

***Connecting Our Communities:***  
**Celebrating Diverse and Innovative Partnerships**

**To be considered, please read the following guidelines carefully before registering your proposal.**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 11:59pm on Monday June 25, 2018**

## Introduction and Background

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum (held November 2 – 4, 2018 in Shepherdstown, WV) is a watershed-wide event reaching over 400 restoration and protection practitioners annually to inspire and empower local action towards clean water. We do this by sharing successful tools and techniques, building the capacity of local organizations and governments, building partnerships, educating on new initiatives, networking amongst each other, and celebrating our successes.

This year's theme, "*Connecting Our Communities: Celebrating Diverse and Innovative Partnerships*" was chosen so that we may celebrate the many diverse partnerships that have proven successful in the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. We are especially interested in engaging, interactive learning sessions that highlight innovative partnerships, leading to success. Each track will incorporate one or more sessions that demonstrate partnering successes.

***\*Please note, this year:***

- Conference tracks will be determined based on the themes and practices of the proposals we receive rather than pre-determined track themes.
- Submissions for field experiences are also being solicited through this RFP process. If you have an idea for an interactive, educational, and fun field trip in the area of Shepherdstown, WV, please share it with us through this RFP process.
- We encourage sessions geared towards New Chesapeake Professionals.
- We encourage sessions that highlight the diversity of our watershed and reflect the Alliance's commitment to diversity.

## Forum Presentation Guidelines:

### For Classroom Sessions:

- More than one session proposal may be submitted, but each proposal **must** be submitted separately.
- Sessions should focus on a combination of instruction and hands-on skill-building - not just lecturing. Based on past participant feedback and due to our inability to offer more than one presenter scholarship per session, the planning team **will not accept workshops with panel discussions.**
- Sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes OR 45 minutes
  - For 90 minute sessions, we encourage in-depth presentations that facilitate discussion and application at the local level.
  - For 45 minute sessions, we encourage submissions of case study or TED-talk style presentations.
  - Please indicate if your proposal is for a 45 or 90 minute session on the on-line registration form.
  - Ample time should be reserved in all sessions for a question and answer period.
  - **Proposals that demonstrate audience interaction and address multiple learning styles will be viewed more favorably.**
- Sessions should be geared toward the following audience(s):
  - Staff, board members and volunteers with local/regional watershed conservation organizations, and local government staff.
- Workshops should highlight valuable lessons learned and the transferability to other localities and watersheds. We are looking for both higher level (300-400 college level) and introductory level sessions.
- We are specifically looking for new and innovative sessions that highlight the latest research, restoration techniques, ways to engage diverse communities, or other developing topics.

### For Field Experiences:

- Trips should last 4 hours, including travel.
- They should be available for any of the 3 days of the Forum, Friday Nov. 2 – Sunday Nov. 4.
- Please include the maximum number of attendees in your proposal.
- If entrance fee or other such cost, please include in your proposal and keep cost to a minimum.
- Please identify specific equipment or clothing participants should bring.

The Alliance and their partners will work to insure adequate transportation is available for field experiences.

## Session Topics to Consider:

**Note:** these are examples only, creative ideas are encouraged – submissions are **not** limited to the list below

<b>Restoration</b>	Stormwater, agriculture, tree planting, tree canopy, wildlife habitat, maintenance, stream restoration
<b>Conservation</b>	Forest management, landscape-scale, public access, source water, climate resiliency, wildlife
<b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</b>	Workforce development, engaging diverse communities, collective impact
<b>Citizen Stewardship</b>	Social marketing, environmental leadership, business engagement, water quality monitoring
<b>Organizational Development</b>	Fundraising, Board development strategic planning, organizational assessment, burnout prevention, leadership/team development
<b>Contaminants</b>	Plastics, air pollution, pesticides/herbicides, fish consumption, PCB's
<b>Public Health</b>	Environmental Justice, drinking water, air, healthy habits, climate change,

## Proposal Registration Information:

### Proposal Preparation

If you would like to prepare your thoughts ahead please be thinking about how your proposal will address the following objectives and question:

- Objective 1: As a result of attending this session, participants will gain information and knowledge about...
- Objective 2: As a result of attending this session, participants will garner skills to...
- Objective 3: As a result of attending this session, participants will be able to enhance their watershed work by...
- How does your workshop relate to our theme?
- Describe your target audience, including knowledge/experience level.

For guidance on how to best prepare a presentation for the Forum, please visit our Forum webpage.

### Where do I go to enter my session proposal?

[Click here](#) to submit your proposal. You cannot save your work, so please plan to prepare your proposal ahead of submitting your session via the online portal.

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For further information or questions about the guidelines please contact Lou Etgen at [letgen@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:letgen@allianceforthebay.org) or (443) 949-0575.