Start an AMS Pre-College Chapter Today!



Visit us at the AMS Local Chapter Web site:
https://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-local-chapters/pre-college-chapter-information/

AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee

Please contact us so we can work together!
amschaps@ametsoc.org

AMS Local Chapters

Connecting Future Scientists with the Atmosphere!!

Start a Pre-college AMS Local Chapter

History of Pre-College Chapters

Local chapters have been a part of the Society's framework almost from the beginning, with the first chapter formed in Boston in 1929. Local chapters were viewed from the start as an effective means of increasing the awareness of meteorology among the general public, as well as providing a mechanism for local gatherings of professionals and weather enthusiasts that would ultimately lead to a growth in Society membership.

The impetus for establishing pre-college-level AMS local chapters began in 2001 with an inquiry from a young associate member, Paul Westcott. At the time he was the president of a high school meteorology club in New York and was wondering if they could form a student chapter. In line with the Society's desire to increase member inclusiveness and broaden outreach to non-traditional audiences, the Local Chapter Affairs Committee (LCAC) unanimously supported the existence of local chapters for students of pre-college age and worked with the AMS Council to establish appropriate guidelines. The Society now has approximately 125 active local chapters, including over 40 student chapters that specifically serve the needs of meteorology students.

Starting a Pre-College Chapter is Easy!

- Five students desiring to form a chapter may submit a petition.
- Petitions must be signed by the students and a teacher or adult advisor*.
- The signing adult must already be a member or be willing to join the Society.
- The petition should include the type of organization envisaged, the purpose of the organization, planned frequency of meetings, expected meeting places, an estimate of the potential membership and the geographic area it will serve.

If the petition meets the minimal conditions stated above and the petitioning adult advisor is verified as a member/associate member of the Society, the petition will be sent to the members of the Council for vote by mail ballot, unless a meeting of the Council is scheduled within the next forty days. Action by the Council will be forwarded to the petitioners by the Communications Manager, the local chapter point of contact. A sample petition is available on the AMS Website (https://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-local-chapters/) under "How to start a local chapter". Other very useful information for starting a new chapter, including a sample chapter constitution and the Chapter Officer's Handbook, is also available on the Website.

The initial petition should be sent to:
AMS
Attn: Local Chapters
45 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108-3693

*Each pre-college chapter must have a participating adult advisor. Appropriate adult advisors may be teachers, librarians, school principals, scout leaders, broadcast meteorologists, etc.

Local Chapter Activities

- Discover More about the Atmosphere
- Tour Meteorological Facilities
- Hold Contests
- Make Instruments
- Get Involved with Science Fairs
- Participate in Science Education

Chapter Benefits

- Promote children's natural interest in earth-system science.
- Give kids exposure beyond the classroom to the fun and exciting components of science.
- Form connections with a professional society that serves student and parent leaders with the same interests.
- Create friendships with other chapter leaders who will be science advisors for K-12 students/teachers.



Meteorological instrument demonstration for El Paso and Las Cruces school children at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.



Pam Croaker displays to the Central North Carolina Chapter a weather station constructed by her kindergarten students.



Students as future weather anchors.