

Are you a water treatment plant professional? Test your knowledge and compete in the annual Virginia Section AWWA Top Ops Competition!

Are you a water treatment plant manager? Send a team in the spirit of friendly competition!

What is Top Ops?

Top Ops is the “college bowl” of the water industry. Teams of one, two or three water operators or lab personnel from all AWWA Sections compete against each other in a fast-paced question-and-answer tournament. A moderator poses a broad range of technical questions and math problems, and the team scoring the most points in the championship round is awarded the Top Ops Championship.

Where is the 2026 Virginia Section AWWA Top Ops Competition Held?

The Virginia Section AWWA Top Ops will be held at the annual Plant Operations Conference in Virginia Beach on May 6-8, 2026. A practice round is held on day 2 and the final round is held on day 3 of the conference.

What water professionals are eligible to compete?

Full-time water treatment plant or water distribution employees that hold a valid water operator, laboratory and/or distribution certification in their jurisdiction. Team members do not need to be employed by the same water authority.

What water professionals are not eligible to compete?

Senior employees with a job function higher than a first line supervisor and engineers unless they are actively working as a full-time operator.

How do I sign up?

Individuals or teams can sign up for Top Ops when registering for the Plant Operations Conference. Attending as an individual but want to compete on a team? No problem! We can match you with other individual competitors! There are no additional fees to compete.

Is it fun and what do the winners receive?

You bet it’s fun! The winning team receives an invitation to the national Top Ops competition held at the AWWA’s Annual Conference and Expo (ACE) and up to \$3000 towards ACE travel and expenses.

Have more questions about Top Ops?

The complete Top Ops rules and regulations are available at <https://ace.awwa.org/Competitions/Top-Ops-Rules>
You can also reach out to the Virginia Section Plant Operations Committee Chair, Jamie Morris at james.morris@westernvawater.org

