
SWE at a Glance

The University of Wisconsin-Madison SWE section is a very visible and prominent organization on campus and in the community. In November of the 2008-2009 school year at Nationals, UW-Madison SWE was awarded the *Most Outstanding Collegiate Organization – gold*, which is the highest award you could get. SWE was also recognized for its outreach in girl scouts and was awarded the *Most Outstanding Girl Scout Collaboration Award*. Throughout the year, members gain communication, leadership and teamwork experience through participation in our various activities. Below is an overview of some of the opportunities and committees available to SWE members.

Section Activities:

- Eight section meetings with company presentations are held each year.
- Corporate tours are offered exposing members to technical and professional activities.
- Speed Networking allows students to talk to companies in a small group environment.
- Members can shadow someone at a company over winter break for a day (“Career for a Day”).

Community Service:

- Members dress up and “Trick or Treat for Cans,” to collect canned goods donated to a local food shelf.
- SWE helps build a house for Habitat for Humanity and volunteer at a local Ronald McDonald House.

Diversity Affairs Events:

- SWE holds joint events, such as section meetings, plant tours, and team building activities and social events each year in conjunction with Diversity Organizations through the Diversity Affairs Office.
- Members participate in FUSE (Forming Understanding of Situations in Engineering), a dinner and discussion about diversity that several different engineering organizations, professors, and company representatives attend.
- Members attend the Spring Diversity Welcome attended by diversity organizations and companies.

Evening with Industry (EWI):

- EWI is an opportunity for informal interaction between corporate representatives and students.
- The evening includes networking, dinner, and a scholarship and achievement awards presentation.

Fundraising Events:

- SWE hosts the annual College of Engineering Winter Formal, a popular event for the entire college.
- End of semester survival kits are made and given to students to get through finals week.

Graduate Affairs:

- Grad students have biweekly gatherings to discuss mutual successes and challenges.
- We organize faculty and graduate student lunches as well as Grad School Workshops.

National and Regional Conferences:

- Our section is known for our high attendance at both the national and regional conferences.
- Members make valuable contacts with other SWE student and professional members from around the nation as well as develop personal skills, leadership skills and ideas for their SWE student section.

SWE Spoke - Our Newsletter and Our Website:

- SWE publishes a newsletter six times a year to keep our members, other student sections, alumni, and interested companies updated on our upcoming events, meetings, and employment opportunities.
- Our section information can be accessed on-line on our homepage.

Tech Events:

- We compete in the Boeing Team Tech Competition – A National SWE Competition.
- SWE members are a part of Engineering Expo by making a booth supporting women in engineering.

Outreach Activities

Outreach to pre-college students is one main focus of the UW-Madison SWE chapter. Our program has been recognized several times at the SWE National Conference, receiving the Corning Glass Works Incentive Grant in 2003, the highest outreach achievement for student sections, and the Young Scientists of America Award for Outstanding Community Outreach for a Student Organization in 2007. We strive to reach students and children of all ages and backgrounds, and increase awareness of the opportunities in engineering.

Day on Campus:

- Women in their senior year of high school who have been accepted to the UW-Madison College of Engineering are invited to spend a day on campus with SWE.
- Students and their parents get a taste of college life as an engineering student with a full day of presentations, panel discussions, and tours.
- Many of the students choose to spend a night with the SWE member on campus.
- This visit to campus is often the deciding factor in the college choice for these young women and many of our members and officers were introduced to SWE at Day on Campus.

Engineering Tomorrow's Careers (ETC):

- High school females throughout Wisconsin and surrounding states are invited to attend the annual weeklong ETC summer camp to explore engineering as a career opportunity.
- The camp includes UW-Madison professor and student speakers, hands-on engineering labs in each discipline, team building workshops, social activities, and overnight accommodations in the dorms.
- Many students enroll at UW-Madison as engineering students after this experience.

Girl Scouts:

- The computer badge workshops have become a popular program for local Brownie, Junior and Cadette troops.
- Workshops are held in UW-Madison College of Engineering Computer-Aided Engineering Labs for 2 hours and are worth one computer badge.
- SWE organizes 4 Science Badge Days a year: two for Juniors, one for Brownies, and one for Cadettes. Girls from all over Wisconsin and surrounding states come to UW-Madison for each badge day to earn three science badges (brownies and juniors) or one interest project badge (cadettes).

Mentoring:

- Our Big Sib/Little Sib program pair underclassmen, freshmen and sophomores, with upperclassmen
- The participants are assigned “families” which consist of new and experienced SWE members
- Families help to welcome the newcomers, advise them for classes, and learn to balance fun with work
- Events such as bowling, ice skating, and study nights are held throughout the year.

SWE “Winter Blitz” and Local School Outreach Trips:

- In an effort to encourage high school and junior high school students to consider careers in engineering and the sciences, SWE members travel to schools throughout the state with videos and hands-on presentations.
- Presentations are designed to spark interest in studying engineering and serve as a starting point for career opportunity discussions.
- UW-Madison students speak to area schools on a regular basis, stressing the importance of science and math.
- During winter break, SWE members travel to Milwaukee, the Green Bay Area, and Minneapolis for a 2-3 day “blitz” in order to reach students outside the Madison area.
- SWE Members volunteer their time as tutors in local schools on a weekly basis.
- We have partnered with one elementary school per year to help their students prepare for Science Olympiad competitions.
- Members also volunteer their time for local Family Science Nights, Girls Inc., and Science Expeditions.