

**Society of American Archivists
Component Group Funding Request
FY27
(July 1 – June 30)
Deadline: March 1**

**Students and New Archives Professionals Section: Funding to
Support Purchase of Wearable Merchandise (“Swag”)**

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The Students and New Archives Professionals Section (SNAP) requests that funding be allocated by SAA Council to support the purchase and distribution of section-specific wearable merchandise (“swag”).

BACKGROUND

The Students and New Archives Professionals Section Steering Committee is seeking funds for the limited purchase and distribution of wearable merchandise (t-shirts) to better connect to new and sustaining members, as well as facilitate a tangible sense of belonging within the Section.

While this request is not in response to a specific charge from Council, the Steering Committee is invested in the continued engagement of Section and Society members at large. Particularly when the Section is exclusively engaging in virtual-only programming, beyond potential proposals to the new Section-Led Sessions at ARCHIVES*RECORDS, the Steering Committee would like to provide members with the opportunity to represent their affiliation with SAA and their specific connection to members of their peer group (e.g., SNAP represents SAA members at an early- to mid-phase of their career).

The Steering Committee will design swag through the end of FY26 (e.g., before July 1, 2026) and subsequently consult with our Council Liaison as well as the requisite SAA Staff members for their approval before purchase. Members of the Steering Committee leadership intend to request a table at ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2026 to distribute swag to members who have purchased this merchandise; this tabling would be a prime opportunity to connect directly with Section members that may otherwise not have been able to do so online.

DISCUSSION

The Steering Committee would like there to be more specialized opportunities for in-person, physical, and tangible engagement between Section members that go beyond the digital. Our audience is current SNAP members; ideally, t-shirts will provide visibility to the Section as well as the member's participation with both the Section and SAA as a whole. This project fosters collaboration between SAA component groups, as well as groups outside of SAA; while student chapters are a solid source of recruitment for SNAP's Section membership, not every institution that provides archival education has a student chapter, nor do the student chapters retain formal affiliation with SAA as an organization. Expected outcomes that will benefit SAA include positive advertisement and representation of the Section through wearable materials enables curiosity, conversation, and an avenue for increased membership.

Our request is aligned with SAA's mission, vision, and values as the SNAP section is the embodiment of "a vital community that promotes the value and diversity of archives and archivists and serves as the preeminent resource for the profession."

This project supports disenfranchised and marginalized communities because SNAP is open to all and actively seeks to promote the voices of our members, particularly those who experience barriers to access to education, collections, and a sustained sense of purpose. Reflecting on SAA's values, SNAP focuses on "fostering an open and inclusive culture of creativity, collaboration, and experimentation across the association." The promotion of the SNAP Section aims to emanate belonging.

Budget

The SNAP Section Steering Committee will design a cotton-blend t-shirt with the SNAP Section logo for a limited run of >50 shirts for ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2026 attendees. Based on an initial quote from 4imprint, a cotton-blend shirt, with sizes in the range of adult small, medium, large, extra-large, and XXL, in a heather indigo color, this will cost \$473, before fees and shipping costs. This run will be limited in order to diminish any burden on the Steering Committee to handle distribution; we will require those who are purchasing a t-shirt indicate that they are attending ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2026 and can reasonably pick up their purchased shirt at the meeting to limit further costs.

FUNDING REQUEST

The Students and New Archives Professionals Section requests funding in the amount of \$550 to support the purchase (including production and shipping) of swag.

Support Statement: We are looking to promote SNAP as a pivotal Section in SAA for students and new archives professionals. Wearing promotional attire allows the wearer to speak to the importance of the Section and spread the word to fellow classmates and or colleagues. Overall, this promotes SAA to a wider audience.

Relation to SAA Strategic Plan: The promotion of the SNAP Section addresses SAA's strategic goals of "Enhancing Professional Growth, 2.2. Provide content, via education and publications, that reflects the latest thinking and best practices in the field" and "Meeting Members Needs, 4.3. Foster an inclusive association and profession through educational and leadership opportunities."

Fiscal Impact: The total direct expenses for the production and distribution of wearable materials for SNAP members at ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2026 will be approximately \$550, including the cost of purchasing and shipping shirts from 4imprint. Volunteer time would be required but it would be met by our Steering Committee's existing commitment to outreach projects on behalf of SNAP.