

The Gear

Serving the 305 Members of the SWE-WI Section

Sep - 2025

Coffee & Chat Meetups

Meet other collegiate and professional SWEsters in your area in an informal coffeehouse setting! Pick the location that works best for you. No RSVP necessary, just show up and enjoy getting to know other SWE members.

Locations / Dates:

La Crosse Area – 9/13 - **COMPLETE**

Grounded Patio Café (308 Main St, La Crosse, WI 54601)

Milwaukee Area – 9/19 at 9AM

Stone Creek Coffee (2650 N Downer Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53211)

Menomonie Area – 9/19 at 3PM

Golden Leaf Café (1706 Stout Rd, Menomonie, WI 54751)

Stevens Point Area – 10/3 at 5PM

Starry Night Cat Café (1141 Clark St, Stevens Point, WI 53705)

Madison Area – 10/4 at 10AM

Ancora Café + Bakery (3256 University Ave, Madison, WI 53705)

Houghton Area – 10/14 at 3PM

Camp Coffee Company (610 Sheldon Ave, Houghton, MI 49931)

Send in your photos from your coffee meetup to feature on SWE-WI social media and in the next newsletter by filling out SWE-WI's [Publicity Request Form!](#)

For any questions, comments, or suggestions; reach out to [Emily Demchik](#), SWE-WI VP2 Collegiates.

Key Upcoming Events

- Sentry Manufacturing Tour – Oconomowoc, WI – 10/15
- WE25 – New Orleans, LA – 10/23-10/25
- 2026 WE Locals – Various Cities – Feb-April '26

Stay up to date on all SWE-WI events at our [Google Calendar \(link\)](#)



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Manufacturing Tour

Sentry Equipment Tour

Date: October 15th, 2025

Time: 5PM-6PM

Location: Sentry Equipment in Oconomowoc, WI

Factory Tour with a SWE member! SWE member Heidi Balestrieri will take you on a tour of Sentry. Sentry is celebrating 100 years of business. The tour will focus on products Sentry makes for the power industry.

Please RSVP to Heidi at heidi.balestrieri@Sentry-equip.com by October 10. This tour is open to SWE members and their families.



Photo from 2024 SWE-WI Sentry Tour. Join in on the factory fun this year!

SWE-WI Newsletter Entries

Send us your stories! We want to see what our professional SWE-WI and affiliated collegiate SWE members are up to! We are looking for events that SWE has hosted, member milestones, interesting articles/books to share, and more! If you have something you want to see in the newsletter, please fill out the following Publicity Request Form and check 'The Gear Newsletter'.
SWE-WI Publicity Request Form: <https://forms.gle/CztgytTXYQB2hK6JA>

Plan Your WE25 Trip Today!

Registration is open for the annual SWE conference, WE25. This conference is a great opportunity to build your professional skills by learning from the best women engineers from across the globe. Don't miss the chance to attend an inspiring conference in the historic city of New Orleans.

The full WE25 schedule has also been [released](#), so you can start planning out which sessions you want to attend. Consider supporting 11 different presenters from Wisconsin including the following SWE-WI members.

Acaydia Campbell | 10/24 at 4:25PM | Exiting Your Isolation Era: Finding Community

Xiaoyao Gao | 10/24 at 4PM | Impactful Tech Careers: Exploring the Unknown World of "Process Industries"

Trevor George | 10/24 at 4PM | Your Story Matters: An Interactive Conversation on Women in Engineering

Rachel Glanzer | 10/24 at 11:15AM | Forging Your Path to Becoming a PE

Kathy Krehnovi | 10/24 at 2:45PM | From College Friends to Corporate Powerhouses: Engineering Leadership That Lasts

Danielle Schmitz | 10/24 at 4PM | Steer Your Success: Mentorship and Self-Advocacy

Jessica Young | 10/23 at 10:15AM | The Importance of Indigenous People in STEM

You can also join in celebrating 3 SWE-WI individual [award recipients](#) who will be recognized.

Samantha Billetdeaux | Esteemed New Professional Member Award

Kyrie LeMahieu | Rising Technical Contributor Award

Gabrielle Mueller | Trailblazer Award

As WE25 gets closer, check the weekly SWE Wisconsin E-Blasts for opportunities to meet up at the conference. For more details about the event and to register, visit: <https://we25.swe.org/>



Act fast, official housing for the WE25 conference has opened! There are still rooms available, secure yours today at: <https://we25.swe.org/about/housing-information/>

TWIST Robotics Event

TWIST (Together, Women in STEM Thrive), is an event for FIRST Robotics teams dedicated to providing an opportunity for girls to show their strengths in a predominantly male-dominated field. Unlike typical robotics competitions, TWIST requires teams to have girls driving the teams' robots during the competition. Through this event, we hope to contribute to closing the gender gap in STEM and promoting inclusive team cultures. 32 teams have registered and there are expected to be over 1200 attendees in-person, and thousands of live stream views from across the Midwest. SWE is a [Strategic Alliance](#) partner of FIRST.

This year's event will take place October 11th, 2025, at Muskego High School in Muskego, WI. If you would like to learn more about the event, be a woman in STEM role model as a volunteer, or attend to see what FIRST robotics is all about, visit <https://warriorbots6421.com/twist/>.



2026 Host
Cities

Save the Date - The 2026 cities hosting WE Local conferences have been announced:

- Austin, TX – February 20 – 21, 2026
- Portland, OR – February 27 – 28, 2026
- Columbus, OH – March 13 – 14, 2026
- Bengaluru, India – April 9 – 10, 2026
- Dublin, Ireland – April 23 – 24, 2026

SWE-WI Outreach Policies

Outreach Volunteer Notice

SWE has implemented a Youth Protection Policy. This year to be a volunteer at a SWE-WI sponsored event you must have completed the Youth Protection course and provide a SWE Certificate to the organizer.

Please consider taking the youth protection course early and sending SWE-WI a digital copy of your certificate. This course will need to be taken every three years. To access the course, or for more information please visit

<https://swe.org/youthprotection/>

SWE-WI OUTREACH SAVE THE DATE

TWIST Robotics Competition – October 11, 2025

sySTEMNow Conference (Milwaukee) – October 29, 2025

Future City (Milwaukee) – January 17, 2026

STEM Fair (Milwaukee) – February 22, 2026

EMDC (Milwaukee) – March 13, 2026

Outreach Involvement

If you have been involved in an outreach event and are a SWE member, send information about the event to Heidi Balestrieri at swewioutreach@swe.org so we can report the information in the SWE outreach tool.

Information needed for the report: event name, date, all SWE sections that were involved, description of event, breakdown of girls and boys who participated, age of students, number of adult guests, number of SWE member volunteers, number of other volunteers, any partner organizations involved, or any other information to share.

Girl Scout STEM Badges

Would you be interested in working with a Girl Scout Troop and introducing a girl to engineering? The Girl Scouts have introduced new engineering and STEM badges and troops are looking for engineers who would be willing to help them earn these badges. For information on how to be involved, project ideas, and how to find a troop contact swewioutreach@swe.org

SWENext Membership



SWENext is a way to become part of SWE as a student through the age of 18. Joining is free, any student 13 or older can become a SWENext on their own, for those younger than 13, a parent will need to be the primary contact.

When registering for SWENext use event code: **Wisconsin**

Learn more about SWENext visit: <https://swe.org/k-12-outreach/swenext-2/>

For any SWENext questions, contact: outreach@swe.org

FIRST Volunteering FY26

Did you know that SWE has been a **Strategic Alliance Partner** of **FIRST** since 2008? This partnership has helped both organizations promote STEM to young people and promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields.

There are many FIRST event volunteer opportunities throughout Wisconsin. No experience required! To volunteer at any of these events, follow the **FIRST Volunteer Registration Guide**. Note FLL volunteer registration is open now, FTC and FRC will open no later than October 31st.

FIRST LEGO League Explore

- Dates TBD – Stay Tuned!

FIRST LEGO League Challenge

- 10/11/25 – Muskego, WI
- 10/25/25 – Waukesha, WI
- 11/1/25 – Appleton, WI
- 11/8/25 – Franklin, WI
- 11/8/25 – West Salem, WI
- 11/15 - 11/16/25 – Cleveland, WI
- 11/15/25 – Whitewater, WI
- 11/22 - 11/23/25 – Milwaukee, WI
- 11/22/25 – Janesville, WI
- 11/23/25 – Oshkosh, WI
- 12/6/25 – Madison, WI
- 12/6/25 – Green Bay, WI
- 12/7/25 – Pewaukee, WI
- 12/13/25 – Mukwonago, WI
- 12/14/25 – Milwaukee, WI
- 12/20/25 – Oak Creek, WI
- 12/20/25 – Waukesha, WI
- 1/18/26 – Sun Prairie, WI

FIRST Tech Challenge

- 11/22/25 – Sheboygan, WI
- 12/13/25 – New Berlin, WI
- 12/20/25 – La Crosse, WI
- 1/3/26 – Reedsville, WI
- 1/17/26 – Milwaukee, WI
- 1/31/26 – Madison, WI
- 2/7 – 2/8/26 – Brookfield, WI

FIRST Robotics Competition

- 3/6 – 3/8/26 – Plymouth, WI
- 3/20 – 3/22/26 – Appleton, WI
- 3/27 – 3/29/26 – Mukwonago, WI
- 4/2 – 4/4/26 – La Crosse, WI
- 4/17 – 4/19/26 – Brookfield, WI



For more information about FIRST opportunities in the state, check out the **FIRST Wisconsin website**.

SWE-WI Advertisement Information

Are you a company looking to show your support of SWE-WI, advertise on our website or in our newsletter, or post a job opening? If so, we want to hear from you. If you are interested, please find additional details and fill out the contact form on our corporate involvement page of the SWE-WI website:

<https://wisconsin.swe.org/corporate-involvement/>

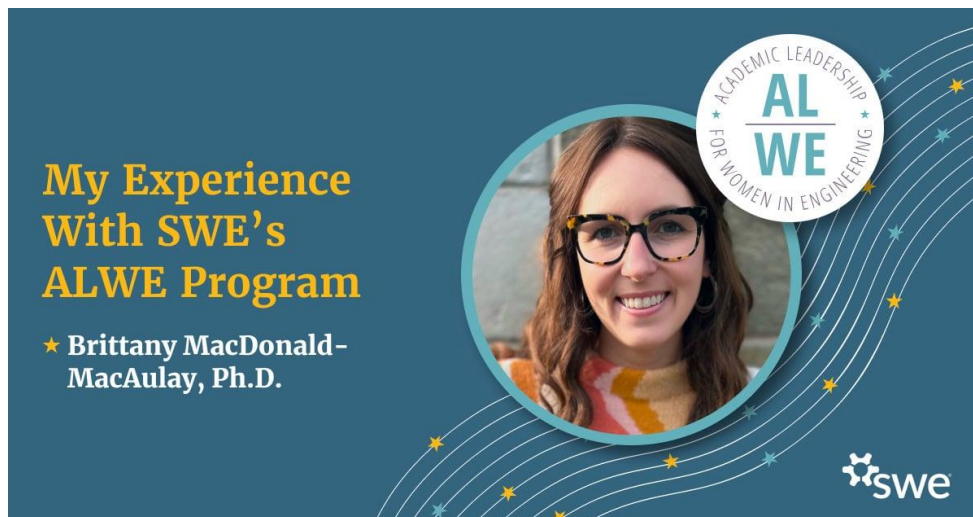
SWE Resource Spotlight

Did you know about *All Together*, the official blog of the Society of Women Engineers that features stories about SWE members, engineering, technology, and other STEM related topics? You can access all content on the *All Together* [website](#).

Sign up for the monthly *All Together* newsletter

Sign Up! 

Want to get a monthly copy of the *All Together* newsletter in your inbox? Opt-in by submitting your email [here](#).



Check out one of the recent *All Together* blog posts where Dr. Brittany MacDonald-MacAulay shares her story and key takeaways from SWE's Academic Leadership for Women in Engineering (ALWE) program in the blog post: [Overcoming Barriers as a Woman Engineer in Academia: My Experience With SWE's ALWE Program](#).

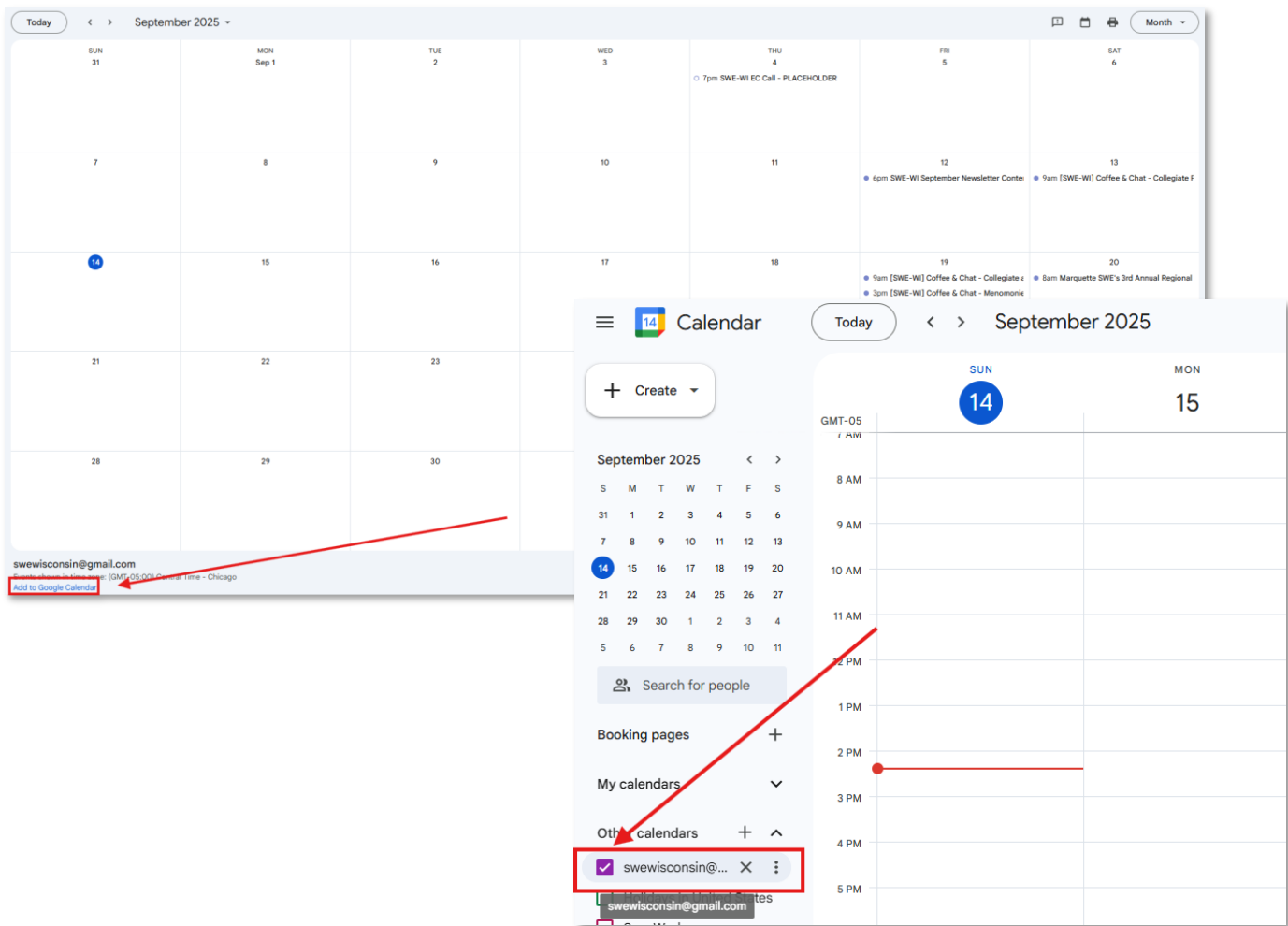
SWE-WI Bi-Monthly Lunch Discussions

Join these virtual calls during lunch every other month to learn with other SWE members on a specific topic. These are at 11:30am-12:30am CST on the Fridays below. Please contact Andrea (awfalasco@gmail.com) to get the link to the Zoom meeting.

Our first discussion group for the year, **10/17 at 11:30AM**, will be a discussion on the SWE seminar "Best Practices for Finding and Keeping a Mentor" presented by Gail Golden. You can find this presentation on the SWE site in the Advance Learning Center.

SWE-WI Google Calendar

Did you know that you can add the SWE-WI Google Calendar to yours to stay up to date on all upcoming events? After opening the [SWE-WI Google Calendar](#) in your web browser, you can select the 'Add to Google Calendar' option in the lower left. After adding, you can open your [personal Google Calendar](#), and toggle the SWE-WI Google Calendar on and off with the checkmark under 'Other calendars' on the lefthand side.



Fox Cities Networking

Join fellow Fox Cities members at Lion's Tail Brewery (116 S Commercial St) in Neenah on October 2nd from 4:30-6pm! This is a time for networking and socializing with a good selection of drinks. We try to meet in the back unless there is an event going on. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea (awfaldasco@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!