Volunteering is widely recognized for its leadership-building capabilities and as a positive addition to one’s curriculum vitae. Networking connections made while volunteering can lead to research partnerships, job advancement, lifelong friendships, and personal fulfillment and recognition. Volunteering is also an excellent way to learn more about a particular role or sector, for example coming from nonprofit or government and switching to for profit. So, consider becoming involved, in a volunteer role, with one of these opportunities:

Committees and Boards
Members guide the direction and development of the Societies by serving on a diverse range of committees and boards that include journal peer reviewers, book editors, community or division chairs, K-12 outreach, student activities, and mentors, just to name a few. With 400+ committees to choose from, you’re bound to find at least one that could use your talent and unique contribution. Visit the webpages below to view the lists of committees, guidelines, and functions, and to volunteer. **Register by 13 June for committee service beginning 1 Jan. 2015.**

- [www.agronomy.org/about-society/committees/volunteer](http://www.agronomy.org/about-society/committees/volunteer)
- [www.crops.org/about-society/committees/volunteer](http://www.crops.org/about-society/committees/volunteer)
- [www.soils.org/about-society/committees/volunteer](http://www.soils.org/about-society/committees/volunteer)

Beyond Committees...

**Be a mentor**—The Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute matches undergraduates with scientist-mentors during the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Annual Meeting. The program encourages talented students to study agronomy, crop science, and soil science while cultivating networks to develop the necessary workforce to sustain the profession. **New in 2014: Greenfield Scholars**—GO Scholars who intend on entering the workforce after graduation and have an interest in the Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) certification.

- [www.goldenopportunityscholars.org](http://www.goldenopportunityscholars.org)

**Get Involved in the Legislative Action Network (LAN)**—LAN members receive electronic “action alerts” asking them to reach out to their members of Congress on a specific issue. By joining the LAN, you will be the first to hear about upcoming policy issues or legislative actions and receive instructions tailored to your members of Congress for maximum effect.


Crunched for Time? Try These One-and-Done Opportunities

**Submit your career profile**—Showcase your career and inform and inspire students considering a career in our sciences. Our easy questionnaire will guide you through questions about your education, job path, interesting experiences, and hobbies. You can even add up to three photos.

- [www.careerplacement.org/career-tools/career-profiles](http://www.careerplacement.org/career-tools/career-profiles)

**Expand the network and refer a colleague or student**—A bigger Society means a stronger profession, a larger knowledge base, more expertise to draw on, more benefits, and increased visibility and influence in our advocacy efforts.

- [www.agronomy.org/membership/refer](http://www.agronomy.org/membership/refer)
- [www.crops.org/membership/refer](http://www.crops.org/membership/refer)
- [www.soils.org/membership/for-members/grow](http://www.soils.org/membership/for-members/grow)
Submit a lesson plan—Do you have a lesson plan that you use for K-12 outreach? Share it with SSSA, so we may share it with K-12 teachers through our K-12 outreach program. Lesson plans are submitted online and are peer-reviewed! www.soils4teachers.org/lessons-and-activities/activities/submit

Provide answers to questions for the Ask a Soil Scientist Program—K-12 teachers, students, and anyone else can visit www.soils4teachers.org/ask with general interest, soils-based questions. Question(s) are sent to an SSSA member, based on geographic region, who responds within 48 hours. Teachers can even arrange for a soil scientist to visit their classroom. www.soils.org/ask/volunteer

Staff an SSSA booth at various soils-related conferences—Catch up with old friends and make new ones when you spend an hour or two staffing the SSSA booth at various soils-related conferences this year. Visit www.soils.org/about-society/outreach to see a list of events and to volunteer. You can also send an email to Susan Chapman at schapman@soils.org.

Get involved in the International Year of Soils 2015—The General Assembly of the United Nations has declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils. Plans are being made for this outreach program, and we’ll need members to help tell the story of soils in their communities. Details will be coming soon. In the meantime, if you are interested in receiving more information, volunteer for our IYS Volunteer Group www.soils.org/IYS

A comprehensive webpage with links to opportunities for volunteerism/involvement can be found at:
www.agronomy.org/get-involved
www.crops.org/get-involved
www.soils.org/for-members/get-involved

Experience the power of networking with Society volunteer opportunities

- Potential contacts leading to research partnerships, job advancement, and lifelong friendships
- Broadening your exposure beyond boundaries of your existing professional network
- Cross paths with people from across your discipline, including leaders with whom you may otherwise not have met

I get the most out of my membership with the Societies by getting involved, organizing sessions, volunteering for committee service, etc. This truly is my biggest membership benefit. By participating, I can help give a voice to non-traditional members (industry and consulting) and advise the future generation—undergraduates and graduate students considering non-academic careers.”

Emily Clark, SSSA member and Certified Professional Soil Scientist, Golder Associates, Albuquerque, NM

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