



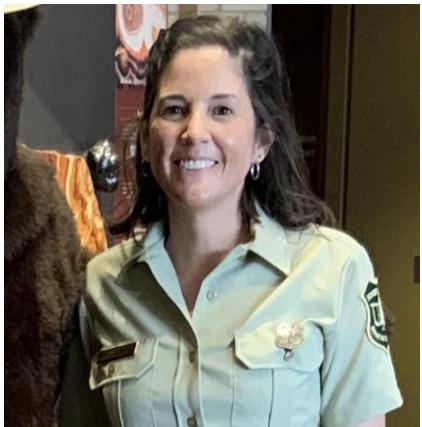
# GEOSCIENTISTS IN FORESTS PROGRAM

## Applicant Information Webinar

JANUARY 8, 2026



# GEOSCIENTISTS IN FORESTS (GSF) TEAM



## Lima Soto

National Caves and Karst  
Program Manager &  
GSF Program Manager

## Justin Wilkins

Paleontologist &  
GSF Program Assistant



## Geoff Elliot

Executive Director  
Stewards Individual Placements  
Conservation Legacy



## James Gasaway

Program Director  
Stewards Individual Placements  
Conservation Legacy

- Stewards Individual Placements is a Conservation Legacy program
- Hosts 600+ individual placements annually with NPS, USFS, and other land management partners
- Lead for participant engagement, supervisor support, and position administration.



# ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



## FS Lands, Minerals, & Geology

Program strategy and planning  
Site selection  
Educational opportunities/resources  
Allocating Funding



## Programmatic Lead

Position development/recruitment  
Member/Site onboarding/orientation  
Administrative partner  
Member/site support  
Recruitment Support



## FS Unit Mentor

Candidate review, interview, selection  
On-site orientation and training  
Day-to-day supervision/mentorship  
End of term evaluation



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# INTRODUCTION

- Geoscientists in Forests (GSF) is a new Forest Service (FS) program.
- Partnership between WO Lands, Minerals, & Geology with Conservation Legacy.
- Specializes in AmeriCorps service opportunities that address geoscience-related needs and management priorities.
- Designed for individuals aged 18-30 and veterans up to age 35.



# PROGRAM GOALS

- Address critical geoscience needs on National Forest System lands;
- Foster geoscience career growth to support mineral and energy development in alignment with the administration's priorities;
- Provide on-the-ground geoscience training and immersive paid developmental experience for emerging geoscience professionals under Forest Service mentorship.





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# PROGRAM BENEFITS

- **Compensation (\$700/week)**
- **Technical Assistance to Units:** participants provide knowledge, experience, and innovative solutions to complete mission-critical projects.
- **Professional Development:** participants develop professional skills under the mentorship of FS staff.
- **Noncompetitive Hiring Eligibility:** participants have the ability to earn a 2-year Public Lands (PLC) Noncompetitive hiring certificate.
- **AmeriCorps Education Award**
- **Time-Off (personal leave, holiday, sick)** – Varies by position length





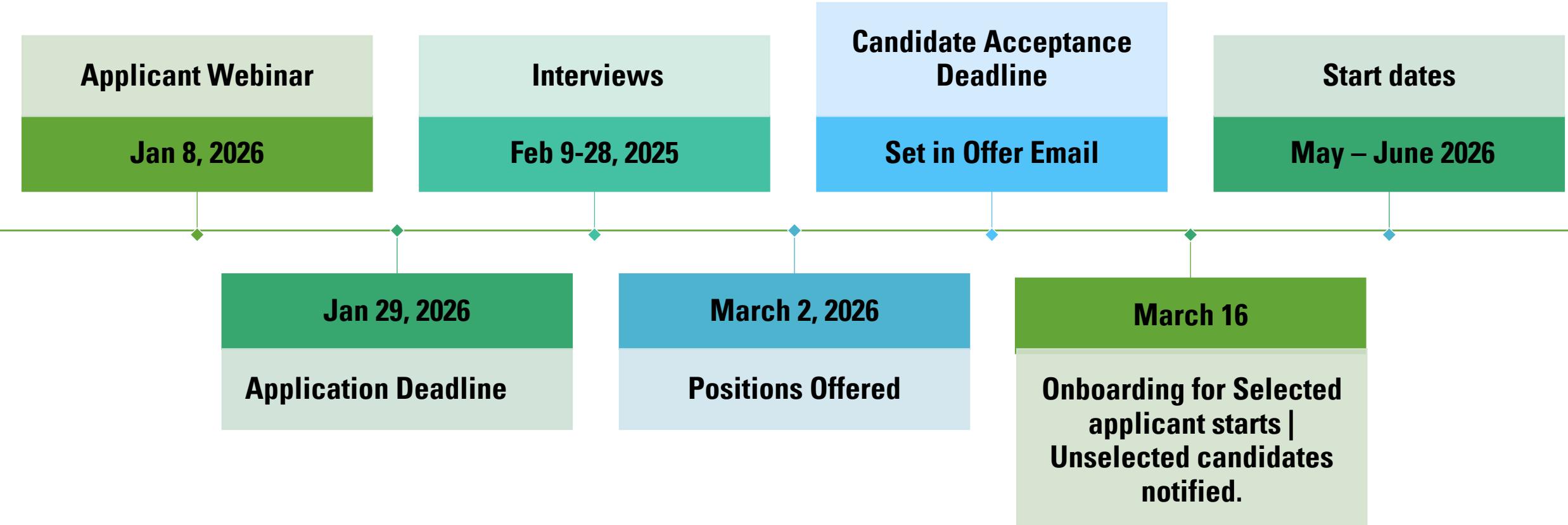
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# PARTICIPANTS ELIGIBILITY

- U.S. Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders).
- At least 18 years old, and to be eligible for PLC certificate, must start project while age 30 or under, or if a military veteran, age 35 or under.
- Able to pass a federal background and employment background check.
- Possess a valid driver's license and a good driving record (if the GSF needs to drive a government vehicle during their position).
- Each position includes preferred qualifications relevant to the specific project scope.



# APPLICANT TIMELINE



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# 2026 PROJECTS

## Geology

### **Geology Technician Assistant**

Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (Colorado)

### **Abandoned Mine Lands Technical Support Assistant**

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest (Idaho)

### **Field Technician/Abandoned Mine Assistant**

Idaho Panhandle National Forests (Idaho)

### **Physical Scientist Technician Assistant**

Superior National Forest (Minnesota)

### **Mining and Geology Program Assistant**

Cleveland National Forest (California)

### **Minerals, Geohazards and Geologic Resources Assistant**

Bridger-Teton National Forest (Wyoming)

## Geotechnical & Geohazards

### **Soil, Water, and Geologic Hazard Inventory**

Hoosier National Forest (Indiana)

## Hydrogeology

### **Watershed and Geology Program Assistant (FILLED)**

George Washington & Jefferson National Forests

### **Hydrology Technical Assistant**

Tongass National Forest (Alaska)

## Cave & Karst

### **Guadalupe Cave Technician Assistant (FILLED)**

Lincoln National Forest (New Mexico)

### **Forest Cave Mapping Assistant**

Mark Twain National Forest (Missouri)

### **Karst Resource Assistant**

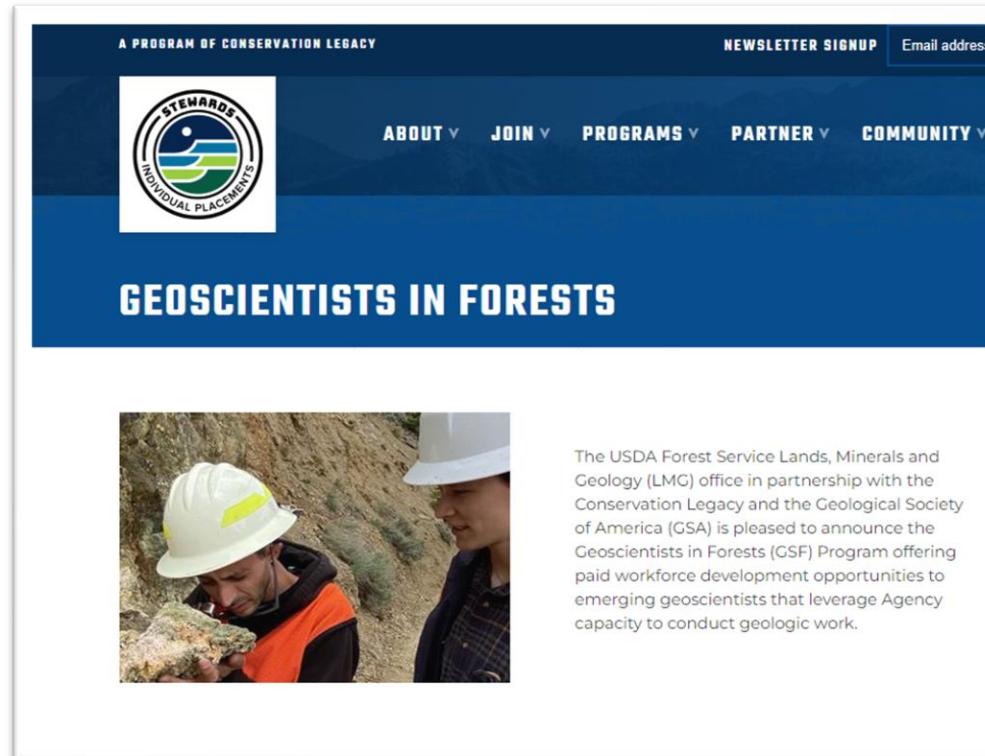
Tongass National Forest (Alaska)

### **Cave Interpretive Assistant**

Tongass National Forest (Alaska)

# HOW TO APPLY

[HTTPS://STEWARDSLEGACY.ORG/GEOSCIENTISTS-IN-FORESTS](https://stewardslegacy.org/geoscientists-in-forests)



A PROGRAM OF CONSERVATION LEGACY

NEWSLETTER SIGNUP Email address

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GEOSCIENTISTS IN FORESTS

The USDA Forest Service Lands, Minerals and Geology (LMG) office in partnership with the Conservation Legacy and the Geological Society of America (GSA) is pleased to announce the Geoscientists in Forests (GSF) Program offering paid workforce development opportunities to emerging geoscientists that leverage Agency capacity to conduct geologic work.

## 2026 Geoscientists in Forests Openings.

Recruitment for 2026 Geoscientists in Forests positions is now open. Recruitment will close on January 29, 2026.

POSITION TITLE	FOREST SERVICE UNIT	LOCATION	LENGTH OF SERVICE	HOUSING PROVIDED	LINK TO APPLY
Mining and Geology Program Assistant	<a href="#">Cleveland National Forest</a>	San Diego, CA	26 Weeks	No	<a href="#">Apply Here</a>
Field Technician/ Abandoned Mine Hunter	<a href="#">Idaho Panhandle National Forests</a>	Couer d'Alene, ID	16 Weeks	Yes	<a href="#">Apply Here</a>
Physical Scientists Technician	<a href="#">Superior National Forest</a>	Ely, MN	12 Weeks	Yes	<a href="#">Apply Here</a>
Cave Guide	<a href="#">Tongass National Forest, Thorne Bay Ranger District</a>	Thorne Bay, AK	12 Weeks	Yes	<a href="#">Apply Here</a>
Karst Resource Assistant	<a href="#">Tongass National Forest, Thorne Bay Ranger District</a>	Thorne Bay, AK	12 Weeks	Yes	<a href="#">Apply Here</a>
Hydrology Technical Assistant	<a href="#">Tongass National Forest, Thorne Bay/Craig Ranger District</a>	Craig, AK	12 Weeks	Yes	<a href="#">Apply Here</a>
Soil, Water, and Geologic Hazard Inventory Assistant	<a href="#">Hoosier National Forest</a>	Bedford, IN	12 Weeks	No	<a href="#">Apply Here</a>
Cave Management Specialist	<a href="#">Mark Twain National Forest</a>	Rolla, MO	12 Weeks	No	<a href="#">Apply Here</a>
Abandoned Mine Lands Technical Support	<a href="#">Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest</a>	Kamiah, ID	12 Weeks	Yes	<a href="#">Apply Here</a>



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# CRAFTING A STRONG APPLICATION

## *TIPS FOR SUCCESS*

- **Tailor Your Application:**
  - Highlight skills and experiences that align with program.
  - Address how you meet or exceed requirements.
- **Be Thorough and Clear:**
  - Double-check that all sections are complete.
  - Proofread for spelling and grammar errors.
- **Showcase Your Passion:**
  - Use your application questionnaire to share your enthusiasm for the program and its impact on your goals.

**Use specific examples to demonstrate your achievements and contributions:**

**Situation**

**Task**

**Action**

**Result**



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# HIGHLIGHTING YOUR UNIQUE STRENGTHS

## *STAND OUT IN YOUR APPLICATION*

- **Emphasize Your Unique Value:**
  - What sets you apart? Reflect on unique experiences, skills, or perspectives.
  - Tie your strengths directly to the program's goals.
- **Quantify Your Achievements:**
  - Use data or specific examples to showcase impact (e.g., "Increased efficiency by 20%" or "Led a team of five on a successful project").
- **Show Alignment:**
  - Demonstrate how your goals align with the program's mission or values.

**Use action verbs and concise language in your application to convey confidence and professionalism:**

Investigated  
Developed  
Synthesized  
Validated  
Modeled

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# COMMON MISTAKES AND FINAL ADVICE

## *AVOID THE COMMON PITFALLS*

- **Avoiding Pitfalls:**

- Missing the deadline – submit early to account for technical issues.
- Providing generic or incomplete answers.
- Overlooking the character limits or other requirements for short answer questions.

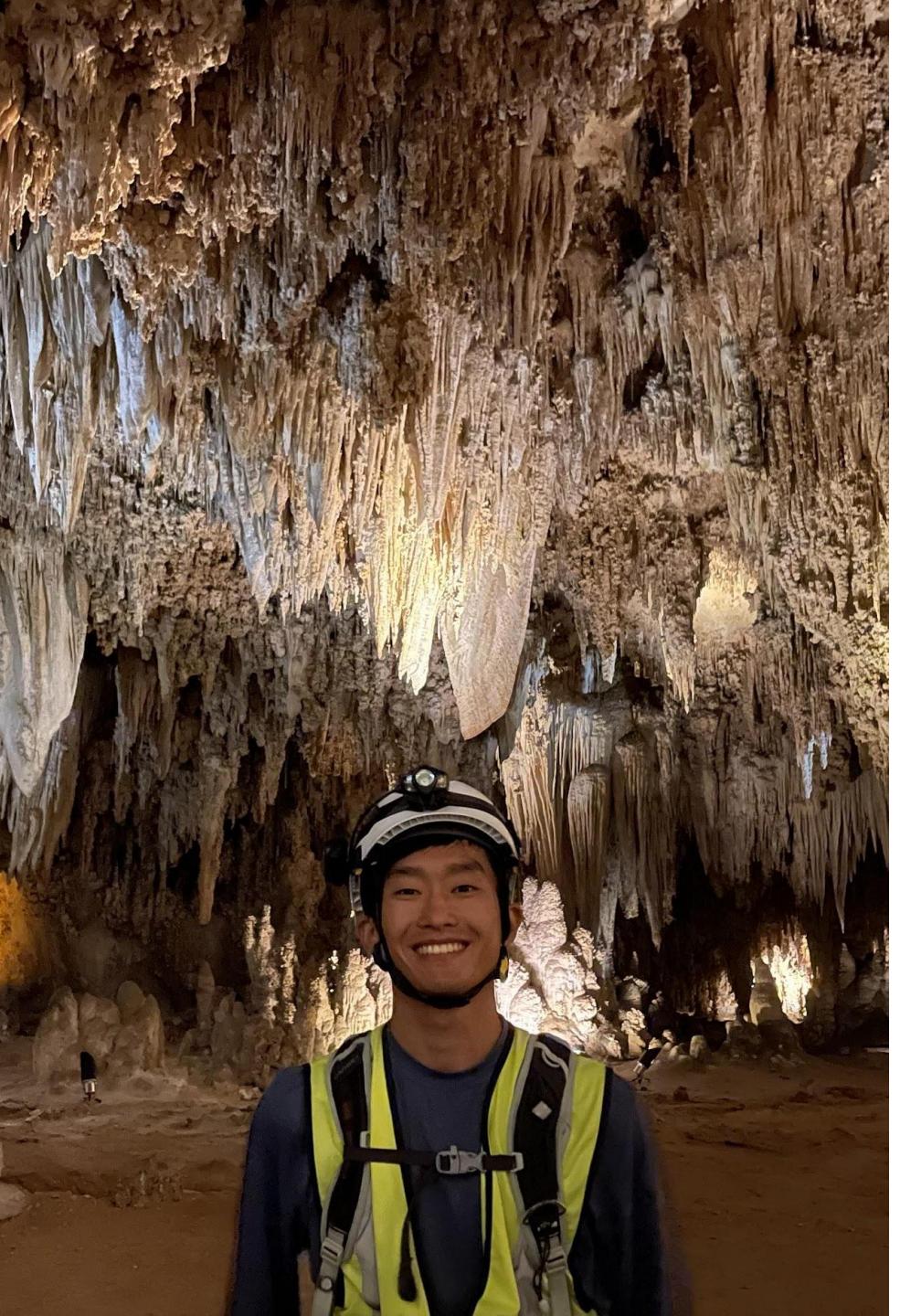
- **Final Advice:**

- Seek feedback from a mentor or colleague on any part of the application where you think extra eyes could help you.
- Use the resources provided by the program for clarification.

**Your application is your story—tell it with confidence and care!**

**Don't undervalue the possible sources of your knowledge and experience (i.e., volunteering, clubs, etc.)**





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# BASICS OF CREATING A RESUME

## Choose the Right Format

- Chronological: Focus on work history
- Functional: Highlight skills
- Combination: Mix of both

## Key Sections

- Header: Name, contact info, LinkedIn/portfolio (optional)
- Summary/Objective: Brief overview of skills or career goals
- Skills: Relevant technical and soft skills

- Experience: List jobs (most recent first) with accomplishments

- Education: Degree, school, and certifications

## Customization

- Tailor your resume to match the job description

## Professional Look

- Simple fonts, 1 page (2 max), no excessive graphics

## Proofread

- Check for grammar, spelling, and formatting errors.



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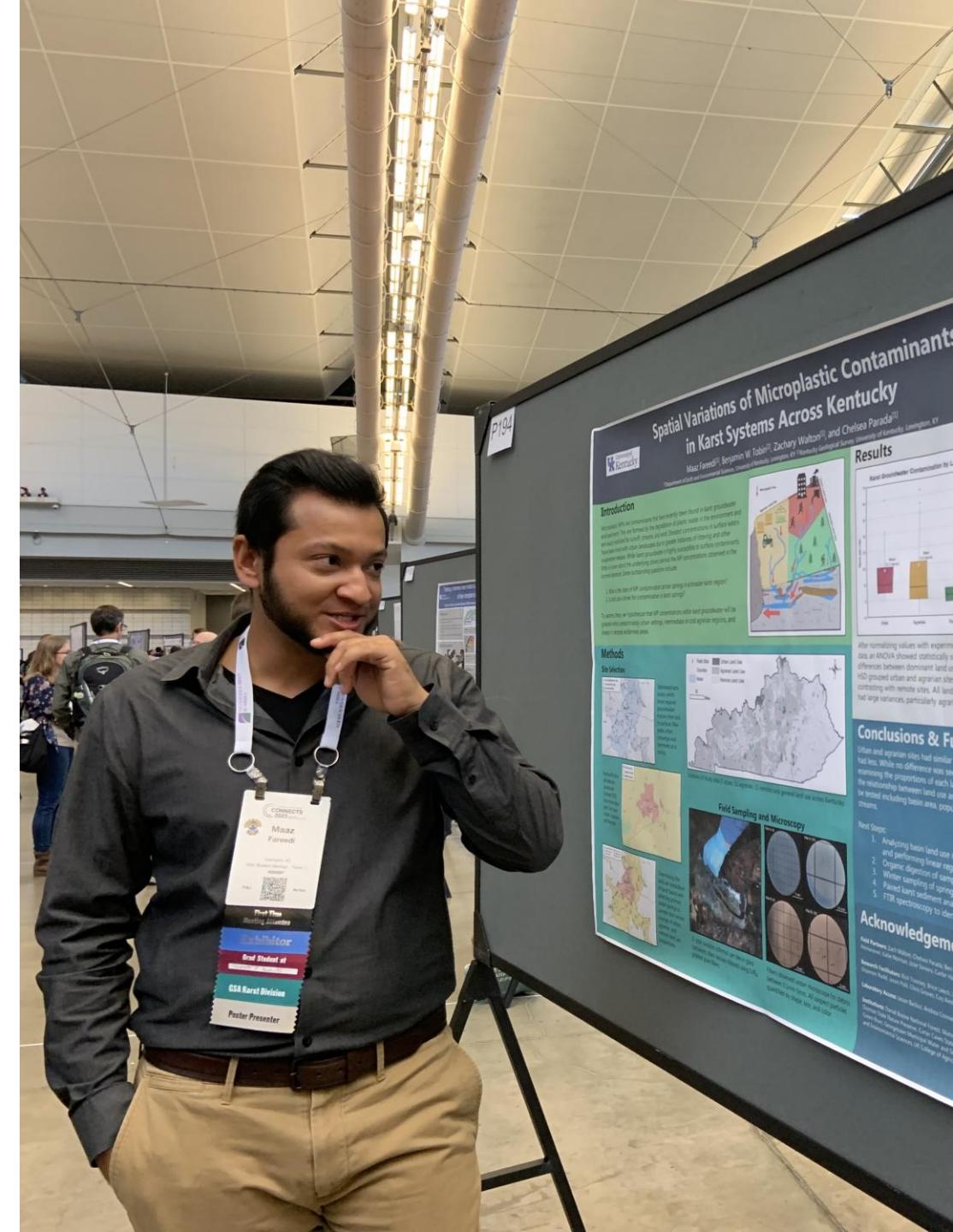
# WHAT ELSE DO YOU BRING TO THE TABLE?

- Hobbies
- Backpacking experience
- Volunteer experience
- Off road driving/ATV
- Public speaking
- Wilderness experience
- Diving/SCUBA certified
- Multilingual
- Wilderness first aid
- CPR
- Climbing
- Amateur astronomer



# CREATE A LINKEDIN PROFILE

- Business and employment-focused social media platform.
- Mostly used for business, federal hiring managers are starting to use it.
- It helps you connect with other colleagues that are doing similar work.
- Be sure customize your URL [www.linkedin.com/in/XXX-XX](http://www.linkedin.com/in/XXX-XX) and add that to your resume or application.
- Your social media is important, be careful with what you put out there!



# GUEST PANELIST

## CHAD HARROLD

**2023-2024 GeoCorps Mentor**

**2025-2026 Geoscientist Mentor**

**2012-2016 National Park Service (Big South Fork)**

- Physical Science Technician (Term)
- GIS Specialist/Geologist

**2016-2022 Forest Service (Tonto)**

- Geologist/Cave Manager

**2022-Present Forest Service (R8/George Washington & Jefferson)**

- Geologist/Regional Cave and Karst Coordinator

### Highlights

- Cooperative Agreement with VA. Dept. of Conservation & Recreation
- Regional Cave database manager
- Cave and karst survey/inventory for 16 Forest Units
- Sub-Regional Minerals Program Coordinator
- Wildland Fire Resource Advisor



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# CONTACT INFORMATION

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Stewards Individual Placements  
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Legacy - Stewards  
(970) 317-8139 | [jgasaway@conservationlegacy.org](mailto:jgasaway@conservationlegacy.org)

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<https://stewardslegacy.org/geoscientists-in-forests>





# GEOSCIENTISTS IN FORESTS PROGRAM



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