



2012 ESA Graduate Student Policy Award for Congressional Visits Day

Applications due Monday, January 23, 2012

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) invites applications for its 2012 Graduate Student Policy Award (GSPA). Offered each year, this award gives graduate students hands-on science policy experience including interacting with congressional decision-makers, federal agency officials, and others engaged in science and public policy.

The Society's GSPA is given to up to three applicants. Winners participate in the annual Congressional Visits Day, a two-day event that will be held March 28 and 29, 2012. ESA covers travel and lodging expenses associated with this event for GSPA recipients. Awardees also receive a free copy of ESA's new publication, *An Ecologist's Guidebook to Policy Engagement*. In addition, awardees have the opportunity to be interviewed for ESA's podcast, [The Ecologist Goes to Washington](#) and for ESA's blog, [Ecotone](#).

ESA is co-organizer of Congressional Visits Day, sponsored by the Biological Ecological Sciences Coalition to promote federal investment in the biological sciences, particularly through the National Science Foundation. Participants receive tips on effective communication and information on the federal budget and appropriations process. During the second day of the event, participants meet with congressional decision makers to discuss federal support of research and education in the biological sciences.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be ESA members and United States citizens residing in the country. Past GSPA recipients are not eligible.

To Apply:

Send to pao@esa.org by close of business, **Monday, January 23, 2012:**

- A cover letter outlining your interest in science policy and relevant experience
- A one-page statement that reflects your insights and perspective on the importance of federal support of science and ecology in particular. Extra credit for examples of ecological success stories (i.e. where investment of federal dollars had a tangible return, particularly for your home state).
- A one-page resume

Applicants will be notified of decisions by early February 2012. Please direct questions to pao@esa.org.

To hear the insights of last year's ESA GSPA winners, visit the links below:

<http://www.esa.org/egwash/?p=210> Michael Levy, West Virginia University, Weighing the Long-term Implications of Mountaintop Removal Mining

<http://www.esa.org/egwash/?p=204> Kellen Marshall-Gillespie, University of Illinois, Chicago, Environmental Justice: Merging Earth Stewardship with Social Justice

<http://www.esa.org/egwash/?p=217> Daniel Evans, University of Washington, Seattle, Habitat Corridors Help Preserve Wildlife in the Midst of Human Society