

2/2006

4/2023

S591 SSSA K-12 COMMITTEE

A. Status: Special committee

B. Objective:

The committee is charged with the coordination and/or development of age-appropriate, timely, peer-reviewed educational materials and opportunities that represent the state of knowledge and current concepts in soil science for K-12 educators and students. A variety of learning environments including online, webinars, classroom, gardens, nature, etc. should be considered. The goal is to increase interest and awareness of soil science and related sciences as a scientific pursuit and career choice by providing soil science activities/lessons/information for classrooms.

C. Composition: The size of the committee shall be reflective of the scope of the projects and composed of active SSSA members and others dedicated to advancing soil science. The scope of the K-12 activities requires a group of dedicated, passionate, and energetic individuals with an interest in increasing the visibility of soil science to teachers and K-12 students. Participants should be identified to include those interested in developing content and activities to increase exposure to soil science in K-12 education and to include a cross section of soil science areas and members from academia, government, and practicing professionals.

The work and accomplishments of the SSSA K-12 Committee happen through the commitment of the committee members. To help the committee successfully reach its goals, committee members are asked to commit to the following:

1. Actively participate in 2/3 of the full committee conference calls (approximately 8-12 per year).
2. Actively participate in at least one sub-committee or project – including conference calls and activities as needed.
3. Actively participate in activities sponsored by the committee when possible.
4. Current committee members are encouraged to mentor and engage newer committee members in projects/activities.

D. Tenure: The term of service is two years for committee members. The Chair serves a two-year term. Committee members and the chair may serve additional terms.

E. Functions:

1. Annually define scope of work with significant deliverables and timelines to ensure the ongoing success of the SSSA K-12 outreach efforts.
2. Activities center around five areas:
 - a. **National and State Standards** – connecting soil science topics to state and national standards

- b. **Curriculum Development** – developing and curating new curricula for K-12 instruction
 - c. **Website Development** – enhancing online K-12 resources found at soils4teachers.org
 - d. **Books** – publish books relevant to the K-12 audience
 - e. **Develop and Disseminate Soils Information** – for all audiences; includes outreach activities conducted by members
3. Develop specific, measurable objectives for benchmarking progress and success.
 4. The committee is accountable to the SSSA Board of Directors.

F. President's Responsibilities to the Committee:

The SSSA President:

1. Appoints new members to replace those whose terms expire.
2. Serves as an advisor on the ideas and plans of the committee.