

60-80% of all job offers are from networking

NETWORKING

- Meet professionals and peers who will help you
- Get info on jobs, organizations, career paths or...
- Learn which skills or classes are most valuable
- Gain confidence in professional communication

Overcoming Jitters

Practice! Talking to professionals can be daunting but remember - they all were all students!

Remind yourself that learning to network is as important as learning class material.

Network continuously; a good time to approach speakers is after they have given a presentation.

Think proactively; you are building your network before you really need it.

Prepare for Networking

- Develop specific questions. Memorize and practice so you remember them when flustered.

Networking questions:

- Prepare a 30-second pitch about your status, interests, and skills. Practice so you are ready!

My pitch about myself:

Tips for Effective Networking

Unlearn shyness - We learn shyness and we can "unlearn" it. TWS is a great place to practice because our members want to support students.

Give firm, warm handshakes. A good handshake is firm, confident, warm and dry given with a smile.

Smile and make eye contact. It's the best way to connect in the shortest time possible.

Smile. Loosen up! Meeting new people make you tense but everyone will enjoy it more if you relax.

Face the person talking and listen. The best connections always come from listening.

Be curious and ask genuine questions. People like giving advice, being helpful and talking about themselves or the profession.

Manage the conversation. If there's a lull, ask a question or move on: "Excuse me, I see someone else I want to meet; thank you for talking with me".

Ask for business cards and make notes on the back. Send a thank you email to remind them who you are and to send a resume. Give your card when asked.

Ask for additional contacts.

Be honest. If you forget someone, simply say "Hi again, I'm ___ and we met at _____. Would you remind me of your name?"

Sample Questions and Topics

What personality traits are important for success?

What knowledge, skills or abilities are most important for success?

What skill sets would you look for in a new employee?

What courses or training have been most helpful to you?

What is the best way for students to find volunteer opportunities, internships or seasonal jobs?

If you could do anything differently in your career preparation and advancement, what would you change?

What advice do you have for students who are preparing to enter the wildlife profession?

What is the employment outlook in your agency?

Who else do you think it would be useful for me to talk to?

How do you spend a typical workday? For example, how much time do you spend with wildlife? people? data? equipment? in the field? on the phone? at your desk? in meetings? Communicating?

What do you enjoy most and least about your job?

How would you describe your work environment or culture?

Describe your career path. How did each job lead you to your next position?

How/why did you decide to pursue your current job?

How long did it take you to get a permanent job after graduation?

Do you recommend an advanced degree and why or why not?

What is the most important project you are working on now?

What do you see as the most significant issues for our profession in the next decade?

What classes are most important for undergraduates?

What makes a student competitive in the job market?

How did you get your job?

How does your job differ from what you expected?

What degree(s) did you complete and where?

Do you have or know of any opportunities for internships or seasonal work?

Are there any projects I could help with to get a flavor of your job?

What sort of things make early career job candidates stand out?

Can you think of any courses or projects I could work on that would help me?

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY



Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences