

Call for Special Sessions

UCOWR/NIWR 2026

June 8-10, 2026

San Antonio, TX



Please join us on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, TX for the 2026 Annual Water Resources Conference. UCOWR and NIWR invite you to engage with leading researchers, educators, water managers, students, and other professionals from across the globe as we seek to develop new and innovative collaborations and transdisciplinary solutions to complex water resources challenges.

The **Universities Council on Water Resources** and **National Institutes for Water Resources** are pleased to invite you to submit your proposals for special sessions.

Special sessions are an important component of the conference and provide an opportunity to delve into current perspectives on various water resources challenges. We welcome sessions that cover a broad range of water-related research, management, extension, and education topics.

Proposals for special sessions will be evaluated by the Conference Planning Committee based on the timeliness and relevance of the topic, and the degree to which the topic will bring together key researchers and practitioners to disseminate recent advances to the water resources community.

Important Dates

Special Session proposals due: **Sept. 29, 2025**
Special Session acceptance notification: **Mid Oct.**
Abstracts due: **Jan. 16, 2026**
Abstract acceptance notification: **Late Feb. 2026**

[Click to Submit!](#)

Submit your Special Session Proposal by September 29, 2025

A special session organizer's role is to propose a relevant and timely topic, recruit speakers to submit abstracts to the session, and moderate the session during the conference.

Special sessions can be in the form of a panel discussion, group of 4, 5, or 6 oral presentations on a specific topic, or participatory in nature (e.g., workshop or hands-on training). Multiple session track proposals are welcome. Those interested in organizing and hosting a special session should provide the information below in the online form.

Special Session Proposals should include:

- Title of proposed special session
- A brief description (less than 350 words) stating the importance of the topic and the rationale for the proposed session
- Session Organizer(s), including contact information
- Type of proposed session(s): panel discussion, full length talks (15 min), lightning talks (5 min), participatory session, or workshop
- Preferred session(s) length: 60, 75, or 90 minutes
- A list of presenters (to submit abstracts via the general Call for Abstracts) and their tentative titles. All presenters do not have to be confirmed at this time. Confirming your speakers will guarantee they are placed in your session once they submit an abstract to the general Call for Abstracts.

Note: If your proposal is accepted, you will still need to submit an abstract to the general Call for Abstracts that opens in October. All presenters in a special session must submit an abstract to the general Call for Abstracts. This ensures that organizers place presenters in the correct session. Panel and participatory sessions only need to submit one overall abstract to the general Call.

Questions? Mary Foltz, Technical Program Chair (mary.foltz@okstate.edu) or Jackie Gillespie, UCOWR Director (crimjac@siu.edu)

Please visit the [conference website](#) for general conference information.