

2022 - 2024 SEEDS Chapter Report



Increasing the participation of diverse population in ecology and environmental sciences is crucial to achieve relevant and effective results in the policies and management decisions that impact our air, water, food, energy, wildlife, natural resources, recreation areas and sacred spaces. Achieving this will require trained ecological scientists representing all racial and ethnic groups in the workforce. In order to address the serious issues threatening our ecological systems at different scales, it is essential to engage our communities, foster divergent thinking and engender innovative solutions.

Since 1996, the ESA-SEEDS program has built a wide network of campus chapters across the country, SEEDS Chapters as autonomous undergraduate student clubs, provide key focal points for local and regional environmental leadership advancement, community engagement, and career development activities.

Our SEEDS Chapters and Grant program support opportunities for many more students on campuses across the nation, to:

- Increase their understanding of ecological systems and functioning
- Learn about the wide spectrum of ecology and environmental science careers in all sectors
- Organize local or regional field explorations and community-oriented, culturally-relevant activities
- Develop their leadership skills in communication, policy and stakeholder engagement among diverse populations
- Expand their personal and professional networks in the field

Through this report we are highlighting some of the SEEDS Chapter achievements since 2022.



SUMMARY AND IMPACT

46

CURRENT ACTIVE SEEDS
CHAPTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY
AS OF JANUARY 2025**

2,000+

SEEDS CHAPTER MEMBERS

33

NEW AND RESTARTED SEEDS
CHAPTERS SINCE 2022

500+

SEEDS PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS IN 2024

NEW AND RESTARTED CHAPTERS SINCE 2022:

- California State University, Monterey Bay
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Emory University
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
- Fort Lewis College
- Hampton University
- Jacksonville State University
- Moorpark College
- Morehouse College
- New York University
- San Jose State University
- St. Mary's University, San Antonio
- St. Olaf College
- Stevenson University
- Susquehanna University
- The Evergreen State College
- University of California Santa Cruz
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- University of Louisville
- University of Minnesota
- University of Mississippi
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina Greensboro
- University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez
- University of Southern California
- University of Texas at El Paso
- University of Utah
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia State University
- Erell Institute
- Washington University in St. Louis

CHAPTER GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS:

24

SEEDS Chapter Grants
Projects Awarded since 2022

20

Different Chapters received a
grant from SEEDS

"The participants shared that they had an incredible time and found the experience both educational and enjoyable. The opportunity to engage in hands-on fieldwork and interact with professional ecologists was highly appreciated. This trip not only expanded their knowledge but also inspired many to pursue further studies and careers in ecology." - Grant Report from University of California, Riverside - Central California Field Excursion project

University of California, Berkeley - *Recruitment & Muir Woods Educational Field Trip*

"This was a field trip to Muir Woods National Monument on Saturday, February 24, 2024. 11 UC Berkeley undergraduate students were in attendance. The students were lead on a guided hike through the park (lead by Rose Mohammadi). Students learned about California coastal environments, redwoods, freshwater ecology, and stream restoration. A park ranger concluded the tour with an exhibit about the salmonids of California. The purpose of the trip was to introduce students to the ecology of coastal California."



University of California, Berkeley, UC Berkeley SEEDS



Auburn University at Montgomery, Warhawk SEEDS

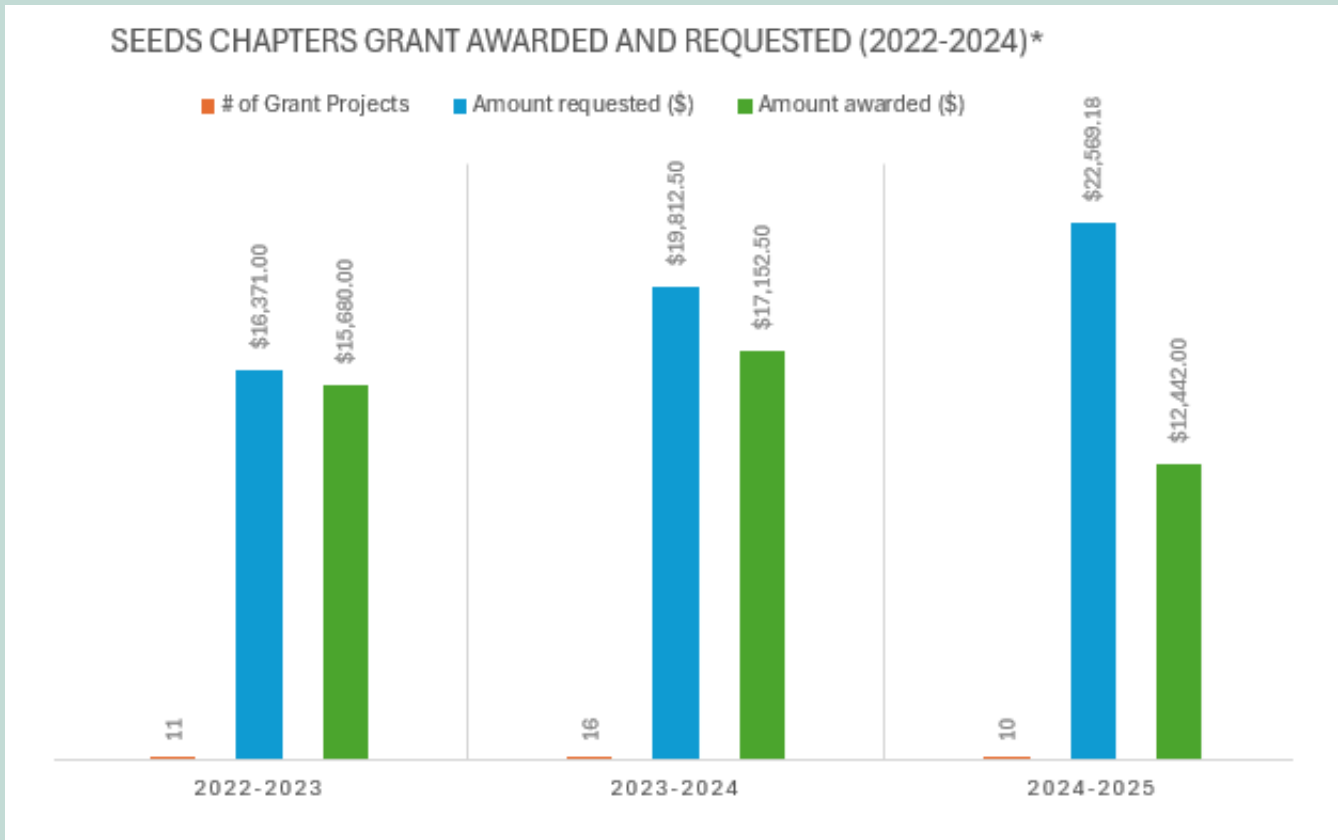
Auburn University at Montgomery, Warhawk SEEDS - *Field trip to Dauphin Island Sea Lab, AL*

"We organize an overnight field trip to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL), AL which is a Marine Research and Education Center. Our goals were to 1) educate our students about marine and coastal ecosystems in AL and 2) to build community among our students, including already existing chapter members and newly recruited members. The field trip was very successful, students did not only learn about the ecology and importance of AL marine and coastal ecosystems, but they also made much better connections among each other."

Chapter Grant Funding

Since 2022, the SEEDS Grant program has grown. With more new chapters comes with more requests for chapter grant projects.

In 2022-2023, 11 grants projects were requested and 11 were awarded with a total of \$15,680
In 2023-2024, 15 grant projects were requested and 12 were awarded with a total of \$17,152.50
In the Fall semester of 2024, 10 grant projects were requested (6 were awarded) with a total of \$12,442



CHAPTER GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS:

23 Chapters Applied for Chapter Grant Project funding since 2022

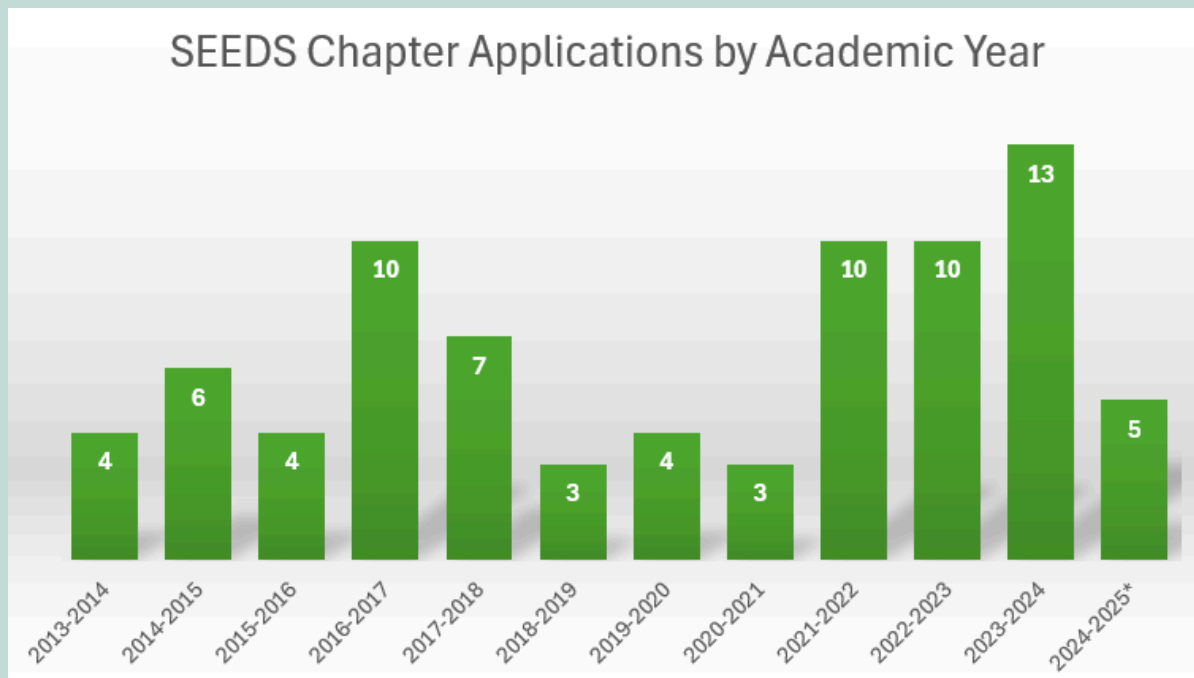
37 Number of Grant Projects Requested since 2022

*2024 includes only Fall 2024 and not the full academic year of 2024-2025

SEEDS CHAPTER ACTIVITIES IN 2023-2024:

327+ SEEDS Chapter Activities

1,402+ SEEDS Chapter Activities
Participants (estimated)



Chapter Activities

During the 2023-2024 academic year, chapters reported conducting 320+ chapter activities across their campuses. This included impacting over 1,400+ participants from their on-campus and/or community activities. Some of these types of activities included:

- Bird Walks/Meetings
- Clothing/Thrift Swaps
- Beach/Block Clean-ups
- Mushroom/Plant Identification
- Field Trips
- Educational and Research Workshops
- Lab Tours
- Research Rendezvous
- Wildlife Photography Contest
- Wildflower Walks
- Hiking/Trail Maintenance
- and a lot more!

MOVING FORWARD

As we have increased Chapter representation and activities since 2021 and grown the program back to 46 active Chapters. We have identified 3 major “hotspots” to establish SEEDS Chapter Regions; California, Southeast, and Northeast. Within these regions have 75% of our SEEDS Chapters and most of our students within the network.

We would like to expand on regional structure to create a collaborative and localized student support. We also aim to have an additional SEEDS Chapter for graduate students per region, this would also strengthen our science network and provide instances for undergraduates to participate in science. This regional structure would also increase opportunities for local fundraising strategies, something our national program lacks access to.

Teresa Mourad

Education and Diversity Programs Director

Fred Abbot

Diversity Programs Manager

Suhey Ortega

Diversity Programs Coordinator



Appendix:

*List of Chapter Grants Awarded from 2022-2024

** SEEDS Chapter Map

*Fall Semester of 2022-2023 Funded Chapter Grants:

1. University of Kansas – *Conservation and Management in Action in the San Luis Valley*
2. University of California, Davis – *Lake Tahoe Camping Trip*
3. Agnes Scott College – *Scottie Bee Palynology Project*
4. Auburn University of Montgomery – *Spring Festival & Community Garden*
5. Colorado State University – *Shortgrass Steppe Inter-Chapter Research Trip*
6. Florida State University – *SEEDS FSU Ecological Surveys and Multicultural Mixer*
7. Fort Lewis College – *FLC SEEDS Winter 2023 Sonoran Desert/Sea of Cortez Field Trip*
8. University of California, Riverside – *SEEDS Central California Field Excursion*
9. Virginia Commonwealth University – *Research Rendezvous - Trip to Rice Rivers Center (RRC)*

Spring Semester of 2022-2023 Funded Chapter Grants:

1. Emory University – *Okefenokee as Place: Weekend Camping trip to the Okefenokee Swamp*
2. Hunter College, CUNY – *Hunter SEEDS at Mohonk Preserve trip*

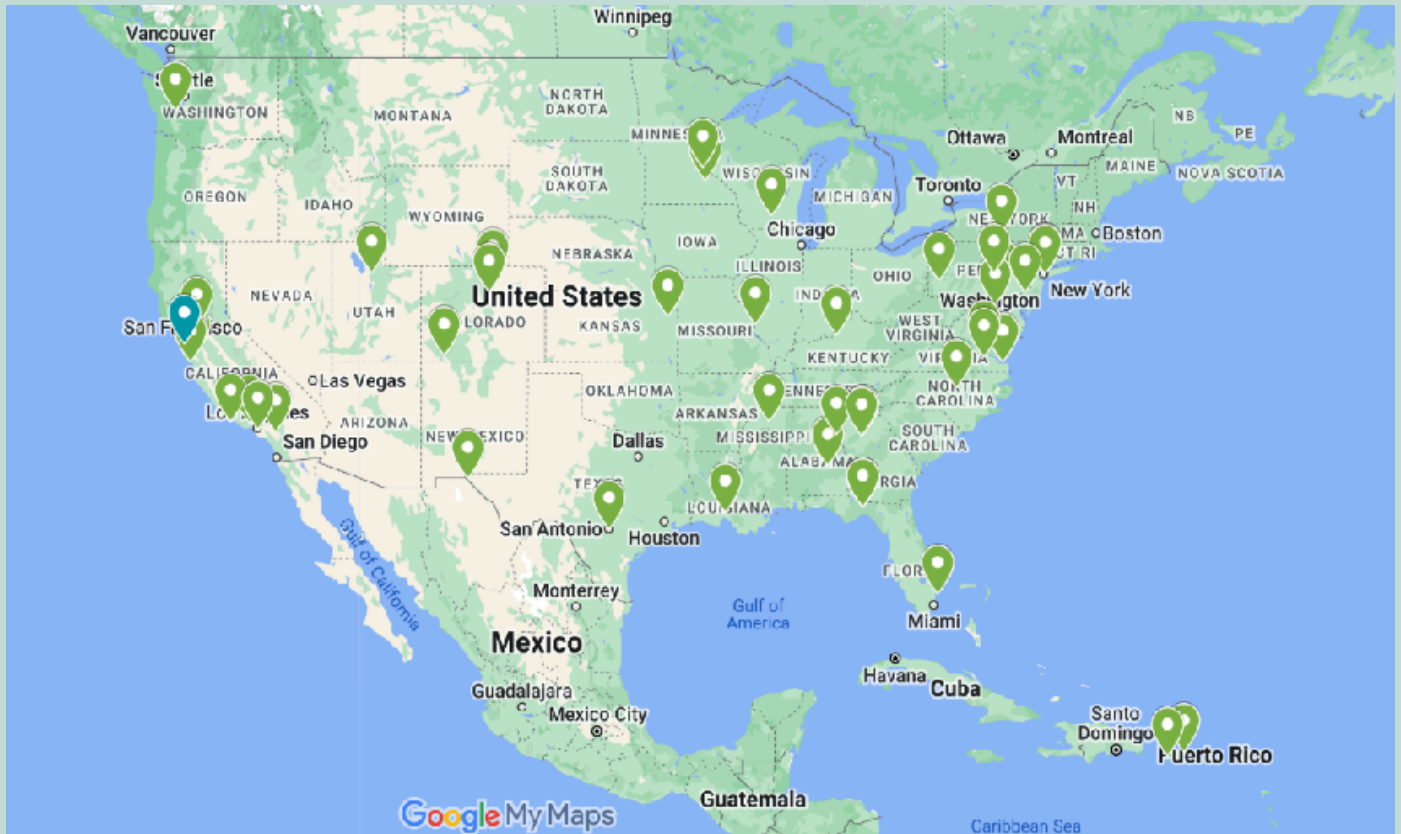
Fall Semester of 2023-2024 Funded Chapter Grants:

1. Agnes Scott College and Emory University – *Diversity in Ecology Field Trip to the Georgia Coast*
2. Auburn University at Montgomery, Warhawk SEEDS – *Field trip to Dauphin Island Sea Lab, AL*
3. Florida Atlantic University, FAU SEEDS – *Big Cypress Camping Trip*
4. St. Olaf College, StoSEEDS – *Establishing Funds for Expanding Membership and Initial Events*
5. UC Berkeley SEEDS – *Recruitment & Muir Woods Educational Field Trip*
6. UC Davis SEEDS – *UC Davis Lake Tahoe Camping Trip*
7. UC Riverside SEEDS – *UCR SEEDS Central California Field Excursion*
8. UC Santa Barbara SEEDS – *Local Field Trips in Santa Barbara County*

Spring for the 2023-2024 Chapter Grants

1. Auburn University at Montgomery – *Warhawk SEEDS Forest Explorer Trail Opening Celebration*
2. UNC-Chapel Hill SEEDS – *Empowering Ecologists: Building Chapter Membership to Foster Diversity and Growth of the Field*
3. Moorpark College SEEDS – *Field Trips to Demonstrate the Breadth of Ecological Endeavors*
4. University of Southern California – *USC SEEDS Trip to Catalina Island*

*2024 includes only Fall 2024 and not the full academic year of 2024-2025



** SEEDS Chapter Map, updated December 2024