

Project WET USA
2019 Coordinators Conference and Training
Envisioning Our Water Future

Information Packet

Tucson, Arizona
September 23-27, 2019



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1. Welcome to Tucson, Arizona

Hiking with unforgettable views of the desert and delectable dining are just a small part of what Tucson offers as a premier Southwest destination. You can re-live Tucson's past by visiting historic landmarks of Native Americans, Spanish Conquistadors and Wild West legends. With more than 350 days of sunshine and a variety of activities, you'll find yourself constantly entertained. Tucson is also home to an award-winning water utility that has been at the forefront of innovative conservation for years.

2. Important Dates

Everyone attending the conference must register in advance. See the [conference website](#) at www.projectwetusa.org for registration details.

August 1 st	Early Bird Registration deadline
August 3 rd	Deadline for cancellation with full refund
August 15 th	Final Registration deadline
August 16 th	Deadline for special room rates at Marriott

3. Hotel Reservations at The Tucson Marriott University Park

The Tucson Marriott University Park is located in downtown Tucson, near the University of Arizona and [Main Gate Square](#), a center for dining and shopping.

The hotel address is:
880 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Room Rates

The hotel has a negotiated rate of \$139.00 per night, plus the applicable state and local taxes.

The negotiated rates for Project WET are **available only until August 23, 2019**. Rates and availability are not guaranteed after that date and are only honored on an availability basis. Make your hotel reservations early!

Please make your own room reservations by following this [link](#). You must use this [link](#) to receive the special room rate.

Cancellation Policy

Individuals may cancel their reservations without penalty at least 48 hours prior to arrival. Reservations cancelled within 48 hours will be charged for one night's stay at the negotiated rates.

Check-in and Check-out Times

Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. on the day of arrival, and check-out time is 12:00 p.m. on the day of departure. Anyone needing special consideration for a late check-out should inquire at the Front Desk on the day of departure.

Hotel Room Features

- Air conditioning
- Alarm clock
- Coffee maker/tea service
- Crib/Play Yard
- Individual climate control
- Iron and ironing board
- Mini fridge
- Pull-out sofa bed
- Rollaway bed
- Hair dryer



Hotel Amenities

- On-site parking for \$15/day
- Wi-Fi (for a fee)
- Outdoor pool and whirlpool
- Fitness center
- Business center features computers with complimentary Wi-Fi and printing services.

Dining, Bar & Market

- Saguaro Grill Restaurant open for breakfast, lunch and dinner including a bar.
- Local restaurant dinner delivery
- Many nearby restaurants including those featured on the [hotel website](#).

4. Airport Arrival/Transportation

Participants must find their own transportation to the hotel.

The Tucson Marriott University Park is only 9 miles from Tucson International Airport (TUS) and is conveniently located downtown. The hotel does not offer shuttle service. Uber, Lyft and Taxi services are all possibilities for transportation. The hotel has an agreement with VIP Taxi for \$20 one-way service to or from TUS airport (Uber and Lyft are comparable). Sun Tran, the region's public transit system, has a bus route that leaves the airport every 20 minutes and passes very near to the hotel (one transfer required). We encourage conference participants to plan to use public transit during the conference —streetcar, Tugo rental bikes, and city buses are all very accessible.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) is an alternative airport and is approximately 100 miles away.

5. Going Paperless with Whova

Project WET will continue to go as paperless as possible. We will again be using the app [Whova](#) for event management at the conference. Please download this app to your smartphone or tablet to stay connected during the conference. If you don't have a smartphone you can still access the agenda and speaker information (and print it!) through the Whova Project WET website. Click [here](#) to access the agenda website. Please note that we will update agendas and speaker bios and will likely be doing so through the conference.

In the Whova App you can view the agenda, speaker information, attendee bios, see last minute updates, upload pictures and give feedback on sessions. For more information, and to watch a brief tutorial on Whova, click [here](#).

Please be sure to sign in to Whova before the conference and edit your information so everyone can find you! You can log in with your email or the code **WETUSA19**.

You can also contact event organizers through the app and send messages to participants. This will allow everyone to stay connected throughout the conference. Also look for updates, messages about updates and social meetups throughout the conference.

6. Conference Culture



Tucson Weather: What to wear

Average high and low temperatures in September are 91 °F and 71 °F, respectively. Conference attire is casual, except for the opening and closing dinners which are generally dressy casual. The opening dinner is on Monday night, and the closing dinner is on Thursday night. The opening dinner this year is at [La Cocina](#), where outdoor dining is likely. The closing dinner will be at the Tucson Marriott University Park.

Flip-flops are acceptable as casual attire, but if you plan to attend any field experiences, please bring sturdy walking shoes. Hats, sunscreen, a reusable water bottle, and sunglasses are a good idea as well.

September temperatures in Tucson can reach highs of 95, while evenings can be relatively cool (high 60s). Additionally, Tucson buildings can be highly air

conditioned, so sweaters may be useful indoors during the day and outside at night.

Gathering of the Waters

The Gathering of the Waters is a tradition at Project WET USA conferences. Each person shares an experience or memory of water from their home or favorite water place and pours a small amount of water from this place (literally or symbolically) into a collective pitcher. A small amount of water from the pitcher from the previous years' conference, containing water added since the year 2000, is also added. This unites all participants from conferences past and present. Please bring water (an ounce or two in a travel-size container) from your favorite water place, your home or local tap water as a symbol of your water place.

Hospitality Room

Project WET USA conferences include a "hospitality room" where coordinators can gather to chat, snack and drink in our own private hotel suite. Some snacks will be provided, but please BYOB and any snacks you may want to



share. The location of the room and the hours it will be open will be announced upon arrival at the conference. Check your Whova app for more details.

New this Year: Project WET Board of Directors Participation

This year the Project Wet Board of Directors (BoD) will attend part of the New Coordinators Training as well as the opening dinner. In order to maximize connections between Coordinators and the BoD we will have an informal and optional happy hour on Sunday evening for those in town as well as engage in some new activities during the opening dinner. We look forward to making new connections and showing off all the great work the USA network does!

7. New Coordinator Training

Offered by Project WET and the Instruction and Training WETteam, the New Coordinator Training on Monday, September 23rd, offers important details about being part of the Project WET USA Network and answers any questions coordinators may have about managing their own networks. The Training follows the hands-on methods and interactive format of workshops that Project WET is known for. You do not have to be new to attend—seasoned coordinators are welcome too!

Before attending the training, please watch the [New Coordinator webinar](#) and review the coordinator and facilitator handbooks located on the www.ProjectWETUSA.org website.



8. Overall Conference Agenda

	Sunday September 22	Monday September 23	Tuesday September 24	Wednesday September 25	Thursday September 26	Friday September 27
Breakfast		on your own	included 7:30-9:00am Regional Meetings Sabino (Silent Auction opens)	included 6:15-7:00am Hospitality Suite	included 6:45-7:30am Hospitality Suite	included (6:30-9am) Hospitality Suite
Morning		Closed Session: New Coordinator Training 9am-4pm	Closed Session: USA Coordinators Network Meeting	Desert Sonoran Museum	Content Session 2: Sabino Canyon Field Experience & General Sessions	Council Meeting: Council Reps only
Lunch		on your own	On your own	included	included	on your own
Afternoon		Closed Session: New Coordinator Training 9am-4pm	USA Coordinators Network Meeting	Content Session 1: General Session & Advanced Training	Content Session 3: General Sessions	
Dinner	Optional: Happy Hour with Project WET Board of Directors 5pm Hotel Bar	Closed Dinner : Conference Opening for USA Coordinators 5:30pm-8:00pm La Cocina	On your own	On Your Own	Dinner Session included Conference Closing 6pm-7:30pm Sabino	
Evening		Conference Opening	Free Night!	Networking Scavenger Hunt 6pm-8pm	Conference Closing	
Color Key:		closed sessions for USA Coordinators only	open sessions for all conference attendees	Field Experiences	included meals	

** meals and agenda subject to change*

9. Project WET USA Network Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 23, 2019



- 7:30 Breakfast starts serving in Sabino
- 8:00 Regional Meeting Breakfast
- Meet your nearby Coordinators and catch up on what is happening in your region
 - Post Regional Program Accomplishments
- 9:00 Welcome and Announcements
- Welcome to Arizona
 - Schedule Overview
 - Scholarship recipients and info on scholarships for 2019
- 9:15 Project WET USA update
- Sticky Notes Introduction
 - Foundation Updates
 - Annual Report Participation
 - Funding Status
- 10:00 **Break**
- 10:15 What's new at the Project WET Foundation
- Publications Update
 - New Portal
 - R&E—Kahoot! to collect user data
 - Digital Tools Development
- 11:00 WETteams overview (what was accomplished this year)
- 11:15 WETteam Meetings
- 12:00 **Lunch Break**
- 1:30 Climate Change Education Guide
- Overview of activities/process
 - Activity—global warming
 - Publication process
- 2:45 Sticky notes suggestions/comments/questions
- 3:00 **Break—snacks served** (continuation of sticky notes if needed)
- 3:15 Promoting Digital Media: Marketing and Networking
- 4:00 Conference 2020
- 4:30 **Enjoy Tucson!**

10. Content Sessions

	Wednesday September 25	Thursday September 26
breakfast	included	included
Morning	Desert Sonoran Museum 7:00 - 10:30 (leave at 7:00am and be back by 11:00am)	7:30 - 10:00 Sabino Canyon
		Content Session 2: 11:00-11:30 Arizona Water Festival...Behind the Scenes <i>Julie Hasty</i>
		11:30-11:50 Lightning Talks Extreme Weather Phenomena <i>AZ WET</i>
		Diving into STEM with Underwater Robots <i>Betsy Wilkening</i>
Lunch	included	included
Afternoon	Content Session 1: Conference Opening	Content Session 3:
	1:00 -1:45 Water Reuse Dennis Nelson	1:00-1:45 Systems Thinking: Constructing New Knowledge and Deconstructing Misconceptions <i>AZ WET</i>
	Advanced Training 2-4 NGSS; Getting Little Feet Wet	1:45-2:05 A Model for Activating Learning at a Wetland/Riparian Area <i>AZ WET</i>
		Break
		2:15-3:00 One for All--Sustainability in the Face of Climate Chnage <i>Patricia Tierney</i>
Dinner	on your own	included (Conference Closing)
Evening	6pm-8pm Networking Scavenger Hunt	6pm-7:30pm Conference Closing Sabino

included meals
closed sessions for USA Coordinators only
open sessions for all conference attendees
Field Experiences
On your own

11. Advanced Training Topics

This year's advanced training will have two options: and Early Childhood Training for Getting Little Feet Wet and Understanding Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Project WET. All attendees will be asked to pick a strand before the conference.

The early childhood training will help Coordinators become more comfortable leading Trainings for educators and facilitators in Getting Little Feet Wet and focus on how early childhood education is different from Project WET's traditional elementary curriculum.

The NGSS session will help coordinators understand how to appeal to teachers who need to meet science standards that are similar to NGSS. Most states have adopted either the NGSS or science standards that are based on the NGSS. Project WET has resources to help teachers and curriculum specialists identify the standards Project WET activities can meet or help meet.



12. Field Experience

Wednesday, September 25th: Desert Sonoran Museum

The [Desert Sonoran Museum](#), ranked the number one tourist attraction in Tucson, is unlike any other museum in that the majority of the museum is outdoors. The experience is part zoo, part botanical garden, part natural history museum and part art gallery.

Thursday, September 26th:

Sabino Canyon, at the base of the Catalina Mountains is a unique ecosystem in the desert with near perennial water flows. Conference participants will explore local efforts to restore those flows through a creek walk with [Watershed Management Group](#) and a site visit to a school where students will share their own work on rainwater harvesting to better manage stormwater at their school and recharge the aquifer at the same time.

13. Silent Auction

Please bring something to contribute (and your money to bid in the auction!) for the Project WET USA Silent Auction. Proceeds go to providing scholarships for the 2020 Project WET USA Conference—it could be YOU needing a scholarship in 2020! Ideally, we are looking for water and other environmental education-related items (fun and functional). Think about bringing a basket representing the best of your state or clean out the closet by bringing Project WET swag that you aren't using. You can use check, cash or credit card to pay for your items.

Unfortunately, due to less money raised from the silent auction the last couple of years we are barely able to offer two scholarships this year. Let's aim for raising enough money for four scholarships in 2020!

Mailing Packages to Hotel:

The hotel will accept packages for the conference free of charge. If it is necessary to ship materials to the hotel for the silent auction or a presentation, each item must be properly packaged and marked with your first and last name. Packages should not be scheduled to arrive any earlier than one week before the conference (September 14, 2019). Materials should be shipped to:

Your first and last name
c/o Project WET Conference
880 E 2nd St.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Please keep a record of your packages sent, shipping service and tracking number(s). Once you arrive at the hotel, you may check at the front desk or the Project WET registration desk to retrieve your mailed packages.

14. Free Night

Tuesday night is designated as a “free night” with no formal agenda set. Explore Tucson with fellow coordinators or enjoy some down time at the hotel. You will receive information about restaurants and activities to do that evening. For those arriving early or staying on Friday, see the section about local attractions.

15. Fun Night



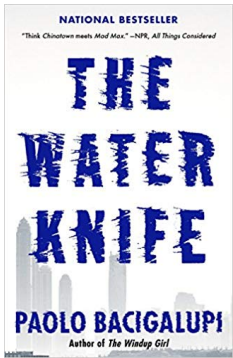
This year’s fun night will be a scavenger hunt to explore Tucson’s thriving downtown in search of beautiful public art. Teams will enjoy traveling through downtown by foot or streetcar, stopping for food and beverage at their leisure, and searching for surprising art around every corner. We’ll regroup at a local pub, where Geeks Who Drink trivia night begins at 8 pm. There you have the option to continue your team (or new team) efforts into the evening with some fun pub trivia.

16. Important Phone Numbers

- 💧 Julia Beck: office(406) 585-4104; cell (406) 570-5036; email julia.beck@projectwet.org
- 💧 Holly Thomas-Hilburn: phone (520) 621-7477; cell (520)792-2815 email hhilburn@cals.arizona.edu
- 💧 Tucson Marriott University Park: (520) 792-4100

Don’t forget that you can contact conference organizers through the Whova app in case you lose these numbers! Whova makes it easy to keep informed of updates and to message people attending the conference.

17. Featured Reading



The featured book for this year is *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi. This is a fictional book unlike books from the last few years. However, the *Water Knife* is set in the desert Southwest and brings up water topics that are relevant to this year's topic: Envisioning Our Water Future, making it a good fit for the conference this year. Plus, it should be a fun read for everyone! During the conference, references will be made to the topics in this book and we will have questions and discussions relating to the book.

In the near future, the Colorado River has dwindled to a trickle. Detective, assassin, and spy, Angel Velasquez "cuts" water for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, ensuring that its lush arcology developments can bloom in Las Vegas. When rumors of a game-changing water source surface in Phoenix, Angel is sent south, hunting for answers that seem to evaporate as the heat index soars and the landscape becomes more and more oppressive. There, he encounters Lucy Monroe, a hardened journalist with her own agenda, and Maria Villarosa, a young Texas migrant, who dreams of escaping north. As bodies begin to pile up, the three find themselves pawns in a game far bigger and more corrupt than they could have imagined, and when water is more valuable than gold, alliances shift like sand, and the only truth in the desert is that someone will have to bleed if anyone hopes to drink.

[Learn more or buy the book at Amazon.](#)

18. Getting WET & WILD in 2020

Project WET and Project WILD have teamed up to offer one conference for coordinators of both programs. Share, learn and have fun with Project WILD at the 2020 Coordinators Conference and Training in Springfield, Missouri. Mark your calendars for the week of July 27-31, 2020 for some WET and WILD fun!



19. Things to See and Do

[Pima Air and Space Museum](#) - Docent-led walking tours and museum ground Tram Tours are offered daily.

[Sabino Canyon](#) – hiking and a tram, 33 minutes from Tucson (this is also a field experience during the conference)

[Mt. Lemmon Scenic Byway](#) – end up above 9000 feet, hiking at all levels

[Ben's Bells](#)—Near the conference hotel. Stop in to paint a Ben's Bell and learn about their kindness work in Tucson. The mission of Ben's Bells is to teach individuals and communities about the positive impacts of intentional kindness and to inspire people to practice kindness as a way of life.

[Mission San Xavier del Bac](#) –Mission built in 1797, 27 minute drive south of Tucson. Free docent tours Monday-Saturday morning when church is not in use.

[Saguaro National Park](#)

[Rincon Mountain Visitor Center East](#)—The visitor center at Saguaro East is smaller and more rustic. Open year-round (except Christmas) from 9am to 5pm.

[Red Hills Visitor Center West](#)—This is a very attractive visitor center with spectacular views of mountains and Saguaros right from its back porch. Open year-round (except Christmas) from 9am to 5pm.

[Cactus Forest Drive](#)—The entrance station at Saguaro National Park East is the start of the Cactus Forest Drive. Suggest doing at the beginning or end of the day.

[Gates Pass](#) – A great place to watch the sunset and #11 on Trip Advisor of things to do in Tucson.

[Catalina State Park](#)—Catalina State Park is approximately 30 minutes from Tucson and sits at the base of the majestic Santa Catalina Mountains. The park is a haven for desert plants and wildlife and nearly 5,000 saguaros.

[Madera Canyon](#) – 45 minute drive south of Tucson with hiking at 5000 feet in elevation

[Tohono Chul Park](#) – Embrace the authentic beauty of the Sonoran Desert year-round at Tohono Chul, Tucson's charming crossroads of nature, art and culture. Deemed "One of the World's Ten Best Botanical Gardens" by Travel + Leisure Magazine, Tohono Chul has been celebrated by Tucson as one of its "best kept secrets" for over a quarter of a century. Tour the park and have lunch!

[Tucson Botanical Gardens](#)—Located in the center of town, walk the gardens or visit the Cafe Botanica for food.

[DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun](#)—What started as a small construction project in the early 1950s developed into a 10-acre National Historic District designed and built by acclaimed Arizona artist Ettore "Ted" DeGrazia.

[Agua Caliente Park](#)—Walking and birding on the east side of Tucson.

University of Arizona

[Center for Creative Photography](#)

[Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium](#)

[Poetry Center](#)

[Museum of Art](#)

[A Mountain \(Sentinel Peak\)](#)—A great place for an early morning walk that overlooks the city.

Getting Around

Tucson has a local streetcar called the Sun Link. With 23 stops you can get around downtown easily or connect to five of Tucson's most unique districts. The conference hotel—The Tucson Marriott University Park—is located close to one of these stops. For information on fares and how to use the Sun Link go to <https://www.sunlinkstreetcar.com/>.

Local Breweries

There are several breweries available on the streetcar line and/or relatively close by car:

- [Ten55 Brewing](#) - Downtown
- [Pueblo Vida Brewing](#) - Downtown
- [Dragoon Brewing Co](#) – Out of town
- [Crooked Tooth Brewing](#) - Downtown
- [Borderlands Brewing](#) - Downtown
- [Iron John's Brewing Company](#) - Downtown
- [Public Brewhouse](#) – Downtown

Restaurants, also on streetcar line:

[Cafe A La C'Art](#) – at the Art Museum with outside seating
(520) 628-8533
150 N Main Ave

[Downtown Kitchen](#) - Famous chef
(520) 623-7700
135 S 6th Ave

[La Cocina](#) – great outdoor seating & music (Opening Dinner location)
(520) 365-3053
201 N Court Ave

[Maynards Market & Kitchen](#) – at the historic train station
(520) 545-0577
400 N Toole Ave

[Cup Café](#) - great outdoor seating
(520) 798-1618
Located in Hotel Congress, 311 East Congress Street

[Charro Steak](#) – Mexican slant
(520) 485-1922
188 E Broadway Blvd

[Senae Thai Bistro](#)
(520) 373-5335

63 East Congress St

[Cafe Poca Cosa](#) – fancy Mexican/Latin American food

(520) 622-6400

110 E Pennington St

[HUB Restaurant & Ice Creamery](#)

(520) 207-8201

266 E Congress St

[47 Scott](#) – Great cocktails ... American comfort food

(520) 624-4747

47 N Scott Ave

[Mi Nidito Restaurant](#) – traditional Mexican

(520) 622-5081

1813 S 4th Ave

[Nook](#) - Breakfast

(520) 622-6665

1 E Congress

[Seis Kitchen](#) – At the Convento at the end of the streetcar line

(520) 622-2002

130 S Avenida Del Convento