

# Creating a WiNN Chapter

## What is WiNN?

The Women in Nature Network (WiNN) is connecting and empowering women to achieve sustainable management and conservation of our Earth's natural resources. WiNN was founded in 2013 by 14 international conservation leaders with decades of experience in nature conservation and capacity building at the community level. Recognizing that women play a pivotal role in the field but are often isolated or ill prepared to take on leadership roles, WiNN is working to develop a global learning community of women in order to create and support a future generation of environmental leaders.

## Benefits of joining:

- Annual global networking event to exchange women's experiences by bringing together international conservation leaders, WiNN members, conservation practitioners and students through symposia and workshops to strengthen their leadership skills and connect with other women
- Mentorship program to connect women with established conservation practitioners
- Internships for students interested in becoming involved and pursuing a career in conservation
- Strategic grants and technical support for women's conservation projects
- Becoming part of a community of like-minded people

## Founding your WiNN Chapter:

### Step 1: Garner support

- Find a core group of anywhere between 3-5 people who are motivated and passionate
- Organize a consistent meeting time to plan the start of the new chapter

### Step 2: Found your chapter

- Create an internal organization with a logical structure that can sustain itself
- Define an executive board with a delegated task for each board member
- For students: find an on-campus adviser such as a faculty member or a group of affiliated professionals who can provide guidance to the chapter

### Step 3: Recruit more people

- Make sure the chapter can provide opportunities that people want such as networking, mentors, funding, travel etc.
- Reach out to people you know and other conservation groups
- For students: reach out to classes or departments with a high concentration of conservationists

### Step 4: Jump-start your organization

- Plan activities that bring the members of your chapter together such as community meals, movie nights, book-clubs, and outings
- Host a networking event with speakers or panelists
- Plan female empowerment events to spread WiNN's message

### Step 5: Media presence

- Create a Facebook page, a chapter page on the WiNN website, and a personalized chapter email address (which should be added to the general WiNN google group)
- Post regular updates on these pages of what the chapter has been doing
- Use these media outlets to find sister chapters and encourage new chapters in your area

### Step 6: Stay in touch with WiNN

- Subscribe to the newsletter
- Follow WiNN's Facebook page
- Follow up with WiNN's events and work opportunities throughout the year