’s meeting?
- Are you presenting a poster or presentation (talk) at the meeting?

- Are you attending a business/subsection meeting in which you are involved (e.g., hold a position?)
- Are you attending a business or subsection meeting and generally networking?

Once you have uploaded your Cover Letter with responses to the four questions above, you will scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'Submit Entry'. Once this is done, you will be able to view your completed application under the 'My entries' tab on the home screen.

Next, your advisor will need to provide a letter of support. Instructions for Advisors are below.

ADVISORS

For the advisor portion of this award process, please answer each of these questions in a single Microsoft Word document and email it to Lauren Maza lmaza@fisheries.org and John Hargrove john.hargrove@idfg.idaho.gov

1. Please provide the applicant's name and your name at the top of the document.
2. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? (*WORD LIMIT FOR RESPONSE: 100 words*)
3. What is the applicant's professional promise including potential future involvement in aquatic natural resources, and professional society involvement such as AFS? (*WORD LIMIT FOR RESPONSE: 350 words*)
4. Why should the applicant receive the Skinner Award to attend the annual meeting this year (e.g., include financial need if appropriate)? (*WORD LIMIT FOR RESPONSE: 200 words*)