

NSPS YSN Guide

Committees: Same but Different

A committee, by any other name, would smell just as sweet.

Yes, we just talked about committees (and yes, we're continuing with the Shakespeare references), but we promise, this is a different kind.

What are they, and why do they matter?

Standing and sub-committees are practical working groups within a YSN Chapter or Committee. They are intended to **support execution** rather than governance and should be used to distribute responsibility, create clear entry points for involvement and expand leadership opportunities.

Each committee should have a defined scope, a designated lead and a manageable set of responsibilities. Start with the committees that match your Chapter or Committee's priorities and capacity, then adjust as needs change.

At their core, committees spread work across more members instead of concentrating it on a few officers or leaders. They create lower-barrier opportunities for volunteers to contribute based on interest, skill, and availability. They help prevent burnout by breaking larger goals into manageable pieces. And they serve as a clear training ground for future leaders by giving members ownership and the chance to see projects through from start to finish.

How to Structure Committees

- Define the committee's purpose in one clear sentence.
- Assign a chair or lead who is responsible for coordination, communication and follow-up.
- Limit the committee to a small number of priority tasks that can be realistically completed.
- Ask the committee to report progress regularly to the Chapter or parent Committee.
- Review committee structure annually and adjust based on participation, capacity and strategic need.

Outreach & Engagement Committee

This committee focuses on recruitment, connection and retention. It serves as the front door to the YSN and helps ensure that prospective and current members feel welcomed, informed and encouraged to participate.

Why this committee matters

- It builds awareness of the YSN among students, early-career professionals and prospective members.
- It creates consistent opportunities for members to connect with one another in approachable settings.
- It supports retention by helping members feel included, recognized and part of the community.

Example tasks

- Coordinate outreach to students, first-time conference attendees and early-career professionals.
- Plan informal engagement activities such as coffee meetups, welcome receptions, webinars or conference gatherings.
- Partner with student chapters, firms or state society groups to expand the membership pipeline.

Education & Professional Development Committee

This committee supports member growth through technical learning, licensure support, and mentorship. It helps bridge the gap between academic preparation, field experience, and long-term professional development.

Why this committee matters

- It helps members build technical, professional, and leadership skills that support career advancement.
- It makes the licensure path more visible, better organized, and less isolating for those working toward it.
- It strengthens long-term engagement by connecting members with mentors and practical guidance.

Example tasks

- Organize technical sessions, site visits, panels, or workshops on practice areas and emerging tools.
- Coordinate licensure support through study groups, exam preparation sessions, or shared resources.
- Facilitate mentorship connections between students, early-career professionals, and experienced surveyors.

Marketing & Communications Committee

This committee ensures that the Chapter or Committee is visible, consistent, and easy to understand. It communicates what the YSN is doing, who it serves and how members can participate.

Why this committee matters

- It increases awareness of events, initiatives and leadership opportunities.
- It reinforces a consistent brand and professional presence across member-facing materials.
- It captures momentum by turning activities into updates, recaps and stories that encourage participation.

Example tasks

- Manage LinkedIn and other communication channels, including event promotion, reminders and recaps.
- Maintain consistent branding across posts, flyers, newsletters and presentation materials.
- Highlight members, milestones and committee activities through photos, announcements and short written updates.

Committee Operating Expectations

- Meet on a consistent cadence that matches the committee's workload and current priorities.
- Keep the scope realistic and tied to the Chapter or Committee's strategic goals.
- Distribute work across multiple volunteers rather than relying on one person to carry the effort.
- Document responsibilities and recurring tasks so leadership transitions are easier to manage.

Well-structured committees are not extra bureaucracy. They are a practical way to distribute work, increase participation and develop future leaders. When each committee has a clear purpose and a manageable set of tasks, Chapters and Committees become more sustainable, more welcoming and more effective.