

STUDENTS OF AGRONOMY, SOILS, & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

agronomy.org/undergrads • crops.org/undergrads • soils.org/undergrads

The Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences (SASES) is the undergraduate student program of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). SASES is an affiliation of agronomy, crops, soils, plant science, or environmental science clubs and their undergraduate student members from colleges and universities throughout North America (primarily the United States). Student clubs choose to affiliate with SASES and petition SASES to become an affiliated club. There are no fees to affiliate with SASES, the only requirement is that all club members become individual student members of the ASA, CSSA or SSSA.

SASES benefits students by:

- Promoting career opportunities in agronomy, crops, soils, and environmental sciences
- Encouraging professionalism, cooperation, and an exchange of ideas among students
- Developing lifelong career and leadership skills
- Providing national unity among members and clubs
- Gaining exposure and interacting with professionals/activities of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Contests

Individual members, teams, and clubs compete for cash prizes, certificates, complimentary society membership, or journal subscriptions. Contests are supported by the Societies and private organizations:

Annual Meeting Contests:

Club Poster Presentation Contest—showcases undergraduate work in club activities and gives recognition for promoting agronomy, crop, soil, and environmental sciences on their campus or local community.

Crop Judging Showcase—provides opportunities for students to practice identification, lab, and problem solving skills.

Darrel S. Metcalfe Student Manuscript Contest—provides students with experience in researching, organizing and writing articles on scientific topics for publication.

Presidents' Trophy Contest—opportunity for club representative to make a presentation about activities in attempt to prove they are club of the year.

Quiz Bowl—test of knowledge as teams of four face off to answer questions relating to agronomy, soils, crops, and environmental science.

Research Symposium Contest—develops the ability of students to conduct research and competitively present those research findings through oral and poster presentations to judges at the Annual Meeting.

Speech Contest—provides opportunities for students to improve their public speaking abilities by preparing a 5-7 minute speech from a choice of 3 topics in approximately six hours before judging

Visual Presentation Contest—allows students to present materials that communicate an agronomic, soils, or environmental science story with the intent of educating small audience on a technical topic.

Other Contests:

Soil Judging Contest—provides students with experience in identifying, evaluating, and classifying soil profiles

Collegiate Crops Judging Contest—provides students with experience in commercial grading, seed analysis, and plant identification.

National Student Recognition Program

Outstanding seniors in four- and two-year institutions are selected and submitted by their departments. Recipients are recognized in the CSA News and receive a plaque.

Scholarships*

J. Fielding Reed Undergraduate Soil and Plant Sciences Scholarship – for students pursuing a career in soil or plant sciences

Frank D. Keim Graduate Fellowship – for undergraduate student recipients of the National Student Recognition Program pursuing a graduate degree

Agronomic Travel Study Undergraduate Scholarship – for students participating in study-abroad programs

Hubert J. Byrd Sr. Scholarship – for undergraduate students pursuing careers as professional consulting soil scientists

Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship – for undergraduate and graduate students interested in working in the field of soil and water conservation

Golden Opportunity Scholars and *Greenfield Scholars* – pairs talented undergraduate students with mentors to help cultivate networks to develop the necessary workforce to sustain the agronomy, crops, and soils professions. Selected students get all-expenses paid to attend the Annual Meetings including sessions designed especially for them and their mentors.

* - Number and value of scholarships may vary from year to year

Annual Meeting

SASES holds its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the international Annual Meetings of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. The meeting provides students with an opportunity to participate in

professional development programs and meet with professionals in ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Highlights include workshops, tours, contests, and graduate school networking, career exploration, and social events. Business meeting(s) are held for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, and conducting other business.

Regional Meetings

Weekend regional meetings are held at a university campuses during the spring term. The sponsoring SASES club is responsible for planning and coordinating the event. Activities include tours, educational speakers, meetings, and social events. Clubs seeking to hold the Regional Meeting can submit a proposal online, and the decision will be made by the SASES Executive Team.

MEMBERSHIP

What clubs are eligible to become an affiliated chapter of SASES?

Any university/college recognized undergraduate student organization having as its primary focus the promotion of the agricultural sciences is eligible to petition to become a SASES chapter. Clubs do not have to adopt the title of SASES to be affiliated with SASES, nor do clubs have to be comprised exclusively of agronomy, crop, soil, or environmental science majors. SASES is an inclusive organization that encourages students from disciplines related to the agronomic and environmental sciences to become participating members.

How to Become an Affiliated SASES Chapter

1. Organizations wishing to affiliate with SASES as a student chapter will submit a petition to the Executive Team of SASES via the Manager of Student and Early Career Programs at the headquarters. The petition can be obtained by contacting the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA national office in Madison, Wisconsin.
2. A petition for affiliation received during the academic year and more than 45 days prior to the Regional meeting will be reviewed by the SASES Executive Team at least 30 days prior to the Regional meeting. Clubs will be notified of their status, and an announcement will be made to all SASES members.
3. A petition received during the academic year or summer 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting will be reviewed by the SASES Executive Team at least 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Clubs will be notified of their status, and an announcement will be made to all SASES members.

Club Membership

1. Club are composed of undergraduate students who are actively interested in agronomy, crop, soil and environmental sciences and closely related areas.
2. It is recommended that chapters hold at least semi-monthly meetings during the school year.

3. The club shall have at least one faculty advisor who is a member of ASA, CSSA or SSSA and shall provide the faculty advisor's contact information to the National Executive Team and ASA-CSSA-SSSA headquarters.
4. Elections, term of office, and other qualifications of club officers will be left to the discretion of the club in accordance with its university/college approved by-laws.
5. Postgraduates who have qualified to participate in national contests while in the course of their undergraduate studies can continue their chapter membership for the sole purpose of participating in the national contests, except when in conflict with national contest rules.
6. Each active chapter may be represented by two delegates at the national meeting for the purpose of voting for National Officers. These delegates must be present at the Delegate Training Session.
7. Delegates must be present to vote.
8. Individual student membership dues are \$20.00 per calendar. Clubs can choose to sponsor a portion or all of each students' dues. Renewal notices will be sent to SASES Advisors and individual student members 60 days prior to the renewal date. Chapter treasurers are encouraged to collect membership fees and paperwork from individual members and submit them as a complete package to the ASA, CSSA, SSSA national headquarters.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

All ASA, CSSA, and/or SSSA undergraduate student members are eligible for SASES national office, providing they will attend the Annual Meeting the following year. Officers cannot succeed themselves in the same office.

Officers are elected annually by participating SASES clubs at the ASA, SSSA, and CSSA Annual Meetings. The national officers shall serve for one year with their term of office beginning and ending with the calendar year. If the president cannot serve and/or resigns for any reason, the vice president shall assume the office for the remainder of the term. If any other officer cannot serve or resigns for any reason, the National Officers, in consultation with the National Student Advisory Committee, shall appoint a successor either from the nominees at the previous election or an individual selected from the resigning officer's local chapter.

Being a National Officer is a team effort. The officers meet every month by phone to discuss the SASES program. They accept new clubs into SASES, find and book keynote speakers for the Annual Meeting, determine the host school of the Spring Meeting, and work to make SASES better overall. Officers may also collaborate on other projects of their choosing. The Society staff and three National Advisors are there to support and assist the National Officers however needed.

SASES President

1. Leads the SASES Executive Committee
2. Presides at the Annual Meeting and oversees the execution of the duties of the Executive Committee
3. Coordinates with the Student Advisory Committee and ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters staff in planning the Annual Meeting and associated professional, educational and networking events.
4. Organizes monthly meeting via teleconference (survey of availability, select time, invite participants, creates agenda)
5. Communicates regularly with the SASES and ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters regarding the activities of SASES.

SASES Vice President

1. Communicates with all committee chairs to ensure all committees execute their assigned duties
2. Assigns student committee volunteers based on preferences
3. Serves as program chair at the Annual Meeting
4. Works with the SASES Executive Committee, committee chairs, and local clubs to coordinate Annual Meeting activities
5. Presides over Annual Meeting in President's absence

SASES Corresponding Secretary

1. Makes timely submissions to CSA News, News Flash and other Society publications.
2. Obtains reports of committee activities and club news articles for posting on the SASES Website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.
3. Submits the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails of all current SASES Executive Committee members and committee chairs to the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters
4. Maintains Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat pages by posting items of possible interest and checking regularly for spam or questions.

SASES Recording Secretary

1. Records minutes of all business meetings at the Annual Meeting
2. Prepares and distributes minutes of the SASES business meetings approximately one month after the Annual Meeting to all active chapters, the Executive Committee, Student Advisory Committee, and the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters staff
3. Obtains an accurate listing of convention delegates prior to the Delegate Training meeting of the Annual Meeting
4. Records minutes of the SASES Executive Committee teleconferences and distributes minutes to the Executive Committee, Student Advisory Committee, and ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters staff

5. Prepares a report of proceedings of regional meetings and results of soil and crop judging contests
6. Provides a financial report at the annual and regional meetings

SASES Membership Coordinator

1. Handles correspondence between the SASES and local clubs
2. Provides information on SASES to prospective clubs.
3. Contacts all affiliate chapters to obtain or verify the information required to develop a listing of active chapters and their student leadership by April 15th
4. Sends correspondence to chapters, regarding membership renewals
5. Coordinates with the Membership Committee chair(s) to contact potential and inactive chapters about SASES chapter affiliation. Provides Student Advisory Committee with list of inactive chapters
6. Welcomes new and reactivated clubs into the SASES and follows up on requests for information from potential clubs

National Officer Elections

Students wishing to be elected as president, vice president, membership relations, corresponding secretary or recording secretary are asked to complete an online officer profile before the annual meetings. Officer profile submissions will open on approximately three weeks before Annual Meeting, and completed profiles will be displayed on the SASES website within 1 business day of being submitted. If they are submitted at the Annual Meeting, they will be displayed by Noon on Sunday of the SASES meeting.

All students wishing to be elected as a student officer must be present and submit their names **NO LATER THAN** at the end of the first Business Meeting. Any ASA, CSSA, or SSSA undergraduate student member not attending the Annual Meeting who wishes to be a candidate for an officer position must notify the current SASES President and Headquarters Staff Member via email, no later than 7 days prior to the first business meeting of their intention to run for office, and which office they will be running for. Their names will then be presented by the SASES President at the first Business Meeting. Candidates not attending the Annual Meeting must provide a 2 minute video presentation of why they should be elected. This video will be shown to the delegates if the candidate advances beyond the primary. Videos must be submitted at least 7 days before the first Business Meeting to the SASES President and Headquarters Staff Member.

All candidate profiles **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 11:30 AM** on the day of the primary election, or the candidate will be withdrawn from the election. To better prepare, it is highly recommended that candidates prepare their profile prior to arriving at the Annual Meeting if they are considering running for office.

SASES National Officers Election Information

- I. Election of officers shall occur in a two-step process consisting of a primary election and a delegate election.
- II. A majority of the valid ballots cast in the primary election shall be necessary to advance the top two candidates for each office to the delegate election. In addition, a majority of the ballots cast by the delegates shall be necessary to elect each officer in the final delegate election. In the event a majority is not achieved on the primary ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to the delegate election. All ties will be decided by the National Officer team.
- III. III. The voting delegates at the Annual Meeting shall have the power to elect all officers. Election Process
 - a. At Noon on Sunday, all profiles will be posted on the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA SASES webpages. Names, schools, and profiles will be displayed.
 - b. By 1:00 PM on Sunday, all current ASA, CSSA, and/or SSSA undergraduate student members will receive an email with a link to the profiles and a voting link, which will only allow them to vote once, per office, in the primary election. A reminder email will be sent one hour before the primary election closes.
 - c. The primary election will close at 5:30 PM on Sunday.
 - d. After the primary election closes, the two candidates with the top votes, in each office, will have their profiles moved to a final voting round.
 - e. Candidates will be notified of the primary election results by email by 6:00 PM on Sunday.
 - f. The top two candidates running for each of the national officer positions will be asked to give a two minute presentation during the election meeting (Sunday evening). Up to one (1) person can give a supporting speech on the candidate's behalf for no more than one (1) minute.
 - g. Candidates running for President or Vice President who are not elected to these positions will have the opportunity to roll down to one other office (Member Relations, Recording Secretary, or Corresponding Secretary) if they are not elected. Candidates who roll down as a nominee to another office can speak for two (2) minutes. No supporting speeches for candidates who roll down can be given. Only candidates who run for President and Vice President will be able to roll down and only to the other three positions. Should either of these candidates roll down, it is likely that there will be more than two candidates for their roll down position(s).

Order of Events at the Election Meeting

1. President candidates' speeches and supporting speeches
2. Delegates vote for President

3. Vice President candidates' speeches and supporting speeches
4. Delegates vote for Vice President
5. Winners of the President and Vice President elections are announced a. Non-winners are given the opportunity to roll down.
6. Member Relations candidates' speeches and supporting speeches (one supporting speech per candidate and no supporting speeches for the candidate(s) that may roll down from the President/Vice President elections).
7. Delegates vote for Member Relations
8. Corresponding Secretary Candidates' speeches and supporting speeches (one supporting speech per candidate and no supporting speeches for the candidate(s) that may roll down from the President/Vice President elections).
9. Delegates vote for Corresponding Secretary
10. Recording Secretary Candidates' speeches and supporting speeches (one supporting speech per candidate and no supporting speeches for the candidate(s) that may roll down from the President/Vice President elections).
11. Delegates vote for Recording Secretary
12. Winners for each office are announced.

COMMITTEES

Committees are responsible for specific meeting functions and contests. Students interested in serving as committee members should complete the online form indicating their committee preference. One or more students may be appointed to serve on a committee depending on the responsibilities. Students are appointed by the SASES Vice President based on the preferences indicated on the online form.

Responsibilities

- Communicate and coordinate with the corresponding ASA-CSSA-SSSA Committee.
- As needed, communicate with the ASA-CSSA-SSSA national office
- Provide the SASES Vice President with reports on the progress of the committee.
- Promote and help implement contests and activities. This may mean recruiting student volunteers.
- Assist with contest sessions and activities at the next Annual Meeting.

HISTORY OF SASES

At the 1921 meeting of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), the society president appointed a committee to evaluate the need for a national organization for agronomy students. On March 8, 1922, a questionnaire was sent to the agronomy departments of 24 institutions. Results of the questionnaire were discussed by the committee on April 14 at a meeting in Kansas City and a report generated. At the 1922 ASA annual meeting, the report was accepted and a new committee appointed.

At the 1932 fall Society meeting, a temporary student organization, the Student Activities Section, was accepted as a subsidiary organization of the ASA. By 1941, charters in the Student Activities Section had been granted to 23 institutions. During late World War II (1942 to 1946), the organization became inactive. In 1947, steps were taken by the ASA to revive the agronomy clubs nationwide. Student names were selected from a hat by the Student Activities Committee to set up a slate of national officers. By 1953, 39 chapters had joined the national organization and by 1980, there were 73 active chapters.

Before 1950, the Student Activities Section held its annual meetings in Chicago at the International Livestock and Grain Show. Since 1950, annual meetings have been held with the parent society. At its convention in 1950, the name of the student organization was changed from the Student Activities Section to the Student Activities Subdivision of the Resident Education Division. In 2003, the organization's name was changed to the Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences (SASES). SASES is now affiliated with the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America. The organization continues to meet during the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA annual meetings and has expanded to include annual regional meetings.

SASES

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