

## Student FAQ:

### 1) What is MOAFS and/or AFS?

- a. The American Fisheries Society (AFS) (aka the society) is a professional society of academics, biologists, managers, and other professionals dedicated to furthering fisheries science throughout the world. MOAFS is Missouri's state chapter of the society and works on a local level in Missouri. MOAFS has official student subunits at 4 universities (University of MO – Columbia, University of Central MO, Southeast Missouri State University, and Missouri State University). Aquatics or fisheries students at any Missouri university are encouraged to belong either to MOAFS or their official student subunit.

### 2) Why should I belong to a professional society?

- a. **Being a member of AFS accelerates the process of gaining: a job, professional development, and experience in an environment not found anywhere else.**



#### **Give your career a jump start or a jump ahead.**

- Present a paper or poster at annual conference for additional public speaking experience
- Gain recognition for a high quality paper or poster
- Become a leader in a student subunit or the MOAFS chapter
- Earn your credentials as a Certified Fisheries Professional, recognized by all 50 states, the federal government, non-profit groups, and consulting firms.

#### **Keep current with the latest ideas.**

- Pick up and strengthen new skills through continuing education
- Share ideas with fisheries professionals at all stages of their careers

#### **Make a difference!**

- Share your experience and knowledge that is valuable to others.
- Reverse-mentor a seasoned professional on a new technology.

#### **Save money.**

- Compete for scholarships and merit awards to help pay for expenses at school
- Members receive discounts on registration fees at events sponsored by MOAFS, and much more.

#### **Have fun in an open, positive environment.**

- Be part of a group at school with similar career interests, and possibly hobbies;
- Participate in special events that meet your personal or professional interests;
- Keep in touch with friends after you graduate.

### 3) How do I become a subunit, state chapter (MOAFS), or Society member (AFS)?

- a. Each subunit establishes membership requirements in their bylaws. This usually consists of paying dues by the school year or semester. Students are considered MOAFS state chapter members when they pay membership fees (annual or semester) to their

respective subunit.

Students not able to join subunits can join MOAFS directly by going [here](#).

Membership in the society (AFS) is encouraged. Some officers may be required to be AFS members while holding certain offices or duties (i.e. official student representative on MOAFS governing board).

**4) What is the MOAFS governing board and what does the official student representative do?**

- a. MOAFS activities are coordinated by an elected set of officers, or executive committee, and chairs of various committees. The committee chairs and elected officers make up the MOAFS governing board. This board meets at least twice per year, once during the annual business meeting (typically held at the MNRC conference) and again during the year as needed. If the president wishes, more governing board meetings can be held. Any MOAFS member is welcome at these meetings.

One of the governing board seats is held for the official student representative. MOAFS currently has 4 active subunits. Member(s) of each subunit is/are welcome at all governing board meetings; at various times one subunit member may act as the official student representative, who will have voting privileges representing all 4 subunits.

**5) What information does the subunit need to provide to MOAFS on a regular basis?**

- a. A list of current members: Subunit members who have paid dues are then also considered MOAFS members. The list should include students' name, email, address, phone, and subunit affiliation, and should be sent to the student support committee chair or MOAFS membership chair.
- b. Changes of officers to student support committee chair, along with contact information.
- c. Semester reports of activities (these will be included in the MOAFS newsletter; pictures are welcomed):
  - i. Fall activities can be reported in person at the MOAFS annual business meeting. If unable to attend the business meeting, a summary should be sent to the student support committee chair at the end of the fall semester.
  - ii. Spring activities should be summarized and reported to the student support committee chair at the end of the spring semester.

**6) What MOAFS activities can I be involved in?**

- a. Help with annual raffle or other fund-raisers at MNRC, and manning the MOAFS booth at MNRC
- b. Assist with the annual disabled fishing clinic in September in Rolla, or the disabled fishing clinic at Maramec Spring in April.
- c. Involvement in the various standing committees (see [www.moafs.org](http://www.moafs.org) for details)

**7) What kind of 'support' can MOAFS provide my subunit?**

- a. Financial – there are individual award opportunities, as well as funding for group activities through MOAFS, like attending conferences or organizing field trips
- b. Access to job shadow opportunities, help finding local 'fisheries' connection, or suggestions for field trips or guest speakers.
- c. You tell us what you need and we will do our best to help!

**8) Can a subunit have its own checking account, and what about tax exempt status?**

- a. Yes, each subunit is encouraged to manage its own account. Record keeping is extremely important; each transaction needs to be recorded and documented, so the money (which should be exempt from taxes) can be accounted for. Usually, university student groups are granted tax exempt status through the university, and may have more details on how to maintain that status.

**9) How can I get the latest information on upcoming conferences, employment opportunities, scholarships, workshops, etc.?**

- a. Become a member and like us on [Facebook](#)! MOAFS strives to share pertinent information in various ways... via email, electronic newsletter, and website posting ([http://www.moafs.org/student/student\\_support.htm](http://www.moafs.org/student/student_support.htm) ). It's important that we have your current email address; if you're not sure if you're on our list, please send an email to inquire.