



Southwest PARC Annual Meeting 2026

Conference artwork of a side blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) with the UT state outline by Dalton Neuharth.



Southwest PARC Meeting Code of Conduct:

SWPARC is committed to providing a safe, productive and welcoming environment for all meeting participants. All participants including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, PARC staff, service providers, and others are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct. This document is a slightly modified version of MWPARC's and SEPARC's Meetings Code of Conducts to guide personal responsibility at our meetings, which relied heavily on the code of conduct used by the Ecological Society of America.

Expected Behavior

- Treat all participants with respect and consideration, valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative.
- Communicate openly with respect for others, critiquing ideas rather than individuals.
- Avoid personal attacks directed toward others.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants.
- Alert SWPARC Co-chairs if you notice a dangerous situation or someone in distress.
- Respect the rules, policies, and property of the meeting venue.

Unacceptable Behavior

- Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in any form will not be tolerated.
- Physical or verbal abuse.
- Disruption of talks at oral or poster sessions.
- Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, national origin, inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in public spaces or in presentations, threatening, or stalking.

Consequences

- Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately.
- SWPARC Co-chairs or security may take any action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from the meeting without warning or refund.
- SWPARC reserves the right to prohibit attendance at any future meeting.

Reporting Unacceptable Behavior

- If you are the subject of unacceptable behavior or have witnessed any such behavior, please immediately notify a SWPARC Co-Chair.
- Notification should preferably be done in person or you may email your concern.
- Anyone experiencing or witnessing behavior that constitutes an immediate or serious threat to public safety is advised to contact venue security and/or local police.

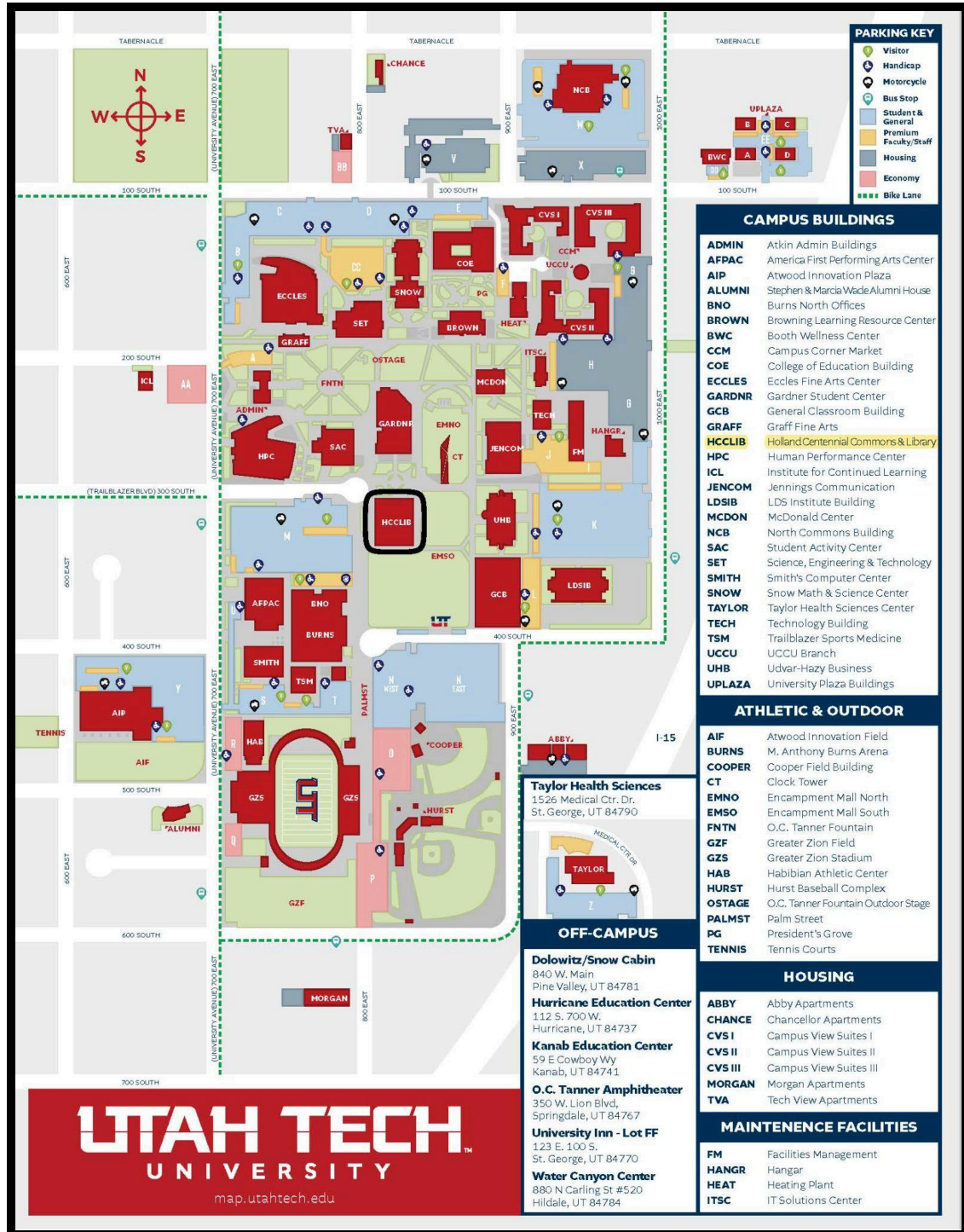


Figure 1. Map of Utah Tech University showing location of J.R. Holland Centennial Commons & Library (i.e., black rectangle; HCCLIB) where 2026 SWPARC Annual Meeting will be held on August 7-10th, 2026.

Conference Venue: J.R. Holland Centennial Commons & Library 5th Floor (HCCLIB; Figure 1) on Utah Tech University Campus [225 S. University Ave, St. George, UT]. The easiest entrance is from Trailblazer Blvd (E 300S).

Parking: Visitor spaces are located throughout campus for guests (non – students, faculty, staff) to park in for free, and they are marked Visitor with green pavement striping. The closest visitor parking to the HCCLIB are Lots M, S, T, and K in order of proximity, with lots M and S being preferred parking for attendees (Figure 1). If visitor stalls are full, guests are welcome to park in white-marked Student/General spaces **without** a special parking pass. Motorcycle and Handicap stalls are also located throughout campus. Attendees can obtain more information on parking through the Utah Tech website (<https://parking.utahtech.edu/>).

Meeting Schedule

Thursday, Aug 6

17:30 **Icebreaker! Silver Leaf Brewing Company (4391 Enterprise Drive, St. George, UT 84790)**

Friday, Aug 7 (Holland Building - Centennial Commons; 5th Floor)

8:00 Registration Open

9:00 Welcome and Introduction

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About PARC! Moderator: TBD

9:10 Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy Updates (Becca Cozad)

9:20 PARC Updates (Becca Cozad)

9:30 SWPARC Updates (Cassidy Lee)

9:40 COPARC Updates (Clint Henke)

Session: State of the States! Moderator: TBD

9:50 Colorado Parks and Wildlife (Elizabeth Stewart)

10:00 California (TBD)

10:10 Texas (Paul Crump, video)

10:20 New Mexico Department of Wildlife (Leland Pierce, video)

10:30 Arizona Game and Fish Department (Audrey Owens, video)

10:40 Nevada Department of Wildlife (Matt Flores)

11:50 Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Alyssa Hoekstra)

11:00 **BREAK (Presentation Upload)**

Session: General Amphibian Ecology and Biology I Moderator: TBD

11:15 Demystifying the Cryptic Wood Frog: Evaluating Status and Distribution in Colorado's Relict Range (Elizabeth Stewart)

11:30 Using NAIP Imagery to Evaluate Changes in Surface Hydrology at a Boreal Toad Reintroduction Site (Jenna Zarlingo)*

11:45 The Influence of Anthropogenic and Livestock Disturbance on Detection of Deceased *Eurycea* Salamanders in Central Texas. (Dalton B. Neuharth)

12:00 Short-term translocation success of Arizona Tiger Salamanders (*Ambystoma mavortium nebulosum*) in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (USA) (Kenzi M. Stemp)

12:15 **LUNCH**

Session: General Amphibian and Reptile Conservation I Moderator: Connor Adams

13:30 Assessing environmental DNA as a detection method for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard (*Sceloporus arenicolus*) (Kristin L. Kabat)*

13:45 How Current Efforts Can Benefit Adaptive Management Strategies and Future Conservation of the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard (*Sceloporus arenicolus*) (Hannah Wilson)

14:00 Movement Ecology, Management, and Conservation of Great Basin Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus oreganus lutosus*) on Military Training Lands in Northern Utah (Sierra Bailey)

14:15 Securing Habitat for Herpetofauna: The Role of Habitat Acquisition and Management in Desert Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

14:30 **BREAK (Silent Auction 1 Closes)**

Session: Working Groups Breakout Session 1

15:00 Invasive Species, Ethical Herpetology & Recreational Herping, and More!

Session: Keynote Speaker – Cameron Rogdon, Washington County HCP

16:00 Tortoise Conservation Efforts in Southern Utah & Video Compilation of Rarely Witnessed Reptile Behaviors

16:45 Closing Remarks: Social, Field Trip Sign-up, Silent Auction Items (Robert Delph)

17:00 **END**

18:00 **Evening Social with Trivia at Crush Golf + Grill (1108 W Black Mountain Dr, St. George, UT 84790)**

Saturday, Aug 8 (Holland Building - Centennial Commons; 5th Floor)

8:00 Registration Open

9:00 Welcome and Introduction

Session: General Amphibian and Reptile Conservation II: Moderator TBD

9:15 Review of Three Years of Herpetofauna Survey Efforts in Southwest New Mexico (Makenzie L. Meacham)

9:30 Using Artificially Modified Microclimates to Increase Herpetofaunal Use of Cover Objects in Southwestern New Mexico Deserts: Preliminary Results (Maya Morales)

9:45 Sharing the Desert: Human–Reptile Interactions in an Urban Sonoran Desert Landscape (Heather L. Bateman)

10:00 Patterns of Herpetofaunal Bycatch within Oil and Gas Pipeline Trenches in Southeastern New Mexico (Connor S. Adams)

10:15 Utilizing Community Science Records to Evaluate Herpetological Species of Conservation Concern (Megen Kepas, PhD)

10:30 **BREAK (Presentation Upload)**

Session: Lightning Talks: Moderator TBD

10:45 Training an Automated Classifier for Anuran Vocalizations in National Park Service Sites (Emma C. Lankford)

10:55 Calling phenology, environmental conditions, and pathogen prevalence among anurans along the lower San Pedro River (AZ) (Reed Ebbinghaus)*

11:05 Developing American Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeianus*) Early Detection and Rapid Response Protocol for Sonoran Desert National Parks (Kenzi M. Stemp)

11:15 Habitat Quality in a Changing Desert: Non-Native Plants and Microhabitat Selection by Sonoran Desert Tortoises (Alex Vela)*

11:25 **BREAK (Presentation Upload)**

12:00 **LUNCH**

Session: General Amphibian and Reptile Ecology and Conservation III: Moderator Connor Adams

13:30 Evaluating Land Surface Temperature and Vegetation Differences Between Wild and Backyard Sonoran Desert Tortoise Habitats (Meg M. Davis)*

13:45 Population Declines and Drought-driven Mortality of the Mohave Desert Tortoise in Southwest Utah (Lauren Otterness)

- 14:00 Species Distribution Modeling for Utah's Rediscovered Desert Iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*) (Sandra Black)*
- 14:15 Interannual Climate Variability and Survival of Western Toads in Northwestern Utah (Kaitlyn Purington)*
- 14:30 Development of YY American bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeiana*) and models of their release for invasive population management (Kayla McBride)

14:45 **BREAK (Silent Auction 2 Closes)**

Session: Invited Speaker – Connor Adams, Center for Environmental Health Monitoring and Management (CEHMM)

- 15:15 Food-web and Functional Trait Community Structure of Predator Assemblages in Pine Forests with Different Management Regimes

Session: Awards Ceremonies

- 16:00 Student Presentation and Photo Contest Awards!
- 16:30 Closing Remarks - Announcements, Update on Field Trips, Silent Auction Items, Evening Social!!!
- 16:40 Business Meeting
- 17:00 **END**
- 17:30 **Evening Social: TBD**

*Consideration for Student Presentation Awards

Sunday, Aug 9

FIELD TRIP! Lytle Ranch Preserve (1 Lytle Ranch Preserve Road, Ivins, UT 84736)