

2026 ASM Student Science Policy Award

Application Process and Requirements

The American Society of Mammalogists is pleased to announce that its committee is accepting applications for the 2026 ASM Student Science Policy Award, which is offered in collaboration with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). This award sponsors up to two graduate students interested in both science policy and mammalogy to go on a 3-day, expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in spring (typically April) to participate in AIBS Congressional Visits Day. During the trip, awardees will receive policy and communications training to prepare for meetings with congressional policymakers and federal agency scientists concerning research and budget priorities. A full day will be spent on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Congress and their staff to discuss the importance of federal investment in the biological sciences.

Recipients of this award will receive the following:

- **A sponsored 3-day trip to Washington, D.C.** including domestic airfare and hotel accommodations
- **A one-year online subscription** to the journal *BioScience*
- **Policy and communications training** hosted by AIBS
- **An award certificate** upon completion of the public policy leadership training
- **Recognition** during the annual members meeting of ASM

All graduate students who are members of the American Society of Mammalogists are encouraged to apply! You must obtain membership **prior** to submission of your application to be considered. Student online-only membership is available for \$25 (<http://www.mammalsociety.org/membership>).

Applications including a cover letter, one-page policy statement, resume, and one letter of reference must be sent to maschlis@umich.edu no later than **11:59 PM Eastern Time on Friday, January 23rd, 2026**. The subject line of the email must include “ASM Student Science Policy Award” and the applicant’s name (e.g. ASM Student Science Policy Award – J. Smith). All documents should be included in a single PDF document with the format Applicantfirstname_Lastname_Application.pdf (e.g. Jane_Smith_Application.pdf). Letters of reference emailed separately from the application will be accepted provided they use the same subject line and clearly identify the applicant.

- **Cover Letter:** Describe your interest in science policy and how this experience will further your career goals. Confirm your ability to commit to travel to Washington, D.C. in spring 2026 to participate in the 3-day event.
- **One-page Statement:** In 500 words or less, articulate the importance of federal support of research in the biological sciences, particularly mammalogy. A successful statement will communicate the significance of such research to a non-scientist audience, drawing upon the applicant’s experiences and research areas

where applicable. The statement can also reference local issues that may be of interest to your Congressional delegation.

- **Resume (two-page limit):** The resume should emphasize leadership, policy experience, and communication experience. This may include graduate, undergraduate, or non-academic activities, relevant education, work experience, honors and awards, and membership in scientific societies. Conference presentations and scientific manuscripts should be included if they are relevant to the science-policy interface.
- **Letter of Reference:** A reference letter should be provided by a college or university faculty mentor who can attest to your program of study, leadership, personal motivation, and interpersonal communication skills. Ideally, the letter writer would be someone familiar with your interest in or experience with science policy.

Applicants will be notified in February 2026 of the decision of the ASM selection committee. Please direct questions to: maschlis@umich.edu