SEEDS promotes diversity and advancement of the ecology profession through opportunities that stimulate and nurture the interest of underrepresented students to participate and lead in ecology.

The program’s mission is accomplished through:

- Ecology Field Trips
- Research Fellowships
- ESA Annual Meeting Travel Awards
- Mentoring by ESA members
- Campus Ecology Chapters
- Leadership Meetings
- Active Support Network of 3,000 minority students and ecologists
- Dedicated SEEDS Staff

AWARDS
2006 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring

2008 AIBS Diversity Leadership Award

HOLD TO INVOLVED IN THE SEEDS PROGRAM:

Visit the program website for opportunities and online applications
www.esa.org/seeds

Follow us on:
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Twitter (@ESA_SEEDS)
#CelebrateDiversity

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Program Opportunities

Ecology Field Trips
Field trips provide hands-on opportunities for students to explore their interest in ecology. Each one is held at an ecologically significant site such as a research or field station, allowing participants to learn more about the science of ecology, the practical applications of ecology, and career options while building networks with students and professionals.

Research Fellowships
Fellowships offer students an independent ecological research opportunity with the guidance of a mentor. The SEEDS Fellowship may be individualized, with each student providing input in their mentor selection and research project design in field work at a field station or lab or it may be offered to selected students based on funded projects. Selected students are eligible to participate in SEEDS Leadership meetings and to receive ESA Annual Meeting Travel Awards.

ESA Annual Meeting Travel Awards
The ESA Annual Meeting, held every year in early August, engages students and faculty in one of the most important facets of doing science—communicating ideas and new knowledge with the science community. Meeting activities include scientific sessions and field trips, workshops, and social events. Based on mutual ecological interests, students are matched with an ESA member who serve as mentors.

Leadership Meeting
Held annually, the Leadership Meeting is an opportunity for people involved with all facets of SEEDS to engage in a dialogue. The meeting provides a venue for SEEDS participants to discuss their involvement with the program as it relates to their career, academic and personal development. These discussions help define how the program can further its mission of diversifying the field of ecology.

Placing the SEEDS
The Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability (SEEDS) Program began in 1996 as a collaborative effort to increase diversity in the field of ecology. The program has directly served over 500 underrepresented students and thousands more through our campus ecology chapters. Focused mainly at the undergraduate level, with extension services for communities, high schools, graduate students, and international collaborations, the SEEDS program promotes diversity in ecology to ensure environmental understanding and a sustainable future for all. Our 2013 survey (N=222; 43% response rate) shows:

- 82% are pursuing or hold a Bachelors degree
- 37% have completed a graduate degree;
- 47% are currently in graduate school;
- 73% are employed in an ecology-related field;
- 82% of current SEEDS students say they continued their studies in ecology because of SEEDS.

What SEEDS students are saying...

“Never in my academic career have I experienced such a field trip that incorporated such a new way of thinking about ecology.”

“Before I attended a SEEDS event I was a little hesitant on a career in ecology. After I attended a SEEDS event, I felt a new motivation to pursue an ecology career path.”

“SEEDS really exposed me to the multidimensional career options in ecology and related fields. It also allowed me to see the value of community in science.”

Campus Ecology Chapters
Campus Ecology Chapters support activities on campuses throughout the US and its territories to increase student awareness and interest in ecology. Chapters promote ecology through education, outreach, recruitment, and career development. Program support is available through Chapter grants.

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Program opportunities are open to any undergraduate student enrolled within the US and its territories. Participants are selected based on demonstrated support of the SEEDS mission, interest in ecology, academic promise, and references.