



Call for Abstracts
The 16th St. Louis River Summit

March 3-5, 2026

Theme: Grit & Gratitude: Celebrating St. Louis River Successes

You are invited to submit an abstract for the 16th St. Louis River Summit, hosted by Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, at the University of Wisconsin-Superior's Yellowjacket Union.

The Summit will take place on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 2026. This meeting will be fully in person and include oral presentations, a poster session on Tuesday, March 3rd, and an afternoon of field trips on Thursday, March 5th.

Student registration and participation in the Summit is FREE and we strongly encourage students of all ages to submit abstracts.

Abstract Submission Deadlines

Friday, Dec. 5th, 2025 at 11:59pm - all oral presentation and Connect & Collaborate (formerly Networking) abstracts

Monday, Jan 26th, 2026 at 11:59pm - all poster presentation abstracts

Notification of Acceptance

All oral presentation and Connect & Collaborate (formerly Networking) session abstract submissions will be notified of acceptance by mid-January 2026. Depending on the number of submitted abstracts, some oral presentations may be recommended as poster presentations or be asked to reduce talk length.

All poster presentation abstract submissions will be notified of acceptance by early February 2026. If you need earlier confirmation for travel approvals, please reach out individually to Hannah Nicklay (hannah.nicklay@wisc.edu; 715-399-4088).

Where's the call for art? This year, the St. Louis River Summit is celebrating and supporting a new wonderful partner-led art show happening concurrently with the Summit. Your creativity still has a home! The St. Louis River Alliance will be accepting submissions for a river-themed community art show opening on Thursday, March 5th — follow their [socials](#) or check their [website](#) for updates this winter.

Guidelines for Submission

Word Limits: Titles are limited to 20 words. Abstracts are limited to 300 words.

Priority will be given to abstracts that:

- Clearly and concisely communicate the key takeaways of the work
- Are written for a general audience, free of jargon and overly technical language
- **Clearly connect to the St. Louis River**, which could include work directly on, in, or adjacent to the River, or the work clearly has generally applicable and relevant/transferrable information
- Share new information
- Demonstrate how the topic directly influences local communities (providing immediate benefits, important context, or addressing current challenges)
- Address a pressing issue that is critical to the understanding, management, or well-being of communities within the St. Louis River area
- Clearly connect with the theme

Submissions may cover a broad range of topics connected to the St. Louis River. [You can check out abstracts from previous years proceedings at this link.](#)

Oral Presentations

Presenters can select either a 5-minute lightning talk or a 10- or 15-minute talk.

5-minute Lightning Talks: Focus on one key idea, result, or question. Presenters will be allowed a maximum of 5 slides. Examples of good fits for the lightning talk category include presenting a new dataset or tool, preliminary findings, or products from recently completed work. No time for questions will be allotted for these presentations.

10- or 15-minute Talks: Provide more context and detail but still keep content accessible to a general, interdisciplinary audience. Avoid jargon, emphasize the significance of findings, and highlight broader relevance. Each presentation will be allotted 5 minutes for questions.

Note for presenters: All presenters will be required to provide a recording or PDF of their talk to be made available after the Summit.

[Link to submit an oral presentation abstract](#)

Poster Presentations

The Poster Session will be on Tuesday, March 3rd after the main program. Instructions for poster presentations will be posted on the Summit page on the Lake Superior Reserve website.

[Link to submit a poster abstract](#)

Connect & Collaborate (formerly Networking Sessions)

We are accepting submissions for the Connect & Collaborate session at the Summit on Wednesday, March 4th. Participant-led Connect & Collaborate sessions provide a space for collaboration on topics that are timely and relevant to the St. Louis River community. Connect & Collaborate sessions are 90 minutes.

These sessions can be a great way to:

1. Jump start a collaborative project,
2. Solicit in depth feedback on an effort,
3. Come together to generate collective solutions, and/or
4. Share a new, innovative idea or approach.

Please be prepared to submit a session description, define objectives for your session, and list any collaborators who will be co-leading this session. Your description should be compelling and give participants a clear sense of the purpose for gathering and what they can expect to experience during the session.

[Link to submit a Connect & Collaborate session abstract](#)

For questions, please contact Hannah Nicklay (hannah.nicklay@wisc.edu; 715-399-4088).