

March 7, 2025



# The Ninety-Three

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## **2025 NACO Scholarship Application Deadline Approaching**

The NACO scholarship application deadline is approaching. The scholarship program is open to graduating seniors whose parent, step-parent, or grandparent is a current county official or employee. To be considered, students must complete the required application form, submit a seven-semester transcript from an accredited Nebraska high school and prepare a written essay on the importance of county government.

Scholarship recipients must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution within the state of Nebraska and may use the scholarship for any costs associated with their continuing education.

**Application deadline: March 15, 2025**

[Click Here for the Application and More Info](#)

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## **Enrollment is Open for the 2025 County Official Online Learning (COOL) Network**



**N**  
EXTENSION

# COOL NETWORK

County Official Online Learning Network

**Week 1**  
May 5-9



Structure

**Week 2**  
May 12-16



Management

**Week 3**  
May 19-23



Governance

**Week 4**  
June 4  
In-Person Session, Kearney



Leadership

This course offers participants a chance to connect with fellow county officials, university professors, and local government experts through online content, discussion forum, weekly live webinars, and final in-person session.

**Registration Fee: \$100**

**Session Starts: May 5, 2025**

**Enrollment Deadline: April 15, 2025**



**Register Now**  
[nebraskacounties.org](http://nebraskacounties.org)

In collaboration with the University of Nebraska Extension, the County Official Online Learning (COOL) Network is a hybrid educational course that includes a three-week online unit in May 2025, followed by one in-person session in Kearney, NE, on June 4, 2025.

During the online portion, participants will use a learning management system to access videos and reading materials provided by professors, as well as insights from county and state officials. Participants can engage with the content at their own pace throughout the week, with opportunities for online discussion forums with fellow learners and a one-hour live webinar with the professor at the end of each week. The expected time commitment for learners is three to five hours per week.

The final session will take place in person at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney, NE, on June 4, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

Topics covered include:

- The purpose, structure, and funding of county government
- Government finance, expenditures and mandates
- Courthouse infrastructure, Information Technology risk management
- Visioning and strategic planning

**Session Starts: May 5, 2025**

**Enrollment Deadline: April 15, 2025**

# NACO Presents "Wildlife Wonders" Photography Contest

## Wildlife Wonders

### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Take a spectacular photo of a native plant or animal someplace in a Nebraska county.



13 Winning Photographs will be featured in NACO's annual calendar! Grand Prize Winner will receive \$100!

ENTRY  
DEADLINE:

**August 1**

WINNERS  
ANNOUNCED:

**Mid-September**

For entry rules and photo criteria, visit our website:

**[www.nebraskacounties.org](http://www.nebraskacounties.org)**



Attention all photographers! NACO is hosting a photography contest:

"Wildlife Wonders"

NACO will select 13 winning photographs which will be featured in our annual calendar. Each winner will receive a calendar and a NACO swag bag! The GRAND PRIZE WINNER will receive \$100 and be featured on the cover!

There's more! Even if your photograph does not win, it may still be featured in a number of NACO publications, including the official website and social media.

### How to Submit Entries

First, review the [rules!](#)

Then, take a spectacular photo of a native plant or animal someplace in a Nebraska county (but see rules for resolution requirements!)

Finally, submit your photo(s) [here](#) (limit of 3 photographs)

For more information about photo resolution using an iPhone, click [here](#).

For more information about photo resolution using an Android, click [here](#).

**Questions?** Contact Luke Bonkiewicz at [Luke.Bonkiewicz@NebraskaCounties.org](mailto:Luke.Bonkiewicz@NebraskaCounties.org).

[Contest Webpage](#)

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## NACO District Meeting Registration

**Southeast** - Thursday, March 13th - Southeast Community College Career Academy, Lincoln - **Pre-Registration Closed - Walk-In Registrants Welcome**

**Northeast** - Friday, March 14th - Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk - **Pre-Registration Closed - Walk-In Registrants Welcome**

**Central** - Thursday, March 20th - Younes Conference Center South, Kearney - **Pre-Registration Closed - Walk-In Registrants Welcome**

**Panhandle** - Wednesday, March 26th - Prairie Winds Community Center, Bridgeport - Registration Deadline: 3/19/25

**West Central** - Thursday, March 27th - NACO West - Ogallala - Registration Deadline: 3/19/25

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### General Agenda for District Meetings

8:00-9:00 AM - Registration

9:00-10:15 AM - Business Meeting

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM - Affiliate Breakout Sessions

12:00 - 1:00 PM - Lunch

[District Meeting Registration](#)

[Meeting Agendas](#)

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## 2025 NACO Outstanding County Board Member of the Year Nomination Form

Nominations for the 2025 Outstanding County Board Member Award are open to county board members who have been in office for at least two (2) terms. Criteria used for selecting the 2025 recipient includes: member will have been active on regional boards, been chairman of their county board, participated in the legislative process, or appointed to a statewide committee. Regular attendance at NACO educational opportunities, events and meetings is also required. Please keep your answers concise but be sure to include all pertinent information.

Announcement of the recipient of this award will be made after the Wednesday evening meal at the County Board Workshop in Kearney.

**Submit nomination form to [candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org](mailto:candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org) by May 2, 2025.**

[Nomination Form](#)

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## Nationwide and NACo College Scholarship

Counties participating in the NACo Deferred 401(k) program have access to an exciting scholarship program opportunity.

Nationwide will award four college scholarships - each worth \$2,500 - to four high school seniors whose parents or grandparents participate in a NACo Deferred Compensation 457 plan.

Learn more about scholarship and application [here](#).

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## Public Budget and Financial Management Survey UNO

Please participate in the survey if you are interested in seeking education in budgeting and financial management.

Survey link: [https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_31O9q2mKpc25KFo](https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_31O9q2mKpc25KFo)

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## Grant Writing Training in Omaha

Omaha Police Department and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant writing workshop in Omaha, NE - April 22-23, 2025. This training is for grant seekers across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to find the funding sources and write winning grant proposals.

**For event details visit: <https://grantstraining.com/ne0425>**

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as healthcare organizations, nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

Tuition is \$495 and includes everything: two days of terrific instruction, workbook, and access to our Alumni Forum that's packed full of tools, helpful discussions and sample grant proposals.

Groups of 5 or more receive a \$50 discount per person. Discounts for Grant Writing USA alumni and nonprofits are also available. Please call for details. Payment is not required at the time of registration.

All health and safety guidelines will be followed. Online reservations are necessary. Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are [available here](#)

**Contact:**

Tammy Pitts

Grant Writing USA

888.435.7281 toll free

tammy@grantwritingusa.com

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## **Savi Available to NACO Benefit Services Groups**



savi

## Looking for support navigating your student loans?

*As a Nebraska County employee, you and your family now have access\* to Savi - a straightforward financial wellness benefit to keep your student loans on track.*

**Create your free account at  
nacobenefits.bysavi.com to see if you  
qualify for a lower monthly payment or  
student loan forgiveness**

*\*To receive your coupon code for Savi Essential (typically \$70), please email [candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org](mailto:candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org). Coupon codes are available exclusively to Nebraska County employees.*



Create a free account at [nacobenefits.bysavi.com](https://nacobenefits.bysavi.com) to see if you qualify for a lower monthly payment or student loan forgiveness.

\*To receive your coupon code for Savi Essential (typically \$70), please email [candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org](mailto:candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org). Coupon codes are available exclusively to Nebraska County employees.

## 2026 Juvenile Services Commission Grant Program

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice is pleased to announce the availability of the **2026 Juvenile Services Commission Grant Program [JS]**. The Request for Application [RFA] outlines general guidelines, eligibility, funding requirements, and application instructions. You are encouraged to distribute and post this announcement. Please read the RFA thoroughly to ensure all requirements are met in the application. The attached documents are also located at the following website: <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/grant-apps>

**2025 JUVENILE SERVICES COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM: \$564,300.00**

All applicants applying for the 2025 Juvenile Services Commission Grant Program [JS] shall submit an application using the below link through Amplifund.

<https://ne.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/c632fdcd-46d3-4a09-b885-279cb712a5bd>

EMAIL APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

PAPER APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

For instructions on how to submit an application through Amplifund, please refer to the video guide found here: [https://rooms.vidyard.com/rooms/\\_wEY6z9GESNh2IBhuCwvlw?vy\\_player\\_uuid=92KSHRHx8zy5sqiHhGBJNs](https://rooms.vidyard.com/rooms/_wEY6z9GESNh2IBhuCwvlw?vy_player_uuid=92KSHRHx8zy5sqiHhGBJNs)

**Application Deadline: April 2, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

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# 20 BUSINESS 25 MEMBERS



## ELITE MEMBERS



## PREMIUM MEMBERS



**Interested in becoming a 2025 NACO Business Member?**

Connect your company with county officials across Nebraska and apply today!

## RESOURCES

[Legislative Newsletter](#)

[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[Legal Calendar](#)



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